

**Minutes of WREN Board Meeting**  
**28<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Zoom**

WREN Board Members present: Chris Coonick (CC), Tony Faragher (TF), Rick Johnson (RJ), Marcus Shirley (MS), Kevin Smith (KS).

WREN ops assistant: Leonie McGregor (LM), (minutes).

WREN Community Engagement Officer: Simon Miller (SM).

Apologies: Amanda Pennington (AP).

Meeting started 15:00, closed 16:30.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Matters arising: TF will contact Stephen Knightley again regarding the hustings hall hire fee. TF to approach new member Ian Welch regarding possible Board membership. KS will follow up on the pop up innovation centre with Paul Rogers of Plymouth University.

- 1. Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF):** SM reported on the launch event that took place by Zoom, attended by 38 people. The focus will now shift to engaging potential consumers and a discussion took place about how to achieve this. A press release has been sent to the Cornish Guardian and Community Energy England, and also shared on social media. The merits of a printed leaflet/questionnaire emphasising the financial benefits were discussed and how this could be distributed and recovered. Possible outlets are via Camel CSA vegetable boxes, via the work being done by Concern Wadebridge, Royal Mail, supermarkets, Citizens' Advice (TF to check with his contact). CC is completing the monthly report to RCEF and will request the second stage payment. BRE has almost completed its scoping work and has produced a draft report showing potential rates of return for investors and electricity prices for both solar farm and rooftop solar. The TEVI project has offered support.
- 2. Exeter University internship:** 4 exceptional candidates were interviewed and Riva Tufnail was appointed for the 6 week post starting 8<sup>th</sup> June. CC will be her mentor. Riva's research topic for WREN is yet to be decided, there is a possibility that this could dovetail with her university project.
- 3. Finance** KS presented a draft income and expenditure account for the financial year. The deficit is smaller than last year, and this year includes £1,000 contribution to the Energy Equality Project, showing that costs have been well controlled.
- 4. Communications:** A May newsletter is being prepared, mainly based on the RCEF project press release. It will also include a link to a recent Friends of the Earth opinion piece. CC suggested setting a challenge to readers, as many organisations are doing this to engage people staying at home at the moment.
- 5. St Breock Fund:** A Zoom discussion with the panels and RES is to take place this week following correspondence with the funded projects re variation/postponement of their plans.
- 6. Other Business:**
  - CC and TF had attended a Cornwall Council consultation on its policy for renewable energy planning aimed at increasing the uptake and development of renewables. Links to be circulated.
  - A spreadsheet is to be kept on Dropbox listing any grants and other items that constitute state aid under the de minimis regulations.

**NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 3 pm on Zoom.**

**(then 26<sup>th</sup> June, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020)**