

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting
29th May 2020, Zoom

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

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

WREN Community Engagement Officer: Simon Miller (SM).

Apologies: Rick Johnson (RJ), Amanda Pennington (AP).

Meeting started 15:00, closed 17:00.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 28th April 2020.

Matters arising: TF has reminded Stephen Knightley again regarding the hustings hall hire fee – LM will resend him the bank details. KS has been in contact with Paul Rogers regarding pop up innovation centres. TF, KS and SM to arrange a Zoom meeting with him.

1. **Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF):** RCEF has appointed John Lancaster as project manager who is from a community energy background. CC is responding to his questions on the Stage 1 report, and a decision on whether the project can proceed to Stage 2 is awaited. KS and CC will pull together a business model based on 9 potential assets. SM reported that 200 leaflets about the project have been printed and started to be distributed via veg boxes. SM has agreed the questions with Philip Leicester for the second survey which follows up survey 1 to request data from potential participants. MS suggested that it might be prudent to include a question on intended purchase of an electric vehicle, as this would substantially affect a household's energy usage. SM will follow up on any businesses that indicated they may be interested in hosting solar. He will also contact the people who responded to survey 1 offering to volunteer and or become members of WREN. It was decided that a volunteers' webinar would be a good thing to run, ideally within the next month. SM to organise.
2. **Exeter University internship:** Riva Tufnail starts her 6 week post on 1st June. CC has suggested 3 research topics for her to choose between. CC will set up a meeting on Friday 5th June for the Board to meet Riva, and also ask her to present her findings to date at the next Board meeting.
3. **Finance:** Nothing to report.
4. **Communications:** The May newsletter elicited a small surge in replies to the survey. The next communication will be sent out once the funding news is received.
5. **St Breock Fund:** A Zoom discussion took place with the panels and RES after feedback from the funded projects re variation/postponement of their plans. It was decided to use the released funds to top up any projects not awarded the full amount requested according to a formula. The St Breock parish panel wished to treat their surplus funds differently, and donated to 2 Covid-19 projects: Concern Wadebridge, and Cornwall Scrubs and Masks.
6. **Treworder Fund:** TF is in contact with the new owners of the fund and has requested a 10% admin fee. Provided the monies arrive in time, the next fund round will be launched in July.
7. **Other Business:**
 - A query regarding a potential solar farm site at Lerryn was discussed. It may be possible to get funding for a feasibility study through WREN, if the asset were at least 50% community owned. TF to respond with some guidance points re preliminary investigations.
 - The TEVI Project has offered to support a Duchy farm tenant via WREN to install monitoring equipment on any existing solar system which is not performing as expected.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 26th June 2020, 3 pm on Zoom.

(then 31st July, 28th August, 25th September, 30th October, 27th November 2020)