

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting
31st July 2020, Zoom

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

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

WREN member: Ian Welch (IW).

Apologies: Amanda Pennington (AP),

Meeting started 1500, closed 1640.

IW had been invited to attend the meeting and was welcomed. He is a power engineer, having worked for National Grid for many years. He is a Wadebridge Town Councillor and has lived in Bodieve for the last 5 years.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 26th June 2020.

Matters arising: The Treworder Fund is open for applications.

- 1. Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF):** The feasibility study has been completed for RCEF. Further evidence to back up the business case was requested, which has been provided by KS. RCEF has agreed some further funding to pay BRE for research into power purchase agreements. CC, TF, KS and SM met recently to consider the potential projects in the feasibility study and identified a portfolio of community owned rooftops. These are the lowest risk projects, and would cost about £200K. An application to the Community Infrastructure Levy fund to help pay for some of the build costs is being considered – deadline 19th October. TF and KS will contact the projects that are not part of this portfolio, offering to show them the findings in the study and also support from WREN should they decide to go ahead themselves. SM will clarify some structural details with St Issey Hall which could be included in the portfolio if suitable. It was agreed that WREN would apply for specialist business support from The Hive delivered by Co-operatives UK. The Board agreed to the commitment fee of £100. TF and KS will look at updating WREN's business plan, CC will continue with the application process. Part of the work will include some consumer research on share options, and contacting those people who registered their interest via the survey. An application for £10K has been submitted to TEVI to fund the modelling work by AFE that forms the second part of the feasibility study. The decision is due by the end of August.
- 2. Electric Vehicles:** MS, KS and SM had a meeting with Phil Davies of Charge My Street (CMS), which installs and operates community fast charge points in public spaces for residents without off-street parking. Support is available to community energy groups for scoping work, and the Board agreed to pursue the idea. TF and SM will put together a draft project plan for comment. A representative from CMS is visiting Cornwall on 16th August and MS will take them on a tour of possible sites. An initial list of these was compiled during the meeting – send any further ideas by email to MS.
As the EV day planned for May was unable to go ahead, it was agreed to run an online EV promotion event in the winter. MS will recirculate his list of anticipated questions and answers about EV that was begun earlier in the year.
- 3. Communications:** A full newsletter was sent out in July, the next one is planned for August.
- 4. Finance:** KS has updated the forecast using figures from the first quarter of the financial year.
- 5. “The Cornwall We Want”:** As part of this project CC has been invited to take part in the “Environment We Want” online event on 6th August. Web content can be added to the site - KS will write a blog post and SM and others will look at content for a video.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 28th August 2020, 3 pm on Zoom.

(then 25th September, 30th October, 27th November 2020)