

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 25th September 2020, Zoom

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

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

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

Meeting started 1500, closed 1700.

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

There were no matters arising.

1. **AGM:** The arrangements were confirmed. LM will register members attending. If a quorum (25) is not met the rearranged date will be 13th October. CC will give a talk about the Energy Equality project, KS will talk about his EV experience “Living with Zoe”
2. **Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF):** CC has met with the project manager following the final report on phase 1 of the Energy Equality project. WREN has been given the go ahead to carry on with phase 2: the funds can only be used for the original project plan. WREN is encouraged to use the funding to make as solid as possible a business case for the new solar assets and will be spent on marketing materials, formal grid connection enquiries, quotes from installers, market research and the like. WREN has secured TEVI funding for AFE’s data modelling work , but now with full funding from RCEF this work can be expanded to include, for example, multiple tariffs and a more user friendly tool. CC has requested clarification as to whether the funds can also be spent on a structural survey and legal costs. Cornwall Council has agreed to send a letter of consent to allow WREN to talk to the tenants of the buildings in question. Co-op Energy in partnership with Octopus has a community power tariff and appear to be the best fit energy supplier for the project: CC to write them a proposal. TF and MS have met Wadebridge’s mayor and town clerk to discuss both the rooftop solar proposal and CMS (see below). TF and CC to send them a clear explanation of the community energy aspect of the project showing the benefit of WREN’s scheme as opposed to the Town Council itself installing solar. The next full Town Council meeting is on 7th October, attendance from WREN to answer questions is planned.
3. **Survey Responses for AFE data modelling:** It was agreed to make some direct approaches to increase the data set for AFE. TF will contact some of the beneficiaries of grants administered by WREN, KS will contact ex Board members. A leaflet was produced for neighbours. SM will put up posters in Wadebridge. The call for responses will also be emphasised in the newsletter and at the AGM.
4. **Cornwall Infrastructure Levy (CIL Fund):** Discussions are continuing. The initial idea of applying to the fund for seed funding for the portfolio is not workable, but other rooftop solar possibilities from the feasibility study are being looked at, in particular the Goods Shed. TF to follow up.
5. **Charge My Street (CMS):** Further discussion to take place at the next Town Council meeting. Overnight parking is not currently allowed in the car parks where the CMS charging points are proposed, but is essential for the model to work.
6. **Co Cars:** TF has been in contact with the project officer of this car sharing club, to explore the idea of an EV car hire location in Wadebridge. A survey to gauge local appetite has been created and will be sent in the October newsletter.
7. **Communications:** KS has circulated a draft newsletter ready to be sent out today.
8. **Cornwall Council Consultation on Climate Change Development Plan Document:** WREN has submitted a response to the consultation which has also been posted on WREN’s website. Contact was made with other community energy groups across Cornwall to share ideas and inform responses. The idea of these groups linking to share ideas more frequently arose during those discussions – it was decided this should be further explored and a Board member delegated to represent WREN.

9. **Frequency of Board meetings:** It was agreed to continue meeting on a monthly basis on Friday afternoons. LM to circulate a list of dates for 2021.
10. **Other Business:** TF asked if any WREN Board members would be willing to join the Board of Wadebridge Energy Company, WREN's sister organisation. SM, KS and MS were all interested to learn more.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 30th October 2020, 3 pm on Zoom.

(then 27th November 2020, 8th January, 12th February, 12th March, 9th April, 7th May, 11th June, 9th July, 6th August, 10th September, 8th October, 12th November, 10th December 2021)