

## **Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> November 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: Amanda Pennington (AP).

Meeting started 1500, closed 1630.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

There were no matters arising.

### **1. Energy Equality Project:**

- WREN is waiting for a decision from RCEF about the how the remaining budget can be spent. It is hoped that the funds can be used for progressing the solar pv installations planned for the shortlisted projects. The Board decided to proceed using WREN's own unrestricted funds at risk, rather than wait for RCEF's decision. It was agreed that SM would work on liaising with the tenants regarding consent to rent the rooves, and then start to organise structural surveys, obtain quotes from installers as well as supporting the new intern with community engagement work around the share scheme. Payment would be at £12.50 per hour, up to a maximum of 120 hours.
- The second survey is now closed. The winner of the £50 was chosen by video draw.
- Phil Leicester from Advanced Further Energy has submitted the TEVI funded draft report based on the findings of the second survey. A meeting is being arranged with him to discuss the findings and ask questions. There is more work to do on the model to allow users such as WREN and other community groups to explore the various scenarios.
- Beth Leighfield is starting a 70 hour internship with WREN. The role is funded by Exeter University and Beth will be paid through WREN's PAYE. CC to meet her next week to discuss the project work to be undertaken.

2. **WPD Network Innovation Fund:** WREN has been invited to the interview stage on 10<sup>th</sup> December. The project proposal is based on a carbonised as opposed to a monetised trading system for energy. Proposed partners at this stage are Community Energy Plus and Exeter University. CC has arranged a meeting with Matt Watson will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December to clarify any issues before the interview.

### **3. Communications:**

- KS has incorporated comments from the Board into the draft newsletter which is now ready to send. The minutes are awaited from the Wadebridge Town Council meeting attended by WREN where both solar and EV were discussed. IW will forward these, so that Town Council position on these 2 issues can be added in.
- TF reminded the Board that WREN's website has some out of date content. It was decided to set up a working party led by KS, TF and SM to help.

4. **Cornwall Sustainability Awards:** CC and/or WREN have been nominated, event to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> December. All Board members welcome and to be shared on the newsletter.

5. **Formation of proposed Cornwall Community Energy Network:** Jake Burnyeat of Communities for Renewables is arranging an initial meeting.

6. **St Breock Windfarm:** The St Breock Fund launches on 1<sup>st</sup> December. This year there is also a rapid response element to the fund. Eligible community groups or organisations can apply for up to £750 straight away either for services in response to the pandemic, or for emergency funds to save the organisation. This extra funding will be at the discretion of each of the individual parish/panels, applicants will apply directly to them. The panels will meet in March as usual to allocate the main funds.

7. Other Business:

- **Winter Fuel Payment** – some charities accept donations from people who do not need some or all of their payment. It was agreed that KS should raise the possibility with Rotary, and that WREN could be involved in promoting the idea but would not be able to assess distribution of funds.
- **Exeter University student projects** – as part of the industry advisory group for the BSc in Renewable Energy CC is able to submit ideas for project students to work on in their summer term next year. Board members to send any ideas to CC by end of December.
- **EV charge points** – Cornwall Council is going ahead with its ERDF funded plan to install 150 charge points across Cornwall, including Piggy Lane in Wadebridge.

**NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 3 pm on Zoom.**

**(then 12<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> June,  
9<sup>th</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021)**