

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 8th January 2021, Zoom

WREN Board Members present: Chris Coonick (CC), Tony Faragher (TF), Simon Miller (SM), Amanda Pennington (AP), Marcus Shirley (MS), Kevin Smith (KS), Ian Welch (IW).
WREN ops assistant: Leonie McGregor (LM), (minutes).

Meeting started 1500, closed 1730.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 27th November 2020.

Matters Arising

- Charitable donations of Winter Fuel Payments: KS had discussed this with Rotary council, who were in favour of the idea but raised the issue of the difficulties involved in identifying beneficiaries. It was agreed that any donations should be directed to an organisation already set up to distribute the funds, and WREN/Rotary should be ready to publicise this in September.
 - Cornwall Sustainability Awards: Having seen presentations from organisations at the awards, it was agreed by the Board that a short video should be produced to show WREN's work.
1. **Update on Cornwall Council premises:** SM is in conversation with people at 6 sites to progress details for the Energy Equality Project. A good contact has been made for St Issey Hall, which means that a survey can go ahead to determine whether or not the roof is suitable for solar.
 2. **Offer of help from a potential volunteer:** A Cornwall based Masters graduate has offered help if a suitable project could be identified. One possibility is to work on the EV online promotion event with MS. Other ideas welcomed – CC to set up a Zoom call with the volunteer to discuss.
 3. **Finance Update:** KS presented a quarterly report showing income and outgoings for the 9 months to the end of December 2020. This included expenditure of £2,500 from own funds to match TEVI's £10,000 grant for the Energy Equality Project.
 4. **Communications:** Any contributions for a January newsletter to be sent to KS.
 5. **Advice to Wadebridge Town Council on Instavolt and Osprey:** AP reported that WTC is operating at reduced capacity, with staff furloughed or on reduced hours, and that it will not be possible for any plans to install chargers to move forward until circumstances change.
 6. **Revision of WREN website:** TF, SM and KS have produced and circulated a list of potential changes for comment and action. MS has planned an EV page, SM will send some of his images of EVs for this page. KS will ask Jaz at Impress 51 for a quote to make the changes.
 7. **File sharing/Dropbox:** CC's daughter is volunteering for WREN as part of her Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and is working with TF on organising stored documents. The aim is to ensure that documents are stored logically and are accessible to those who need them. Dropbox for Business was discussed, which costs £7 per month per user. TF will continue to look in to the options.
 8. **EV promotion event 2021:** it was agreed that an online event is the only viable option at the moment – MS to work on this (possibly with volunteer help).
 9. **Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill:** TF had sent a briefing paper to the Board. It was agreed that as well as individually asking Scott Mann to back the bill, WREN should support it as an organisation. TF to draft a letter for comment. The Bill will also be mentioned in the newsletter.
 10. **Cornwall Community Energy Network:** First meeting to be held on 20th January.
 11. **St Breock Windfarm Community Fund:** The Rapid Response element of the fund was used to send emergency funds to Concern Wadebridge for Christmas lunches.
 12. **Cornwall Council DPD consultation:** A working group to meet to work up a response (TF, MS, CC, IW, KS, SM).

13. **Update of work of Beth Leighfield (intern):** Beth has been working on the HIVE application, KS to check. A business plan is required – CC has started a draft to send round for comment. Beth will also be contacting community energy share schemes to gather information on how best to communicate the schemes.
14. **Energy Equality Project update:** Phil Leicester of AFE is due to present his findings to the Board on 22nd January. Following this a list of next steps will be produced so that CC can return to RCEF with a proposal on how the rest of the grant money can be spent. This may include structural surveys and lease work. John Catchpole has offered to review any lease documentation. TEVI has been extended for 2 years, and may be able to offer further grant funding.
15. **WPD Innovation Fund:** WREN's proposal to the Network Innovation Allowance call for ideas has passed the first stage. An innovation engineer will work with WREN to scope up the project. CC has informed the potential partners.
16. **Other Business:**
 - LM asked the Board if anyone knew M and CE Robinson who had paid a £1 membership fee in to WREN's bank account.
 - KS had been contacted by Pete West of Dorset Community Energy for advice about planning application costs for a solar array. CC and AP both have experience in this area – KS to forward to them for comment.
 - CC had followed up with South West Water on the possibility of extending the array at Nanstallon. They are still looking into the options including biogas.
 - MS has switched to Octopus Agile tariff for domestic electricity supply and demonstrated a device he has built which pulls data from Octopus' website to display the current price. The use of APIs was discussed, and it was agreed that the new look WREN website should display some real time data using this method –the output from Nanstallon a good starting point.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 12th February 3 pm on Zoom.

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