

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 14th November, Zoom

WREN Board Members present: Tony Faragher, Simon Miller, Kevin Smith, Ian Welch.

WREN ops assistant: Leonie McGregor (minutes)

Apologies: Chris Coonick, Francesca Iliffe, Victoria Smyth.

Meeting started 1930, closed 2115.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th October 2022.

- 1. Matters arising:** Tony has in hand the updating of WREN's details with the Information Commissioner and checking of the privacy notice on the website.
- 2. Appointments of officers to the Board:**
Chair: Tony
Company Secretary: Tony
Technical/Development: Chris
Finance: Kevin
Communications: Kevin
Community Engagement: Simon
- 3. NZCom update:** The basic spreadsheet version of the model is starting to be tested. The front end of the tool is being developed by Andrew Ross' team at the Centre for Energy Equality. The final version should be ready to be demonstrated at the January event. Any good examples of apps that are particularly user-friendly because of their graphics and simplicity - please highlight to Chris and Simon.
Simon has booked Wadebridge Town Hall for the day of Thursday 26th January for the project final event.
- 4. Energy Equality Project Update:** Ella (Exeter University intern) is progressing well with her investigations into the financial model.
- 5. Energy Clinic:** The clinics have so far taken place in the Betjeman Centre, with limited initial promotion via social media. The CEP leaflets and thermometers are a useful way of approaching people and getting a conversation started. The next clinic coincides with the new "Winter Warmer Wednesday" featuring subsidised hot food, which may attract a new set of people to be engaged. Posters are about to be printed. Simon is also finding there is an increase in email enquiries to WREN and referrals from the wellness hub. The idea of recruiting volunteers through the newsletter was discussed – this would enable clinics to be run in other locations such as Padstow.
- 6. Various approaches to WREN:**
 - St Issey group purchase of solar: Adele attended the recent focus group meeting. She has a list of 28 households in St Issey keen to install domestic solar, with a further 15 showing interest. It was agreed this is a huge achievement, and the Board wishes to support the project where possible. The idea of the St Issey group being open to other fabric first measures was discussed, which might be eligible for community funds. Tony is happy to advise them on how to proceed to form a constituted group for this.

- Dan & Joanna Jones 50 kW rooftop solar: WREN has been approached for views and advice on a proposal to install rooftop solar on a family farm and create a community benefit from the excess generation. Simon will set up a meeting to discuss these ideas.
 - Wildwood: In response to the energy clinics and warmth hubs in Wadebridge, Wildwood, a local log business, has offered to donate 50 bags of kiln dried logs to be distributed by WREN to those in most need. The offer is very much appreciated but having considered the logistics of distribution and the challenges in identifying recipients, the Board concluded that this was beyond the scope of WREN. Simon will suggest to them that they could instead donate the proceeds of sale to for example the Betjeman Centre to help subsidise the costs of running the warmth hub.
 - National Grid retrofit SIF proposal: WREN has been invited by NG to send a letter of support for their energy efficiency retrofit SIF proposal. WREN could be involved in workshops and meetings to help shape some of the outcomes of the project from next April. Simon is interested to attend these, and it was agreed to support the proposal and see how things progress from there.
- 7. Developing WREN's strategic plan and deciding our future work programme:** The Board has started to consider the 2 NZ Com papers from CEP, setting out business model options and their recommendation that WREN seeks grant funding to appoint a Low Carbon Energy Adviser. It was agreed that such a post could prompt a large number of people to take many actions, and also give WREN a tangible face and presence in the community. The Board were generally in favour of progressing the post subject to further discussion. It was proposed to tie the ideas together with WREN's previous strategic thinking and incorporate the points that had been identified as important – such as collaboration with other local groups and organisations. **Esmee Fairbairn Good Growth funding for CIOS:** The Good Growth funding is not a good fit for WREN.
- 8. Communications:** Kevin is compiling the next newsletter to be sent out soon.
- 9. Finance:** Webmate invoiced for their yearly fee renewal, despite WREN having moved to another provider. Leonie spoke to them on receipt of the invoice, but the fee was taken by direct debit anyway. Kevin has raised the issue with Macace and will chase if a refund is not received.
- 10. Other Business:**
- Ian reported that the provision of a warm space by Wadebridge Town Council in the Town Hall has been launched. WTC are open to ideas on how to run the space, following low uptake in the first sessions.
 - Ian also reported that a consultation is taking place on Community Network Panels, with the possibility that the Wadebridge and Padstow network area will be extended to include Bodmin. A similar exercise of enlarging and rationalisation is taking place across the whole of Cornwall, with decision in early 2023.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 12th December 7.30 pm on Zoom

Proposed dates for 2023 – Mondays @ 7.30pm

9th January, 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 8th May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December.

