

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 6th March 2023, Zoom

WREN Board Members present: Chris Coonick, Simon Miller, Kevin Smith, Ian Welch.

WREN Members present: Leonie McGregor (minutes)

Apologies: Tony Faragher, Victoria Smyth.

Meeting started 1900, closed 2010.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 6th February 2023.

Matters arising: Chris had sent a summary of the final position with NZCom to all the partners after her sign off meeting with NGED. All deliverables have been completed and outcomes are starting to be widely shared. Chris will remind Exeter University that they have yet to invoice WREN for one of their deliverables.

- 1. Energy Equality Project:** Kevin had produced a financial report covering the two years of NZCom. The Board agreed that the surplus monies were unrestricted funds and could become part of WREN's reserves. In that context funding for both the EE project manager and the Low Carbon Energy Adviser were discussed. The Shared Prosperity Fund, the Energy Redress Scheme, and a new grant being launched by WECA for local energy advice pilot schemes are all under consideration for both roles. The wording has been agreed for an open invitation for potential applicants to submit a cv. This will now appear on the website, in the newsletter and on social media.
- 2. Communications:** Kevin has sent a draft newsletter to the Board for comment and any additional items. Community Energy England have featured the Community Guide and online tool on the How To section of their website. CEE have also offered WREN a slot at their next national practitioner forum (Loomio). Chris is happy to do this. NGED's press release on the guide should also be shared. Kevin is representing WREN at a Community Energy meeting in Penzance on 8th March.
- 3. Finance:** Kevin referred to the NZCom project report extracted from Xero. The switch to the software has enabled such reports to be easily produced. Leonie is also finding the system easy to use.
- 4. Housing development approach:** [Ian was not present for this discussion]. Simon has not had a response to his initial email to the developer and will send a follow up.
- 5. Other business:**
 - Ian shared some feedback on NZCom from Cornwall Councillor Carol Mould regarding perceptions of how achievable the goals of NZCom might be. He is also working on a flood plan for Wadebridge.
 - Simon has expressed interest in a double space on Wadebridge Street at Royal Cornwall Show. The location of the stand was discussed, as well as whether to include other energy groups. CEP is keen to join WREN and it was agreed to run the stand along the same lines as last year. Many of the props and print can be used again. The issue of staffing, payment and volunteer time was raised, to be discussed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 3rd April 7.00 pm on Zoom

Then: 9th May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December.

