

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 2023, Zoom

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

Apologies: Chris Coonick, Simon Miller, Victoria Smyth.

WREN members present: Leonie McGregor (minutes).

Meeting started 1900, closed 2010.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 5th June 2023.

There were no matters arising:

1. **Energy Equality Project manager recruitment:** The Board discussed delivery of the project. The role of project manager is currently at the initial draft stage. It was agreed that the plan to employ and manage a person for this role would be challenging for WREN in the coming months whilst the Board contracts in September and seeks new members to strengthen its capacity. The current conditions of turbulence in the energy market as well as reservations about a long-term commitment to maintaining installations were also a factor in the decision not to proceed with the recruitment at this time.
2. **Good Energy Supply to War Memorial:** Good Energy are willing to consider withdrawing their demand for supply to the unmetered point, provided that this is disconnected as soon as possible. Both Tony and Ian have made site visits to the memorial. Ian is satisfied that there is no dangerous exposed cabling or cabinet. Whilst the route of the cabling is not obvious, it is most likely that it is supplied from the reservoir power connection point. Investigations are ongoing – Ian will consult with the Town Council's head groundsman, and the Town Clerk is in the picture and will respond on return from leave.
3. **Communications:** Kevin is compiling a newsletter to send out in July or August. News items will include Board member recruitment, and the possible role of Low Carbon Energy Adviser. Kevin suggested the idea of having an informal get together in a pub for people to gather and talk about energy, which could become a regular thing if successful.
4. **Finance:** The AGM will be held on Thursday 28th September, with a backup date 2 weeks later if the AGM is not quorate. An in-person meeting is planned this year, combined with a Community Fund pre application information session.
5. **Banking with Lloyds Bank:** Kevin had suggested that some of WREN's funds in the Lloyds current account could be moved to a new interest earning account. There are options to do this with Lloyds which would be the most straightforward administratively. There was a discussion about Lloyds' investment in fossil fuels and whether WREN should move its bank account away from them. Tony and other Board members to research more into the bank's involvement and whether the stated disinvestment in fossil fuels has happened. In the meantime it was agreed to open a Lloyds 32 day notice account for £70,000 earning 2.3%.
6. **Board member recruitment:** Tony will refine the description, to include a general statement on personal qualities. The application process is to be by letter. The role will be advertised in the Cornwall Voluntary Sector, and Women on Boards, as well as in the newsletter.
7. **Community Funds.** Tony is proposing to run the Treworder and St Breock Funds for one more round, and then hand over the role.
8. **Options for river and marine power generation: paper from Neil Farrington.** Tony will respond to Neil asking for clarification on whether there is a specific tidal energy recommendation for WREN.
9. **There was no other business.**

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 7th August 7.00 pm on Zoom

Then: 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December.