



Minutes of WREN Annual General Meeting 27th September 2016 Wadebridge Town Hall

WREN Board Members present:

Richard Alexander (RA) - Finance Director
David Atfield (DA)
John Catchpole (JnC)
Chris Coonick (CC)
Tony Faragher (TF) – Chair and Company Secretary
Lizzy-Jane Frankel (LJF)
Peter McGregor (PM)
Caroline New (CN)
Amanda Pennington (AP)
Kevin Smith (KS)
Rachel Wigglesworth (RW)

WREN Members present:

Nicola Atfield, Charlotte Barry, Jerry Clark, June Cole, WB Cole, Steve Coonick, Voirrey Faragher, Helen Garrard, Will Hutton, Rick Johnson, Thomas Leach, Leonie McGregor (minutes), Debbie Rowles, Mark Tanner, Mark Wilsher, Helen Whitthread,

Apologies:

Gill Barker, David Bartlett, Margaret Bartlett, Pamela Bousfield, Jake Burnyeat, Yvonne Brierley, John Catchpole, Fiona Clark, Janet De La Cour, Stephen Frankel, Sue Gilbert, George Harris, Jason Henderson, Randi Henderson, Janet Hereward, John Hereward, Janet Hulme, Bernard Irons, David Key, Mickey Lett, Bill Lugg, Jennifer Lugg, Simon Malloni, Scott Mann, Robin Moorcroft, Janet Moulton, Philip Orchard, Emma Miller, Simon Miller, Julian Mutton, Maggie Mutton, Kate Royston, David Shillito, Merryn Shillito, Jacqui White.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting quorate.

Presentation of the Middle Treworder Community Fund awards

The fund of about £10,000 per year, is associated with the Middle Treworder Solar Farm which is on part of land owned by the Hawkey family. TF thanked the committee of local people who had made the decisions this year. The committee is convened and the funds administered by WREN. Cheques of varying amounts (total fund £10,566) were presented to the following successful applicant groups who all gave a short speech about their plans for using the awards:

Wadebridge Carnival, St Mabyn Parish Council, Wadebridge Community Theatre, Bridge Multi Academy Trust, Camels Rugby Club, Dragons Swimming Club, St Kew Primary School, St Mabyn Home School Association, 1942 Squadron Air Cadets, Growing Wild Cornwall, Wadebridge Tennis Club, Wadebridge Creative Hub, Time to Shine, St Kew Pre-School, Wadebridge Festival of Music and Speech, Churches Together in Wadebridge, Wadebridge Scouts.

The Formal AGM followed the presentation

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 29th September 2015 were accepted as a true record. The only matter arising from the minutes was that WREN had not invited tenders for audit for the forthcoming year, but had continued with the current auditor for a further year.

1) Reports from the Board:

TF presented the Chairman's Report (see attached).

- In response to a question from the floor about electric cars, TF explained that Wadebridge had not been selected as a pilot site for the particular scheme discussed the previous year.

2) Presentation of accounts and balance sheet

RA presented WREN's audited accounts which are also available on the website. Whilst WREN is not a charity, charities are obliged to show restricted and unrestricted funds, and this practice has been adopted to make the financial statements as clear and meaningful as possible. RA stated that the balance sheet shows WREN is in the strongest financial position it has ever been in, and well able to support itself for the immediate foreseeable future TF thanked RA for his work as Financial Director of WREN. The accounts were unanimously approved by the Members by a show of hands.

- In response to a question from the floor, RA explained that the funds held in the current account and due to increase through to December are from the Sunshine Tariff and finders' fees. These funds are being conserved until such time as opportunities present themselves to use them. There has been some investment in renewables via Wadebridge Energy Company.

3) Report of the auditor

RA drew attention to the report of the independent auditors David Elston and Co. and asked the Members to note that the report is unqualified i.e. the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at 31st March 2016 in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and they have been properly prepared in accordance with The Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Additionally there were no matters which the auditors felt should be brought to the attention of members that had not already been disclosed in the accounts.

4) Appointment of auditor

Whilst there is no legal requirement for a yearly external audit, WREN will continue to do this in the interests of transparency and openness. It was agreed in accordance with good practice that WREN should retender for an auditor for next year.

5) Proposal from the Board to use the surplus funds from 2015/2016 for the continuation and development of WREN (in accordance with Rule 65).

This was unanimously agreed.

7) Election (if required) to vacancies on the Board

There was no requirement for an election this year. TF introduced **Chris Coonick** (CC) to the Members, who had been co-opted to the Board during the year, and asked her to say a few words about herself. Chris has lived in Wadebridge for 2 years. She has a background in renewable energy and works for the National Solar Centre. Through her European funded projects she has helped many community energy groups and has first-hand knowledge of the challenges such groups face. Chris has a passion to help keep up the momentum in WREN, with a desire to increase the skills, knowledge and community feeling around Wadebridge. The members endorsed the co-option of CC to the Board.

Jerry Clark had resigned from the Board during the year. **David Atfield, Jake Burnyeat, and Lizzy-Jane Frankel** were not standing for re-election. All four were thanked for their huge contributions to WREN over the years.

John Catchpole is a specialist adviser to the Board, and co-opted outside the election process. In accordance with WREN's registered rules he stood down as co-opted director and was thanked for his ongoing valuable contribution.

8) Proposal to amend Rule 15.

TF explained that Rule 15 is about informing every Member of the forthcoming AGM each year. A number of Members without email addresses receive a postal invitation but in the main do not respond. Equally some Members have asked to unsubscribe from all emails. Legally they are all still Members and must be informed of the AGM.

The current Rule 15 is as follows:

15. An Annual or a Special General Meeting shall be called by at least 14 days' notice in writing posted or delivered to the address of every Member recorded in the register of Members, specifying whether the meeting is an Annual or a Special General Meeting and stating the time, date and place at which it is to be held. The notice shall contain details of the nature of the business to be transacted, and no business may be transacted at a General Meeting other than that specified in the notices calling it.

It is therefore proposed to replace the current Rule 15 with the following:

15. An Annual or a Special General Meeting shall be called by at least 14 days' notice in writing, given to Members personally and/or sent to them at their Address and/or posted on the Society's website. The notice will specify whether the meeting is an Annual or a Special General Meeting and stating the time, date and place at which it is to be held. The notice shall contain details of the nature of the business to be transacted, and no business may be transacted at a General Meeting other than that specified in the notices calling it.

We will then write one final time to those with a postal address, and to those who have unsubscribed from email to inform them that, although they remain Members, they will receive no further communications from WREN on any matter but that they can look on the website or phone or write at any time for information.

The proposal was unanimously agreed.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked all members attending and declared the meeting closed.