

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 10th September 2015 The Energy Shop Wadebridge

WREN Board Members present: Richard Alexander (RA), David Atfield (DA), Jerry Clark (JC), Tony Faragher (TF), Lizzy-Jane Frankel (LJF), Stephen Frankel (SF), Peter McGregor (PM).

WREN operations manager: Dominic Comonte (DC).

WREN operations assistant: Leonie McGregor (LM) (minutes).

Apologies: Sam Angwin (SA) Jake Burnyeat (JB), John Catchpole (Jn C), Adrian Jones (AJ), Caroline New (CN), Amanda Pennington (AP), Kevin Smith (KS), Rachel Wigglesworth (RW).

Meeting started 18.00, closed 20.00.

Board approved minutes of last meeting on 4th August 2015.

Matters arising:

- WREN won “Best Float” in Wadebridge Carnival, thanks to all volunteers involved.
 - No date has been set as yet for the Tidal Mill project meeting.
1. **Finance:** RA presented the draft audited accounts for the year ended 31.03.15, and these were approved and signed. An agreement has been reached with the auditor for an increased fee of £1,250. It was noted that the audit report was unqualified, and a suggestion to include any grant conditions within the grants payments system has been implemented. The Related Party Register will be open at each future Board meeting and any changes noted. The accounts will be available on WREN’s website in time for the AGM notice and invitation being sent out to members. RA was thanked by the Board. The current financial situation was also discussed. Monthly finance meetings are in place, with the forecast to the end of the financial year being updated as new information comes to light, but it was noted that income is difficult to forecast.
 2. **Projects update:**
 - **Wadebridge Energy Company (WEC).** The launch of the Nanstallon array had successfully taken place on 8th September attended by all the parties concerned in the collaboration, and the revolving loan fund finance cheque had been presented to WEC. In the light of government changes to the Feed in Tariff WREN is now unable to proceed with the domestic rooftop free solar element of the portfolio, and the hosts have been informed. It was regrettable that money and time had been wasted bringing this project to fruition, with inevitable disappointment caused to the hosts.
 - **Sunshine Tariff.** The communications plan is now ready to be signed by all parties and submitted to Ofgem, with approval expected early November. The new tariff will start on 1st April 2016.
 - **Coastal Communities Team.** WREN is working on an economic plan to be submitted in January.
 - **Community Funds.** The Middle Treworder fund committee is due to meet on 24th September. The successful applicants will be invited to the AGM to accept their awards.
 - **Midsummer event.** Feasibility work has started on this, which is planned to take place 21st – 27th June 2016.
 3. **Other business:**
 - **Carbon budget project.** PM has been contacted by a research group at Exeter University (Tremough) about the possibility of such a project on a solar site. PM to follow up with Nanstallon as the site.
 - **AGM.** Invitations to be sent out by 15th September. The 4 directors due to retire will be notified by TF. As DC is the only non-WREN director of WEC, he would not stand for election to the WREN Board.
 - **BikeLights.** LJF raised the idea of a WREN entry to BikeLights on October 17th, possibly using part of the sun float from the Carnival.
 - **Board strategic planning session.** Proposed by KS. It was agreed this was a good idea and should take place towards the end of the year once the Sunshine Tariff arrangements are known.

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 6th October, 6PM WREN ENERGY SHOP
(then 10th November, 8th December, 5th January, 2nd February, 1st March, 11th April, 10th May).**