

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting
12th April 2016, The Energy Shop, Wadebridge

WREN Board Members present: Richard Alexander (RA), David Atfield (DA), William Box (WB), Jake Burnyeat (JB), John Catchpole (Jn C), Tony Faragher (TF), Lizzy-Jane Frankel (LJF), Stephen Frankel (SF), Peter McGregor (PM), Caroline New (CN), Kevin Smith (KS).

WREN operations manager: Dominic Comonte (DC), operations assistant: Leonie McGregor (LM), (minutes).

WREN member: Jerry Clark.

Apologies: Amanda Pennington (AP), Rachel Wigglesworth (RW).

Meeting started 18.00, closed 20.00.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting on 8th March 2016. There were no matters arising.

1. **Finance:** RA outlined the position for this financial year, with various models discussed, depending on the outcome of current discussions about the future operations of WREN.
2. **Projects update:**
 - **Sunshine Tariff.** The engagement phase ends this week, the cut-off date for applications is 16th April. All partners agree that WREN has done all it could to achieve as many sign ups to the trial as possible – the delays in launch and market forces outside WREN's control have been major factors in the take up figures. JC and WB are now working on interpreting the first data. Customer feedback so far indicates that the smart meters are not user friendly, and Tempus and the meter suppliers are planning to set up an online portal for customers to review their usage more easily.
 - **Summer Event.** The title of the event is 'A Midsummer's Feast' in recognition of the major funders, Feast Cornwall. The programme is coming together well, with a week-long art exhibition planned for various venues in town, a writing workshop leading to a performance event in The Ship on 21st June, an energy-themed Spot the dog session, a film and discussion evening at Hewitt's, and 3 performances of the community play Midsummer Night's Dream at Wadebridge Primary Academy. Further funding had been offered by Awards for All, and Grants for the Arts, but it was felt after discussions between LJF, SF, DA and TF that in view of the grant conditions and the uncertainty about the extent of WREN's future operations that the range of events outlined above was more workable and appropriate. Feast is supportive of this course of action.
3. **The Future of WREN:** After extensive discussions of all the options it was unanimously decided that the Energy Shop should close, with 3 months' notice to be given to the landlords at the end of the month. WREN would continue to administer the community funds and its other residual and future operations, including staffing, will be defined after further discussions. KS will draft a letter to the members, CN will go through the website. The Wadebridge Energy Company was also discussed; DC, Jn C and JB to look in detail at the options for its future operation.
4. **Resignation from the Board of Stephen Frankel:** SF has decided to step down from the Board and proposed TF as acting Chair. Without SF WREN would not have existed and the Board gave him a huge vote of thanks for all his drive, vision and dedication.
5. **Other Business:**
 - RegenSW progress report** - KS asked whether WREN wished to contribute, however it was agreed that the Sunshine Tariff would already be well covered in this report.
 - St Breock Fund** – all the award committees have now met, and the amounts will be announced following final sign off this week. TF was congratulated for his work on this.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 10th May, 6PM WREN ENERGY SHOP
(then 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November, 13th December).