

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 18th June 2021, Zoom

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

WREN ops assistant: Leonie McGregor, (minutes).

Apologies: Martin Jackson, Lena Santoro, Marcus Shirley.

Chris Coonick was present for item 7.

Meeting started 1500, closed 1645.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 7th May 2021 (subject to: remove the word “assessment” from item 4, paragraph 2).

- 1. Energy Equality Project update:** RCEF has agreed the spend of the remaining funding. Final invoices have been paid and the amount owed to WREN is expected soon.

Simon updated the Board on the situation with the buildings. All 8 have agreed in principle to host solar panels. Simon, Ian, Chris and Lena attended and presented at the St Issey Hall AGM, emphasising the community benefits of the proposal as well as the local nature of WREN. They found the audience to be receptive to the idea. Matt Smith from ZLC had conducted a structural survey of the roof and had reported that the structure is more than robust enough for the planned array.

Cornwall Council’s draft rooftop leases are awaited - this is a discussion between them and BRE which started 6 months ago.

Quotes for the installations have been obtained from 3 local suppliers. A sub-group from the Board will look at these to decide which installers to use for which rooves. The quotes will need to be renewed nearer the time, in the meantime WREN will keep them all in the picture.

Development of the share offer: Kevin has sorted out the paperwork required by the Booster scheme. Tony will work on the tender for appointing an organisation to produce the share offer document.
- 2. NZCom:** Simon is working on a Community Engagement Plan which he is aiming to finish by the end of July. Simon and Lena met Tim Jones of Community Energy Plus, and have a list of groups and contacts with expertise in reaching people who are disengaged. Simon will email the list to the Board so that introductions can be made where possible. Suggestions are also requested for members of both the community focus group (a range of all ages and sectors of society) and the community advisory group. Meetings with the project partners are taking place every 2 weeks.
- 3. WREN Social Media:** to be reviewed next meeting.
- 4. Finance:** A new bank mandate for the Co-op account has been sent off, no acknowledgment has been received but a new security device has been ordered for Leonie. Tony will visit Lloyds bank to organise an updated mandate there. Richard Alexander has retired and the business acquired by Kevin Cornford and Claire Payne. The VAT registration is in progress - Kevin will contact Kevin Cornford for news on that and the transition to Xero software accounting system from the current spreadsheets.
- 5. Communications:** the next newsletter will feature WREN’s 2 projects. Kevin will ask Jaz at Impress 51 to add a web page for NZCom, and brief newsletter items can link to these pages for more detail. It was agreed that short videos are an ideal way to communicate WREN’s message.
- 6. Feedback on Board meeting of Wadebridge Energy Company (WEC), 16th June 2021:** Tony, Kevin and Chris are directors of WEC, alongside Richard Alexander and Dominic Comonte. WREN set up WEC as a sister company and special purpose vehicle to hold a portfolio of assets, starting with the solar array at Nanstallon. Any assets installed as part of the Energy Equality project will sit within WEC, as will the liabilities, and the shares will be offered by WEC. Kevin confirmed that the funds provided to WREN by the Booster scheme are able to be spent on that basis. WEC’s Board agreed that WREN should continue to pursue the project, and if having seen

all the business case and updated financial models these stack up, that the assets and liabilities should sit within WEC. The question of capacity to monitor and administer the new assets had been discussed by the WEC Board; Tony will enquire of Jake Burnyeat at Communities for Renewables about subcontracting this element.

7. Other Business:

- Chris reported that she has met Matt Adams (Exeter University Global Sustainability Solutions MSc student) to work up his dissertation research brief - Roadmap to Peer 2 Peer. The brief will be circulated. One of the barriers which was due to be removed will not now be: Ofgem is discontinuing its plans to allow more than one supplier on a meter. A peer to peer project in Brixton has also ended unsuccessfully. However Ofgem have funded another peer to peer trial for non-domestic consumers which Matt will be looking in to.
- Chris had attended a workshop run by Planetmark – a collaboration with Eden which offers a certification process for businesses to achieve their sustainability goals. Chris will produce a first draft document for discussion based on the ideas of the workshop leading to setting up sustainability aims and policies for WREN.
- Simon had been approached for advice by a young couple who are new homeowners in St Teath wishing to install renewables, unable to afford them and seeking funding. They have been recruited on the focus group.
- Ian had attended Western Power Distribution’s Innovation Showcase – both Kevin and Simon tried to attend but were unsuccessful. Ian will feedback on this and the content to WPD.
- Amanda Pennington is the new mayor of Wadebridge, Ian is deputy.
- Tony attended an international energy congress, which dealt with private investments, policies and strategies, and has access to the material for a further 2 weeks. Tony will share any useful insights.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 9th July 3 pm on Zoom

(then 6th August (tbc), 10th September, 8th October, 12th November, 10th December 2021)