

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting 10th October, Zoom

WREN Board Members present: Chris Coonick, Tony Faragher, Francesca Iliffe, Simon Miller, Kevin Smith, Ian Welch.

WREN ops assistant: Leonie McGregor (minutes)

Apologies: Victoria Smyth.

Meeting started 1930, closed 2115.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th September 2022.

Matters arising: Chris reported back on the project proposals being worked up by Frazer Nash. If successful, any role for WREN would come in a later stage of the project –in around 2 years' time.

Wadebridge Leisure Centre: WREN has offered to advise on any renewable energy projects. Tony to remind them that the St Breock Fund will be opening for applications at the beginning of December.

1. **Co-option of Francesca Iliffe to the Board:** The Board were unanimously in favour of co-opting Francesca onto The Board and gave her a warm welcome. Proposed by Tony, seconded by Kevin. Francesca is starting a new role with Cornwall Council in their carbon neutral programme.
2. **Developing WREN's strategic plan and future work programme:** Tony had circulated notes from the recent Board strategy meeting. It is clear that WREN needs to wait for the results from both the NZCom research papers, and the potential business models being developed by CEP. These outcomes, and the evaluation of them, will inform the way forward and provide a basis for decisions on a work programme for the future.
3. **NZCom update:** A public event is planned in Wadebridge Town Hall in January 2023. All project partners and members of the focus and review groups will be involved. Chris gave an update on current progress with the work packages.
 - WP2 (future energy scenarios) the draft report is in and is being sent out for peer review.
 - WP3 (carbon accounting methodology) Planet A has taken over this element, due to incomplete delivery by the partner at Exeter University. Agreement has been reached that Exeter will be paid up to the draft stage, and the final element of the funding will be used to pay Planet A for the extra work.
 - WP5 (business models) CEP has shared their short list of business models.
 - WP7 (heat pump trial/time of use) an application has been made to Ofgem for a sandbox trial.
 - WP8 (online tool) Chris is meeting with the Centre for Energy Equality to discuss their involvement in developing the front end of the online tool.
4. **Energy Clinic:** This will run fortnightly initially at The Betjeman Centre in Wadebridge. CEP are providing support once a month. It was agreed to seek volunteers from the WREN membership to help run the clinic. There is a set of energy advice and moneysaving guides on CEP's website which will be available in print form at the clinic.
5. **GDPR compliance:** Simon asked to double check WREN's compliance as the clinic may involve taking details and passing those on to other agencies. The data can be shared with

relevant partners, provided the individual cannot be identified. Tony will update WREN's details with the Information Commissioner, and check the privacy notice on the website.

6. **Energy Equality Project Update:** In considering the future work programme, the Board agreed that WREN's intention to pursue the Energy Equality project if at all possible is a given. An intern from Exeter University has been appointed to revisit the business model in the context of higher costs and a fluctuating market.
7. **Communications:** The newsletter will feature the call for volunteers for the energy clinics, being clear about what is involved and the level of commitment. Kevin would like pointers to more news items. It was agreed to liaise with the Foodbank again this year to provide energy saving light bulbs in the Christmas boxes.
8. **Finance:** Kevin had circulated WREN's General Activities financial report for April-September 2022. Some expenses have increased – PAYE and telephone and internet costs. The extra PAYE is down to an employee in the NZCom project - Leonie to check the split of PAYE between restricted and unrestricted funds. The internet costs are as a result of the move to Impress 51, and the take up of their website management contract.
9. **Other Business:**
 - The Board is keen to support the St Issey solar group buying initiative, ways to do this include offering to scrutinise the quotes and being available to advise on any issues as and when required.
 - The thermal loss detector idea raised at the AGM needs further research.
 - Provision of a warm space for Wadebridge is on the agenda at the next Wadebridge Town Council meeting. Simon to send feedback on the first energy clinic to Ian.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 14th November 7.30 pm on Zoom

(then 12th December)

Proposed dates for 2023 – Mondays @ 7.30pm

9th January, 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 8th May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December.