

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC

Board Meeting

24th October 2019
Elsdon Village Hall
7.00pm

1 **In attendance**

David Burn (Chair) (DB); Paul Cowie (PC); Martin Chilvers (MC); Ian Rawles (IR); Tony Pender (TP); Lesley Gosling (LG); Andrew Harding (AH); Richard Thornton (RT); Katie Wood (KW); Sarah Crone (SC)

Apologies

Peter Ramsden; Chris Robson

2 **Update from B4NTR**

Lynne Rawles (LR) and Paul Easthaugh (PE) attending to speak.

- Barry Forde, B4RN CEO is to meet with CIC directors on Monday 28th October.
- Phase One has been mapped and this is available online on request to PE. B4RN have decided to refund the connection fee when properties complete their connection.
- There is a new, more generous, voucher scheme for rural properties. B4RN still estimate that 70-75% of the cost of the build will be met by the voucher schemes, with an estimated £900k to be found from all other sources.
- B4NTR will be distributing information about community investment opportunities.
- It was reported that BT is now offering gigabit connection in the B4NTR area.
- There was some discussion about the project being launched by the North of Tyne Mayor.
- It was reported that some villages had already benefited from government funding and would not qualify for the new voucher schemes, neither would those properties already benefiting from 30mb + connection speeds.

LR and PE left the meeting at 7.30pm

3 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed.

Matters arising.

Grants paid. The schools grants for the autumn term have been issued.

Belsay Invention Shed has been launched, KW and DB attended. Press coverage was good, although the Ray Wind Funds were not correctly named.

4 **Declarations of interest**

None made.

5 **Enquiries update and applications to be considered**

An enquiries update document had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Applications:

062 all documentation is now in place. Full award agreed.

063 Full award agreed with proviso.

6 **Update from the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

An overview of the accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the additional sum from Vattenfall had been received.

It was agreed to obtain a pre-paid payment card for the administrator to use for small purchases. JC and MC to action.

7 **Dealing with business applications.**

It was agreed that PC will arrange a Task and Finish group facilitated by Terry Carrol (LEADER etc) with the objective of established firm policy for the handling of business applications. The group to comprise PC, MC and IR. It is hoped that this group will report back at the January Board meeting.

JC requested a statement for the website to guide potential business applicants; it was agreed that it would state that business applications could not be considered until spring 2020.

8 **Risk Register**

It was agreed that LIC will apply the risk ratings to each grant application.

9 **Succession planning**

A discussion document had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that directors would resign early for staggered reappointment to ensure the Board remains quorate.

However should the number of directors fall below the minimum for a quorum they are still able to appoint new directors.

It was clarified that each director is able to stand for three terms of three years before being compelled to take a break.

JC to refer to Articles of Association and Governance Handbook to clarify the situation regarding Parish Council representatives.

10 **Any other business**

LG brought to the attention of the Board the current press release.

JC had circulated a draft report from the local shows. It was agreed that attending most of these had been useful. An edited report will be posted on the website.

JC raised the issue of community engagement and the need to have a strong report on this for the Vattenfall Review meeting next spring. It was agreed to hold a public event in late winter which would be rather informal and catered.

JC also requested that F&GP should agree a budget for public engagement to enable a programme of publicity. BJ to be asked to confirm that such a budget would fall outside of the agreed 10% administrative budget.

1 **Key dates**

- Finance and General Purposes Committee 13th November at 7pm in Otterburn Memorial Hall
- Local Initiatives Committee Thursday 21st November at 7pm at Shawm House
- CIC Board meeting 28th November at 7pm at Elsdon Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm