

# Ray Windfarm Fund CIC

## Board Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Elsdon Village Hall  
7.00pm

1 **In attendance**

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

**Apologies**

Peter Ramsden; Lesley Gosling (LG);

2 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed.

3 **Declarations of interest**

IR in reference to B4NTR broadband

4 **Update on B4RN broadband initiative**

Mapping Phase One is complete and Phase 2 is underway. B4NTR is actively pursuing wayleaves and route checking.

Barry Forde CEO B4RN, has indicated that should funding be in place to kick start investment drilling could begin as early as January. £40,000 has been invested already. iNorthumberland is now proposing to match the government voucher funding reducing the necessary local investment to £450,000. It was proposed and agreed that CIC would purchase £50,000 in shares immediately to facilitate the start of the build.

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

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting for information. In addition to this a new enquiry from the Gun Inn community buy out group has been received. The group has asked for guidance about applying for further funding and DB and TP are to meet representatives of the group on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November together with Sir Michael Darrington who will be asked to provide his view of the project to inform the CIC decision.

- a. Allocation of resources. A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting. The figures were adjusted as Community Foundation will need a smaller top up for the December round freeing £50,000 from our commitment.

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

CR presented the accounts to year end 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 which have now been sent to the Accountants for formalising. CR explained what and how we disclose in our accounts, and liability for Corporation Tax. Filing at Companies House must be made in February. JC enquired about the tax situation in reference to the income from the B4RN investment. JC to discover the situation and inform the next Board meeting. RT reported that in conversation with members of the community the purpose of the Legacy Fund was met with approval.

7 **Update on Adapt NE transport proposal**

IR and TP together with LG are in ongoing discussions with Adapt. Following discussion around the able it was agreed to offer Adapt an initial amount of £12,760 to initiate a Dial a Ride pilot service, as detailed in their application for funding.

8 **Risk Register**

In the risk score for grants it was suggested that reputational risk should be monitored too, taking into account any likely concerns at Vattenfall. It was agreed to use the risk scoring on any new grant applications at LIC and develop the categories in light of experience.

TP thought that the Risk:Reward ratio would be a useful measure in coming to decisions rather than absolute risk scores.

IR pointed out that we have to maintain a balance between the demands of the donor and that those of the community of benefit. AH suggested that demonstrating our awareness of risk and monitoring of it fulfils our commitment to both.

9 **Any other business**

1. SC and DB are in discussion with GoTrak in regard to developing extensive cycleways on redundant railway lines crossing our area of benefit. GoTrak is a charity and is actively fundraising. It had been suggested that CIC could intervene with Lord Devonport about access across his estate. PR has already broached this with him. B4NTR will be able to provide SC with general information about land ownership.
2. Correspondence from Berry Jordan dated 13/11/19 and 28/11/19.
  - a. Formal recording of her thanks to DB for stepping in as Acting Chair during PR's absence.
  - b. CIC prefers to co-opt a new member rather than outsource to reduce cost.
  - c. Succession planning. We are to seek a new member with suitable banking experience to boost the skill set of the board; to be co-opted initially. It was agreed to hold an AGM in August which will simply be a presentation of the audited accounts and election of officers.
  - d. BJ confirmed that costs incurred in public engagement activities would not be taken from the 10% administrative budget.
3. Discussion about developing the 5-year plan from 2022 which needs to begin next year. DB had informally assessed the category of applications received at LIC. From about ten or a dozen different categories only two fell within the remit of Community Foundation. Community Foundation have only one more grant donation from Vattenfall and CIC must consider the way forward. It was suggested that the plan should be to bring the total donation into one fund with quarterly grant awards. It was agreed to discuss this proposal with Vattenfall before proceeding with the 5 year plan. (MC thought that it may be advisable to offer out to tender as well). RT and others around the table agreed that having two funds confused the community. Should the whole donation be administered by CIC then there would be money available to employ a second administrator.

In order to gain community feedback about our priorities IR suggested running focus groups to engage with hard to reach sections of the community. This was agreed. The first will be in late winter to engage with small businesses. Other groups might be parents of school age children; older people; YFC and youth groups; farmers.
4. RT asked whether, as YFC organise events countywide, we could fund an amount proportional to the membership in our area of benefit. This was agreed.
5. JC confirmed with KW that the schools' grants would be for the same amounts each term for this academic year.

**Key dates**

- Community Foundation Decision Panel Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm venue to be notified by CF.
- Finance and General Purposes Committee Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm. Venue TBC
- Local Initiatives Committee Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm at Shawm House
- CIC Board meeting Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7pm. Venue to TBC

**Meeting closed at 8.30pm**