

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC

Board Meeting

23rd January 2020
Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall
7.00pm

1 **In attendance**

David Burn (Chair) (DB); Paul Cowie (PC); Martin Chilvers (MC); Ian Rawles (IR); Richard Thornton (RT); Katie Wood (KW); Sarah Crone (SC); Peter Ramsden (PR); Lesley Gosling (LG); Berry Jordan, Vattenfall (BJ); Jane Cartridge, Administrator (Minutes)

Apologies: Chris Robson; Andrew Harding; Tony Pender; Willy Browne-Swinburne

From the Chair: Peter Ramsden was welcomed back after his enforced absence. PR thanked DB for his sterling work as Acting Chairman. Both sentiments were endorsed by all present.

2 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed.

3 **Declarations of interest**

IR in reference to B4RN/B4NTR broadband

4 **Risk and expenditure:** BJ was assured that risks are calculated and recorded. She feels this is important should justification for grants be required after the event. PR was assured that the recorded risk would be included in the evaluation of outcome.

5 **Timescale: Open meeting/review/feedback.** BJ recommended that feedback from both the March and June public meetings be incorporated into a single report. She suggested that feedback could be sought from attendees via Survey Monkey. The date for the Vattenfall Review and presentation of the Annual Report was agreed as the CIC Board meeting on 25th June 2020. IR agreed to create a similar presentation to that given in 2019.

6 **AGM and new officers:** BJ recommended that skills gaps were identified and suitable candidates identified, by advertising if necessary. The lack of business banking experience had already been identified. Any member wishing to stand down should notify the Chair several months in advance. BJ suggested that change of officers enhances individual experience and improves the skills of the group. The AGM is to be held on Thursday 27th August as part of the monthly Board meeting.

7 **Community Foundation contract/review.** BJ confirmed that the third and final payment to Community Foundation under the current contract will be in February 2020. Vattenfall will commission an external review of their performance during the coming year. CIC must await the outcome of this review before embarking on preparations for the new 5-year plan due for submission in 2022.

8 **Social media and community engagement.** After discussion of the paper presented to the meeting BJ suggested that an external agency be engaged to manage social media. They

would operate to guidelines given by CIC and edit content supplied by CIC to suit the chosen platforms; currently our website and Facebook. Such assistance would be budgeted separately to the administrative overheads. JC to research available agencies. BJ suggested that we should identify how we want to communicate and who we want to attract. Currently young adults are not being engaged.

- 9 **Finance and General Purposes Committee.** The draft accounts for the period to 31st May 2019 had been circulated, MC presented them to the meeting and they were accepted without exception. The Board expressed their gratitude to Chris Robson in his absence for his exceptional work for the CIC.

The projected expenditure for the remainder of the year had been circulated and was discussed under the next agenda item.

- 10 **Local Initiatives Committee.** A paper had been circulated. The issue of funding for-profit businesses was discussed. PC is taking this forward with external advice and will report back to the CIC in due course. BJ informed the meeting that PyC is recruiting a paid officer to handle business funding. PyC will be approached to share information. PC explained that the community benefit to supporting businesses is what we struggle to identify. BJ suggested that it might be beneficial initially to identify what we will not fund; to assess the risk of grants v loans - clearly the risk to the recipient is lower with a grant than with taking on a debt. We should also compare individual risk versus systemic risk. Paying for business expertise is worthwhile and would safeguard CIC's reputation.

- 11 **Applications for consideration.**
060 Cap a Pie Theatre. Partial award approved. RT abstained.
047 Corsenside Parish Council. Partial award approved.
073 Scots Gap Surgery. Full award confirmed on LIC approved grant.

- 10 **Key dates**
- Local Initiatives Committee Thursday 20th February at 7pm at Shawm House
 - CIC Board meeting Thursday 27th February at 7pm Corsenside Parish Hall
 - Community Network Meeting Thursday 5th March 7pm Corsenside Parish Hall
 - Finance and General Purposes Committee Wednesday 11th March at 7pm. Venue TBC
 - Open Meeting Wednesday 3rd June Colwell Village Hall at 7pm
 - Community Foundation Decision Panel Tuesday 9th June at 7pm venue to be notified by CF.
 - Vattenfall Review Thursday 25th June 7pm venue to be notified.
 - CIC AGM Thursday 27th August 7pm venue to be notified.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm