

# Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Board Meeting

Date 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

By Zoom

Time 7.00pm

## 1. In attendance

Action

David Burn, Chair (DB); Peter Ramsden (PR); Sarah Crone (SC); Martin Chilvers (MC); Mark Neale (MN); Andrew Harding (AH); Lesley Gosling (LG); Joanne Willis, (JW) CDO (Minutes); Katherine Williams (KW) and Helen Crow (HC) (Left meeting at 7.15pm)

**Apologies** Chris Robson (CR); Paul Cowie (PC); Katie Wood (KW)

## 2. Introduction to Katherine Williams and Helen Crow

JW

Directors each gave a short introduction, followed by KW and HC, who also gave an overview on the three phases of the community consultation work due to be undertaken. Firstly, the research stage, reviewing CAN report, evaluating what has changed since then and what has the CIC achieved in the last 5 years. Focusing in particular on Covid19, Fuel poverty, climate change and the recent storms and the community needs surrounding these issues. Followed by the consultation stage to approach communities and get their opinions and feedback. Require CIC assistance with stakeholder mapping, to find out who should be approached. Finally, the reporting phase where the information will be collated and presented. JW to consult with BJ to facilitate a meeting to get Vattenfall's opinions on previous work and what they would like this project to achieve.

## 3. Minutes of the last CIC meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

## 4. Virtual ARC Meeting Notes 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Accepted as a true record.

## 5. Declarations of interest

None

## 6. Community Foundation future agreement to discuss options

DB gave an overview on the meeting held with CF and RWF to discuss a future Possible working relationship with either a similar contract to Vattenfall or reviewing Applications on an ad hoc basis. Discussions took place regarding the ability of JW to undertake the possible extra work that would be generated by bringing the SGP in house, which is difficult to quantify. Directors must decide whether to continue with the nature of grants that have been awarded through CF, or to offer something different. CF to send on template contracts for Directors to review and decide at March CIC.

## 7. B4RN Update post Shareholder's meeting

PR attended the B4RN AGM as RWF representative, and gave an overview of the meeting. Gigabit vouchers will be permitted for the RWF broadband rollout areas of Barrasford, Kirkwhelpington and West Woodburn and now have a protected status. B4RN as a company have made significant progress over the last 12 months, and the

number of people signing up for their service has increased as well as the length of time users spend online. The company is planning to connect directly to the internet at a new facility in Newcastle. The Northumberland build is likely to commence from August at the latest, the first stage taking approximately 12 months.

MN did suggest an alternative company that the CIC could approach who operate from Alnwick, Alncom. However, those households already signed up to the voucher scheme through B4RN would not be transferable to a different company.

## **8. AOB**

- Kate and Michelle from PyC had offered to visit the CIC and view some completed projects, would Directors like to extend an invitation? Agreed to invite JW to liaise. Also, to request any further relevant information on repayable grants.
- Elsdon PC SDF request, short discussion regarding insurance claim for sign and eligibility of the request. Directors agreed to request, however, only £500.

**Closed 8.00pm**

**Key Dates**

**Next CIC 24th March 2022**