

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Board Meeting

Date 24th March 2022

Elsdon Village Hall

Time 7.00pm

1. In attendance

Action

David Burn, Chair (DB); Chris Robson (CR); Sarah Crone (SC); Martin Chilvers (MC); Mark Neale (MN); Andrew Harding (AH); Lesley Gosling (LG); Joanne Willis, (JW) CDO (Minutes)

Apologies Peter Ramsden (PR); Paul Cowie (PC); Katie Wood (KW)

2. Minutes of the last CIC meeting 24th February 2022 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

3. Minutes of the virtual F & GP 8th March 2022

Accepted as a true record.

4. Virtual ARC Meeting Notes 17th March 2022

Accepted as a true record.

5. Declarations of interest

None

6. Applications

• 010 £26,010

CR gave a financial summary of the business. It is profitable and running in credit though there is justification for grant support. The application despite being a business application has clear community benefit and community element to it, as it provides a service to approximately half of the RWF area of benefit. Since the PEF, Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group have agreed to match fund the project. JW highlighted further quotes are yet to be received although the letter from Northumberland CCG details a tender process, where the CIC will be kept informed of all progress made.

JW

Directors agreed to impose conditions on the grant award. * Subject to planning permission if required. * Alternative quotes must be sought. * The VAT position of the business must be clarified. * Clear ownership of the modular building must be outlined.

Unanimous decision to approve award up to £26,010.

• 179 £10,000

JW outlined why there was a discrepancy between the total cost of the project and the various funding applied for, this is due to the predicted inflation of quotes and as a safeguard in the event not all grants applied for are awarded. The village hall is outside the RWF area of benefit, though part of the parish falls within and the hall does attract some users from neighbouring parishes within the RWF boundary, who would benefit from this award. Directors supported the proposal to award 50% of the grant applied for, to refer in the grant award letter that this is due to the project being outside but residents of the area of benefit will benefit from the award. Conditions to be placed on

JW

the award *Subject to planning permission. * All other funds must be in place to start the project.

Unanimous decision to approve a 50% award.

SC highlighted the inclusion of sustainability as a topic for discussion during risk assessment.

- **180 £10,761.38**

CR's financial summary outlined that this is a good business, which is starting to turn a profit, and much of the funding for this project has been provided by investors or private loans to the applicants. Excellent application, clearly highlighting the community benefit to the area. Conditions applied, * subject to planning permission approval. **JW**

Unanimous decision to approve fully.

7. Community Foundation Decision

Directors discussed the draft contract presented by Community Foundation and the alternative pro rata agreements. All favoured the contract, and for the applications to come through on a rolling basis. SC and DB will continue any necessary discussions with CF. To request the awarded amount is reduced from £750 to £500 and amounts up to £10,000 can be awarded with up to £20,000 considered in special circumstances. Also, the possibility that a discussion be held of any received applications after a monthly CIC meeting, to allow Directors to discuss thoroughly, rather than solely by email response. **DB**
SC

8. Progress on Community Consultation contract

JW gave a brief account of some of the work documents from Katherine and Helen. Their plan is to send out a questionnaire to recipients in week commencing 25th April, which will remain open till week commencing 13th May. A meeting has been organised for Directors to meet at Kirkwhelpington Village Hall on 7th April at 7pm, those who are unable to attend will be telephoned for their views and opinions.

9. Community Open Event Planning

Following on from the release date plans of the community questionnaire, possible dates for a community open event were discussed. Directors have agreed that a potential date for this is Wednesday 25th May 2022, proposed venue to be Otterburn Memorial Hall. Directors discussed inviting former grant applicants to give accounts of their grant journeys and the community benefits since their awards. Four potential speakers were put forward. Directors to ask Katherine Williams and Helen Crow how the event can assist in the consultation.

10.AOB

- JW informed Directors that the potential visit from PyC staff will have to be scheduled for the summer due to their current workload.
- CR highlighted that there is a charity tractor run due to start in Otterburn in May, and Young Farmers County Rally, which could be potential places to raise awareness of RWF, with the use of banners. To be discussed at April CIC.
- MN suggested that roller banners could be used in village halls to highlight some facts and information about RWF. LG to consult with MN. **LG**
MN

Closed 7.55pm