

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Board Meeting

Date 26th May 2022
Corsenside Parish Hall
Time 7.00pm

1. In attendance

Action

David Burn, (DB) Chair; Andrew Harding (AH); Lesley Gosling (LG); Martin Chilvers (MC); Peter Ramsden (PR); Paul Cowie (PC); Joanne Willis, (JW) CDO (Minutes)
Apologies Sarah Crone (SC); Mark Neale (MN); Chris Robson (CR); Katie Wood (KW)

2. Minutes of the last CIC meeting 28th April 2022 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

3. Virtual F & GP Minutes 17th May 2022

Accepted as a true record, JW has applied for the £2,500 dividend shares from B4RN, as agreed, these will be repaid to RWF on 31st May 2022.

4. Notes from Virtual ARC 19th May 2022

Accepted as a true record.

5. Declarations of interest

DB and LG declared a personal but non prejudicial interest in application 185 B4RN.

6. Risk Assessment

To include an additional line in the risk assessment for a grant award over 25% of our annual allocation and to ensure all processes are followed.

7. Applications

- **185 B4RN £66,000**

JW

DB outlined the background to the application. All the required information has been provided. PC questioned where the funds will come from for the gap in funding from August to September 2022, assumed from new signups and B4RN. 35% of 521 properties have so far signed up to the B4RN broadband. There is clear community benefit for this project, with the potential for phase 2 and 3 to continue after the first phase and over 1300 properties able to sign-up to hyperfast broadband. Directors discussed whether to split the funding request/ to fund the whole project/ to pay on receipt of invoices. Conditions should be placed on the grant award if made, regular reporting and communication expected. DB, PR and CR are now meeting with B4RN representatives monthly for progress reports. CR and SC have advised they would support the award. MC was concerned there were other priorities within the area of benefit such as fuel poverty and foodbanks which may arise from the community consultation work which would require funding commitments, and would fund part of the amount but did not support paying £66,000 at the current time.

Majority Decision to fund the full amount on receipt of invoices, however the final

balance cannot be awarded till August.

- **216 £5,000**

JW

Second funding request after £4,125 granted last year towards accommodation fees at Barony College for a Forestry course. This request is for the second-year advanced qualification for accommodation. The applicant has secured summer work with a forestry firm within the area of benefit, who are prepared to offer full time employment on completion of the course. PR raised a query regarding whether a student loan could be granted, the applicant has advised this is not available.

Unanimous decision to award the full amount, as a student loan is not available.

- **219 £5,000**

JW

Very comprehensive application, providing excellent supporting information about the potential community benefit and potential working partnerships with The Calvert Trust at Kielder, Hexham Priory School, Adapt and Mencap.

Unanimous decision to award the full amount, JW to check the VAT status of applicant.

- **ADAPT £8,840**

All Directors encouraged by the numbers using the existing bus service from Byrness, through Otterburn, Elsdon and Kirkwhelpington to Morpeth and the feedback received from passengers. Slight increase on the amount from the previous year, though considering the fuel price increases this is justified.

Unanimous decision to award the full amount for a 2022/2023 service.

8. Community Foundation Update

DB gave an update on proceedings, SC has reviewed the contract and returned with minor amendments including the change of start date to 31st August 2022. CF have contacted RWF to inform that as the document is not a deed no witness signature is required. SC agrees. Directors happy for DB to act as signatory for the contract.

9. Community Consultation

JW informed the meeting that over 250 responses had been received, the original closing date was extended from 16th May to 22nd May, to push the grant recipients survey. Following the F & GP meeting, Directors had elected to award a shopping voucher rather than cash prize for the prize draw. Katherine Williams advised that the prize was advertised as cash and that this could be spent within the area of benefit. Directors agreed that £300 can be added to the next invoice from Katherine and she will withdraw cash. Suggest to prize draw winners that it could be presented at the open event. Further consultation work to take place at the community open event.

10. Community Open Event 16th June

JW

JW and LG have held a meeting at The Gun to discuss the budget for refreshments, plan where displays will be sited, and Directors will be stationed. To ask a selection of grant recipients if they can attend to talk to attendees about their experience. JW to work on a take home leaflet, to liaise with MN regarding roller banners. LG advised that

LG

MN

the event should only be publicised through social media rather than Hexham Courant, as it would attract too many from outside the area of benefit. To work on a rota for Directors with times of attendance. MC and PC can attend but would have to be later slots. AH volunteered time to help set up. PR suggested that a register and contacts of attendees should be taken and nominated JW to meet and greet.

11. AOB

- SDF request Redefest has only had two approvals. LG offers her approval, £500 now granted, JW to set up transfer of award.
- SDF request for funding towards Bellingham Fireworks has only received one approval, Directors believe that to support this would set a precedent for other displays to follow e.g., Hexham and further afield as people from within the area of benefit attend. JW to enquire whether there are other aspects of the evening that RWF could support as an alternative to the firework display.
- Due to the apologies received for the last two CIC meetings, it was decided to host the June CIC by Zoom and the July in person. To alternate throughout the spring, summer and autumn and hold by zoom in winter.

Closed 8.10pm