

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Meeting

Date 23rd November 2023
Otterburn Memorial Hall
Time 7.00pm

1. In attendance

Action

David Burn, (DB) Chair; Katie Wood (KW); Paul Cowie (PC); Sarah Crone (SC); Sarah Lunn (SL) Martin Dickson-Green (MDG); Martin Chilvers (MC); Peter Ramsden (PR); Joanne Willis, (JW) CDO (Minutes)
Apologies Chris Robson (CR); Alison Thomson (AT); Lesley Gosling (LG)
Non-Attendance Deb Walton (DW); Phil Lawless (PL)

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 26th October 2023 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record

4. Minutes of the F & GP 15th November 2023

Accepted as a true record.

5. Notes of the ARC 16th November 2023

Accepted as a true record.

6. Applications

SC requested that JW circulate the scores for previous grant applications for comparison. **JW**

- **297 We Fibre £41,106**

The answers to the questions have been provided – no outside funding was required for the project at Newbrough as the job was simpler, no direct buried cables were required and it would take many years for a profit to be made from this job to complete the work. Directors voted to award funding for part of the project for £14,404 which would enable 81 homes to be connected to the We Fibre Wi-Fi network within Bellingham. Conditions to be applied to the grant award, including payment on invoices dated no earlier than the grant award letter, solely for the five project areas that total the £14,404 requested.

Scoring – Impact 20 Organisation 10 Engagement and Inclusion 15 Planning and Delivery 15 = Total 60

Unanimous decision to part fund the application for £14,404 under the conditions discussed.

- **303 Kevin Piggford Driving School £7,500**

Request for funding towards the costs of a newer second-hand driving school vehicle in order keep the costs of lessons as low as possible. The business is offering a valuable service to the area of benefit and not exploiting customers. Students do not have to access lessons within nearby urban centres, therefore keeping costs to a minimum.

Scoring – Impact 30 Organisation 15 Engagement and Inclusion 15 Planning and Delivery 18 = Total 78

Majority decision to support the application, on condition that the RWF logo be added to the vehicle livery helping to publicise the Funds.

- **339 Phoenix 60+ Social Club £2,709**

Request for funding towards the transport costs for next years programme of excursions, the club have already held a bingo night to raise funds in October. Very good membership for a club within the area.

Scoring – Impact 40 Organisation 18 Engagement and Inclusion 18 Planning and Delivery 18 = Total 94

Unanimous decision to award the full amount.

- **345 Rochester Festival Committee (Redefest) £1,500-2,000**

Not for profit festival which takes place every year for the benefit of those within and outside the area of benefit. Costs have increased considerably since Covid and the Committee is requesting funding towards the increases and for some capital expenditure items.

Scoring – Impact 25 Organisation 15 Engagement and Inclusion 18 Planning and Delivery 15 = Total 73

Unanimous decision to award £2,000, must display RWF banners at the event and be advised funding cannot be granted every year.

- **348 Bellingham Parish Council £12,500**

Requesting funding towards accessible play apparatus for the Jubilee Playground, Bellingham Parish Council will fund the other half of the project and VAT can be reclaimed therefore not included in cost. Could have approached other funders, though application windows not open till next spring.

Scoring – Impact 35 Organisation 20 Engagement and Inclusion 18 Planning and Delivery 18 = Total 91

Majority decision to award the full amount, ask for Ray Wind Funds sign to be installed in Playground.

7. Transport to healthcare appointments

**JW
MC**

Following correspondence of an elderly resident of Otterburn being charged an £80 taxi fare for a return trip to Bellingham Doctors surgery, DB queried whether a hardship fund is set up to deal with such instances liaising with doctors who could identify need. Otterburn Parish Council had discussed this at their recent meeting and five residents had volunteered to form a volunteer driver network. The PC queried how this could be coordinated, with insurances and DBS checks. JW to put MC in contact with Caroline Clarke of the Church and Community Partnership who are working on a rural transport initiative. JW to raise the issue with other Parish Councils to assess need within their communities and whether more volunteer drivers could be found. DB and JW will be attending the next transport meeting on 6th December.

8. Year-end accounts May 2023

JW

CR has forwarded a report explaining the accounts and points to highlight. All agreed to accept the draft accounts circulated. JW to liaise with CR and accountant to finalise paperwork.

9. Website

JW

JW has circulated two quotes; it was agreed at the F & GP that the cheaper quote offered the best value. The consultant advised that Microsoft 365 would offer the best security as an email package and for the sharing of documents prior to meetings. To ensure web address does not need to change. JW to liaise with web consultant.

10. Annual Report 2022-23

JW

PR reviewed the report and made amendments to the text, he highlighted the proportion of funds spent on the nearest parishes to the windfarm was quite low. JW to work with a Publisher package, former Director Mark Neale used to finalise the document.

11. Policies

- Disclosure – no change, adopted.
- Grievance – no change, adopted.
- Applicants Privacy Notice – no change, adopted.
- Staff Privacy Notice – remove text about CCTV monitoring and recording telephone conversations of staff, adopted.
- Recruitment – no change, adopted.
- Redundancy – no change, adopted
- Sickness and Planned Absence – no change, adopted.
- Support and Supervision – no change, adopted.

12. AOB

- Cambo Village Hall are hosting an open event for all to attend on 16th December, the accessible entrance has been completed with a RWF grant.
- PC shared news that the Northumberland Log Bank has received a Kings Award for voluntary Services.

Closed 8.10pm