

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Meeting

Date 26th October 2023
Elsdon Village Hall
Time 7.00pm

1. In attendance

Action

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

2. Introductions

Phil Lawless was welcomed as the Director representing Kirkwhelpington Parish Council

3. Declarations of interest

MDG B4RN

4. Minutes of the last meeting 28th September 2023 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record

5. Notes of the ARC 19th October 2023

Accepted as a true record.

6. Schools Report Autumn Term

**JW
KW**

KW presented the report. **Unanimous approval to award £10,00 for the autumn term.** AT
JW and KW to speak with pre-school provision in the area and Bellingham Middle
School to find out their needs. Bellingham Middle School representatives had attended
the event at The Gun to enquire whether funding was available for a Special Educational
Needs Teaching Assistant (SEN TA), they were informed that this falls within the
statutory funding so cannot be supported. AT reported that apprenticeships for TAs take
place within her school and she would look to see how they are funded.

7. Applications

- **326 B4RN £100,000**

JW

Mole ploughing has commenced on the route, Barrasford Village Hall has been connected SC
to the Wi-Fi network and Chollerton School will be connected this coming week. This is a
crucial time in the project.

PC left the meeting, MDG left the room for the discussion.

Directors debated the application and the figures of public investment required, different
proposals of support were suggested. The majority supported funding the sum requested.
Agreed to ringfence £100,000, awarding £66,000 now on receipt of invoices from the date
of award letter. The remainder, £34,000 is conditional on the public investment target
being reached. RWF must be given regular progress reports on build progress and public
investments amount raised.

JW and SC to work on conditions and wording for grant award letter, once the public
investment figure required has been confirmed.

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

**Unanimous decision to support the application under the conditions discussed £66,000 initially
followed by £34,000 once public investment figure is raised.**

- **297 We Fibre Ltd £41,106**

To connect some outlying and difficult to reach properties in Bellingham to the We Fibre Wi-Fi network.

Scoring – Impact 20 Organisation 5 Engagement and Inclusion 15

Planning and Delivery 10 = Total 50

Defer the application as questions asked have not been answered.

- **306 Fountain Cottage Café and B & B £17,603.88**

After discussion, Directors felt this application did not meet the criteria to deliver community benefit sufficiently.

Decline the application.

- **313 Friends of Hexham Priory School £40,000**

Despite the school being outside the area of benefit, there are several children who attend the school from our area. Suggestion to award a grant which is pro rata for the number of children who attend.

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

15 = Total 78

Unanimous decision to award £2,500 towards the cost of the minibus, this is conditional on securing match funding for the remainder.

- **331 Gunnerton Playing Field £1,306.80**

Match funding has been secured, this is the final sum required to purchase the basket swing and safety matting.

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

Unanimous decision to award the full amount.

- **340 Redesdale and Three Kirks Newsletter £999**

Individual working voluntarily to produce newsletter for community.

Unanimous decision to award the full amount for the purchase of a new laptop to continue production of the newsletter.

8. Annual Report

Circulated, please report back to JW on any amendments prior to 10th November.

9. AOB

- Elsdon Bonfire SDF075 Request for £500 towards the bonfire attended by hundreds from across the AoB. Approved by 6 Directors.
- Motorbike event, this weekend at Elsdon VH, request for funding towards cost of hiring VH. Declined, not clear on community benefit. Directors advised attendees could be charged £3 entry fee to cover cost of VH hire.
- JW gave details of the two insurance quotes. To remain with current insurer.
- LG asked if the photo boards of recent grant recipients produced for the community event at The Gun could be given to those featured. All agreed.

Closed 8.45pm