

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Board Meeting

Date 27th April 2023

By Zoom

Time 7.00pm

1. In attendance

Action

David Burn, (DB) Chair; Katie Wood (KW); Peter Ramsden (PR); Mark Neale (MN); Lesley Gosling (LG); Paul Cowie (PC); Martin Dickson-Green (MDG); Alison Thomson (AT); Joanne Willis, (JW) CDO (Minutes)

Apologies Chris Robson (CR); Sarah Lunn (SL); Sarah Crone (SC); Deb Walton (DW); Martin Chilvers (MC)

DB was experiencing technical difficulties and joined the meeting at agenda item 6, PC stood in as chair prior to this.

2. Introductions

AT introduced herself as the new representative for Corsenside, while not a Parish Councillor, she will keep the PC informed with relevant Ray Wind Funds information. All attendees introduced themselves.

3. Minutes of the last CIC meetings 23rd March 2023 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

4. Notes of Virtual ARC 20th April 2023

JW

Amend the match funding figure in Groundwork NE item to £60,000. Accepted as a true record.

5. Declarations of interest

None

6. Applications

- **262 Northumberland Wildlife Trust 3-year project Yr. 1 £28,210.40
Yr. 2 £27,666.25 Yr. 3 £29,731.48**

A lengthy and thorough discussion took place covering the positive and negative aspects of the application, whether funding could be allocated for the three years, and whether an RWF grant award would make a difference to the conservation effort. There is evidence that the control of greys and RWF grant in 2019-20 was successful, though the number of reds cannot increase in a short space of time, therefore the multi-year funding ensures the sustainability of the project. Some information in other papers shows that the grey squirrels are overtaking therefore it could be difficult to see an increase in number of reds, is it an achievable target?

Assessment score of 77.

Majority decision to allocate £20,000, applicant to be informed that there were no guarantees for future funding, though there is no limit to the number of times they can apply for funding.

- **277 The Groom Room £1,400**

The applicant would like to create an outdoor hot and cold washing area in order that larger dogs can be groomed. Provides a service required within the area and many customers visit the shops and cafes in the village while waiting for their dogs to be groomed. Assessment Score 95.

Unanimous decision to award £1,400.

7. Membership of the sub-committees

Confirmed that DW and MDG will join the ARC and AT will join the F & GP.

8. Smart Search (Due diligence checking)

JW

Following on from a meeting with PyC, who said they use this service for all applications to complete anti money laundering (AML) checks, JW had a meeting with the service provider. Information was shared with the Directors, CR advised that it was too much for our requirements. If there were concerns over any applicants, he could undertake checks through his work and bill RWF for the service provided. JW to inform Smart Search we will not enlist their services.

9. Repayable Grants/Loans

**JW
PR**

JW, PR and CR had a meeting with PyC to discuss their policies and procedures surrounding loans, notes from that meeting were shared and a discussion took place. After initially feeling positive regarding adopting loan giving, on reflection CR has changed his opinion and advised JW by email. Other Directors feel it would provide a good opportunity to recycle the funds, help more people and offer community benefit. JW to request PyC's documentation and their solicitor contact details. PR to work on the reason to award repayable grants. To discuss at F & GP as there will be up front fees of a minimum of £1,500 to set up with the solicitor. Will impact on administration time for JW.

10. 5 Year Plan

PC

The Board discussed the initial draft document PC has produced, regarding the wording used. The purpose and vision should be that of RWF and not that proposed in the community consultation report. We must be specific in aims and objectives, increase in community engagement. Will start to attend local shows once again this year. Redrafted document for next CIC.

11. Ray Windfarm visit – Monday 26th June 5-6 pm confirmed.

12. AOB

- B4RN a local co-ordinator is being recruited for the Barrasford build. Waiting for final funding figures from DCMS.
- SDF060 request for funding towards cost of specialised wheelchair, JW has received 2 approvals via email. PC declared an interest. Unanimous decision to support the request for £500.

Closed 8.35pm