

# Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Board Meeting

Date 29th June 2023  
Corsenside Parish Hall  
Time 7.00pm

## 1. In attendance

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

**Action**

## Apologies

Alison Thomson (AT); Chris Robson (CR); Sarah Lunn (SL); Sarah Crone (SC); Deb Walton (DW);

## 2. Minutes of the last CIC meetings 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

## 3. Notes of Virtual ARC 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Accepted as a true record.

## 4. Declarations of interest

None

## 5. Applications

- **286 Groundwork NE £30,000**

JW has shared the responses to the questions asked by Directors at the previous CIC meeting. Views of Directors not present were shared. The community benefit is difficult to quantify, as it is primarily environmental, which led to varied discussions, as this would equal the largest grant award given to date. It was felt that it should be supported in some form, as the natural environment of the area was a priority for the population in the recent survey however the physical benefit to the people and size of the area of peat being produced were small and the full amount requested could not be justified. PC proposed awarding £10,000, majority agreed on the condition that the remaining funds are in place before award is transferred. Score 70 (from previous CIC).

**Majority decision to award £10,000 on condition that remaining funds are secured prior to transfer of grant award.**

## 6. Repayable Grants/Loans

PR read the purpose and vision of both Pen y Cymoedd (PyC) CIC and the RWF CIC, a summary of the meeting attended by PR, CR, JW with Kate Breeze and Holly Jones of PyC in March was given along with the reason PR believes RWF should offer repayable grants to the community. CR views were read out in his absence. All Directors gave their opinions on the issue, with the majority concerned about the potential for negative

publicity within a small close-knit community if someone were to default, or with the potential for unrest with the decisions Directors could potentially make for the loan/grant split with different parties. The amount of £25,000 being awarded as a minimum loan to unincorporated companies by PyC without regulation was highlighted. RWF have only awarded one grant above this amount, therefore there may be very few people who could potentially benefit from such a loan programme. The potential administrative burden was also highlighted. PR reiterated that this could enable RWF to become more dynamic and award larger sums to make more of a difference to the local community and economy. **PR and MN supported the proposal, all other Directors present and those absent via email do not wish to support it. As a result, it was decided to leave a period of three years before discussing the matter again.**

## **7. Community Foundation Small Grants Programme Agreement**

**JW**

DB gave the background to the SGP for new Directors. The pros and cons of the SGP were discussed. It was agreed that a paper be produced and circulated by JW, so that all Directors have the full information, following this a decision can be made at the July CIC meeting.

## **8. Position of Chair**

JW has received no nominations for the position of Chair for the coming year. SC has offered to stand next year once her work commitments are lessened. DB offered to stand as Chair for one further year until SC is available to stand. All Supported this suggestion. DB nominated SC as Vice Chair, seconded by MN.

## **9. AOB**

Kirkwhelpington resident had contacted JW to request assistance with her primary child's school trip, skiing to Italy. The children do not attend a school within the AoB and are below the age limit for EAT Bursary support. All agreed the RWF cannot support individuals in this way. JW to advise.

**JW**

**Closed 8.20pm**