

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Meeting

Date 26th September 2024
Corsenside Parish Hall
Time 7.00pm

1. In attendance

Action

Sarah Crone (SC) Chair; Lesley Gosling (LG); David Burn (DB), Martin Chilvers (MC); Peter Ramsden (PR); Alison Thomson (AT); Katie Wood till 7.45pm (KW); Martin Dickson-Green (MDG); Deb Walton (DW); Berry Jordan (BJ) Vattenfall; Joanne Willis (JW) CDO (Minutes)

Apologies Sarah Lunn (SL); Chris Robson (CR)

Non-Attendance Paul Cowie (PC); Phil Lawless (PL)

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. New Director advert

An advert has been placed in The Chimes, The Broadsheet, Meeting of the Waters and Redesdale & the Three Kirks for Director position. There are two positions on the Board, with five Directors due to leave their role in two years. Closing date is end of October.

4. Minutes of the last meeting 22nd August 2024 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

5. Minutes of the F & GP 10th September 2024

Accepted as a true record.

6. Notes of ARC 19th September 2024

Accepted as a true record.

7. School, preschool and wraparound care report 2024/25

JW

KW discussed the report, Bellingham Middle School was included within the figures for the year. All agreed to support the recommendations and award the full amounts for the school year 24/25. BJ asked whether we could find out, how many children are transported to swimming with RWF funding? This could make a good publicity post, JW to enquire.

8. Year-end accounts 23/24

JW

CR has approved the accounts. All agreed to accept, JW to follow up with paperwork for accountants and Companies House filing.

9. Financial year-end amendment

JW

Five years has passed since the previous amendment. All agreed to streamline the grant and financial year ends with both now ending June 2024. JW to change with Companies House. To request following years Vattenfall donation from BJ at the immediate end to grant and financial year, to submit invoice in a timely manner.

10. Annual Report 23/24

JW

CR

BJ

All Directors accepted the annual report, to ask CR for a footnote to the Income and Expenditure explaining the deficit. BJ would like more information on the case studies

for publicity purposes, to work with JW.

11. Community Transport

JW
SC
KW
MDG
MC
LG

JW gave details of the pilot volunteer driver scheme operated by Church & Community Partnership Tynedale, who would like more volunteer drivers. AT would like the contact details to advise Corsenside PC. JW to liaise with Caroline Clarke (CCP) to produce a poster for parish magazines. Discussions took place about insurance for NHS volunteer drivers, who do not require their own policies. Our schools also require assistance as transport is one of their largest costs. Transport working group created consisting of SC, KW, MDG, MC and LG. BJ has experience of a similar transport initiative within a different Development Trust, to share the contact.

12. B4RN Project Update

MDG informed the Board the Barrasford build is near completion, with 134 properties connected and 40 due to be connected in the next few weeks. Kirkwhelpington build started last week, the cabinet has been installed and digging on Hallington to Kirkwhelpington is imminent. The Kirkwhelpington local investment figure is very good, Corsenside have not received much local investment. More local investment is always welcomed to cover unforeseen costs during the build. There are wayleaves still to be finalised in Corsenside. There are two new local contractors starting in the area completing the garden work for property connections which keeps money within the local economy. There are nine new project areas to follow on from these builds.

13. RTC Complaint

The complaint email and RTC response were circulated. All Directors present believe the RTC response was excellent answering the points raised in the complaint. There has been no response from the complainant since the RTC letter was shared. This is now closed.

14. Public Engagement Event Planning

JW
BJ
DW

BJ advised that public engagement for many funds is now conducted over social media predominantly. Decided not to hold an open event this year, instead run grant surgeries for any applicants who require help. Work with Vattenfall and 24/7 Media Company to develop social media plan to promote the funds concentrating on the impact of the grants, e.g., Broadband – how many properties connected. DW to assist.

15. Training courses for Directors

DW has shared details on free online courses from Community Action Northumberland, anyone wishing to attend email name and address details by Monday. Equality & Diversity, Safeguarding, Mental Health Awareness and Risk Assessment courses were suggested.

16. AOB

- JW circulated a Small Donations Fund request from At Home with Angie for £400 training course and equipment costs to offer canine teeth cleaning with dog grooming already offered. Approval has been received from LG and MDG by email, AT, PR and SC approved the award.
- BJ approves of the multi-year funding grants awarded to NTY and B4RN which help applicants to plan their financial future.
- Vattenfall had two successful school visits to Ray Windfarm yesterday, 25th September, BJ would like to introduce more visits in the summer and extend to Directors unable to attend the first visit.

Closed 8.45pm