

# Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Meeting

Date 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
Great Bavington Church  
Time 7.00pm

## 1. In attendance

**Action**

David Burn, (DB) Chair; Lesley Gosling (LG); Sarah Crone (SC); Chris Robson (CR);  
Martin Dickson-Green (MDG); Peter Ramsden (PR); Katie Wood (KW); Paul Cowie (PC);  
Joanne Willis (JW) CDO (Minutes)

**Apologies** Sarah Lunn (SL); Alison Thomson (AT); Martin Chilvers (MC); Deb Walton (DW);  
Phil Lawless (PL)

## 2. Declarations of interest

PR 403 S Cuthbert Cabinet Making & Joinery and PC 407 Being Human Festival

## 3. Minutes of the last meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

## 4. Notes of the ARC 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Accepted as a true record.

## 5. Applications

- **389 F & L Brewery £7,553.33**

Request for a grant towards the cost of an outdoor covered seating area to increase the seating capacity of the tap room for all seasons, which will lead to increased employment. The business has flourished from two grants previously awarded, however no limits are imposed on businesses and organisations for the number of applications, if they are in different grant years. There is potential for competition with existing hospitality businesses in Bellingham though the brewery is outside the centre of the village with the footpath to Hareshaw Linn passing by and is likely to attract different clientele.

**Scoring – Impact 25 Organisation 15 Engagement and Inclusion 18 Planning and Delivery 18 = Total 76**

**Majority decision to award 25% of the full project cost - £3,585.83.**

- **401 Chollerton First School £1,250**

This application is for the remainder of the amount to install two EV charging points on school premises. The school has secured a grant for £3,750 and requires a top-up amount. The EV charging points will take payments and therefore be open to the village, as the only public points available. They are slower chargers, so limited vehicles could get a full charge in one day, however staff could utilise while at work and villagers overnight.

**Scoring – Impact 35 Organisation 18 Engagement and Inclusion 18 Planning and Delivery 18 = Total 89**

**Unanimous decision to award the full amount.**

- **403 S Cuthbert Cabinet Making & Joinery £7,575**

Application is for half the cost of a planer thicknesser to allow the business to undertake larger jobs and the potential to hire an apprentice and for an EV charging point, so the business can purchase an EV van and become more economical and environmentally friendly. Directors suggested that the EV van purchase should come before the charger, as companies can offer an EV point with a purchase.

**Scoring – Impact 35 Organisation 18 Engagement and Inclusion 15 Planning and Delivery 18 = Total 86**

**Unanimous decision to award the requested amount for the planer thickneser - £6,825.**

- **405 All Stars Active CIC £1,655**

Towards the cost of running a subsidised holiday club for children at the RTC Otterburn in August 2024. The grant would allow the cost to parents to be halved to £10 per day for the three-day camp which will help encourage more to attend and offer a structured holiday club in the area of benefit. Purchased equipment will be left at the RTC for use there. A great monitoring report was received from last year’s award, and this is exactly that for which the fund should be used.

**Scoring - Impact 35 Organisation 17 Engagement and Inclusion 17 Planning and Delivery 17 = Total 86**

**Unanimous decision to award the full amount.**

- **407 Being Human Festival £4,873**

PC joined the meeting, though did not take part in any grant decision.

The application is requesting the grant to cover the cost of running the free to attend Being Human Festival at Bellingham Heritage Centre. Five local schools have been invited and North Tyne Youth. Elsdon Writers Club will be in attendance and the Redesdale Society will liaise with the organisers in exploring how we take, share and increasingly doctor or manipulate photos. Match funding is secured in kind from Northumbria University with the time and resources of lecturer. This is something that is currently taught to Kay Stage 2 pupils so will be beneficial to their education.

**Scoring – Impact 35 Organisation 18 Engagement and Inclusion 18 Planning and Delivery 18 = Total 89**

**Unanimous decision to award the full amount.**

## **6. Show meeting update**

**JW**

LG and JW held a meeting with our five local shows – Bellingham, Corsenside, Kirkwhelpington, Elsdon and Upper Redesdale, all having been recipients of grant funding to see if there are opportunities for resource sharing. All shows are sharing everything they can, though the meeting was a good idea to bring all committees together for the first time. All are prudent with their finances and have a reserve to host at least one show without extra fundraising or if taking are down due to bad weather for e.g., the idea of providing a core fund to all the shows which could be split pro rata against the number of attendees was well received, this could help the shows invite new attractions and encourage greater attendance, allowing the shows to build a legacy. They are the biggest community events in our area and should be supported. The possibility of an RWF trophy for each show with a £10-£20 prize was also discussed, JW to ensure Vattenfall are happy with this. All Directors supported both the core fund and trophy. JW to work out amounts for each show from attendance figures.

## **7. Adapt meeting update**

**JW  
DB  
PR  
KW  
AT**

JW, PR and DB met with Liz Prudhoe from Adapt to discuss the funding RWF provides for the route from Byrness to Morpeth. Adapt also operate other dial a ride routes in our area, which needs promoting. More information was requested on the number of passengers and the routes the buses take. Liz had suggested in conversation with JW that the RWF and Adapt could jointly fund a minibus which could operate within the RWF area of benefit, taking people to healthcare appointments/ social gatherings such as the weekly coffee mornings at village halls. This was discussed and altered as a minibus

when hired would require a driver with a pre-1997 driving licence, whereas a people carrier could be driven by the hirer on any driving licence without extra classifications. This would mean a maximum of eight seats but could answer some of the rural transport issues that we encounter. The issue of transport has also been raised by several local schools, and we will hold a meeting to discuss this with them in the autumn term.

KW left the meeting.

#### **8. Succession Planning – Vice Chair and Chair of ARC**

**JW**

DB has notified JW that he would offer to stand for Vice Chair for one year, this was supported and seconded by PC and MDG. The Chair of the ARC will be decided within an ARC meeting, please could Directors bear this in mind. A broader discussion took place around succession and the recruiting of Directors, there will be a piece put in local parish magazines over the next few months with potential to interview candidates in September. Directors should refer to the Articles of Association 25.1.6 regards attendance.

#### **10. AOB**

**JW**

- PR requested an update on the new website. JW has been contacted to say it is progressing, the application portal has caused the delay. JW to chase and find out when it will be completed and launched.

Closed 8.20pm