

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Meeting

Date 27th March 2025
Otterburn Memorial Hall
Time 7.00pm

1. In attendance

Action

Sarah Crone (SC) Chair; David Burn (DB), Martin Chilvers (MC); Peter Ramsden (PR); Chris Robson (CR); Shirley Stuchfield (SS); Phil Lawless (PL); Katie Wood (KW) Alison Thomson (AT); Deb Walton (DW) Martin Dickson-Green (MDG); Cris Hartley (CH) Joanne Willis (JW) CDO (Minutes)
Apologies Lesley Gosling (LG), Sarah Lunn (SL) arrived at agenda item 7, second application

Welcome to Cris Hartley, newly appointed Director.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Minutes of the last meeting 23rd January 2025 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

4. Notes of ARC 20th February 2025 and 21st March 2025

Accepted as a true record.

5. Minutes of F & GP 11th March 2025

Accepted as a true record.

6. Grant Analysis

JW explained the grant analysis and categories of funding, outside of the remaining allocations for Schools, SDF and EAT Bursary there is £80,444 remaining and one further CIC meeting which will consider applications.

7. Applications

- **428 Centre for Search Research £4,500**

Request for funding towards the cost of specialist drone with night vision capability to undertake search and rescue work. The drone will aid with the training of the operators within the RWF area of benefit. There is match funding secured and the applicant is a charity. The community benefit is difficult to quantify, despite undertaking the research work in our area it would only be evident in case of search and rescue operations, but the training would benefit the UK through the research gathered.

Scoring - Impact 25 Organisation 18 Engagement & Inclusion 18 Planning & Delivery 15 Total=79

Majority decision to award full grant amount.

SL joined the meeting.

- **432 Northumberland Handyman Services £5,000**

The applicant has secured funding elsewhere.

Directors agreed to reject the application.

- **450 Bellingham Heritage Centre £3,154**

Request for funding towards the cost of and artwork installation celebrating 40 years of the NSPCC in Bellingham. Directors discussed their support for the artwork featuring children's cyanotype pictures of Northumberland though questioned the relationship with the NSPCC as there are no remaining offices in the North East. As the community GoFundMe campaign raised a small amount it would suggest there was limited community support for the project. However, the Heritage Centre is an asset to our community and this could bring more visitors to the area.

Scoring - Impact 25 Organisation 15 Engagement & Inclusion 18 Planning & Delivery 15 Total=73

Majority decision to award full grant amount with conditions that the grant must be utilised for this project alone and they will receive the grant only if the project is to proceed.

- **454 Cambo Village Hall £6,394**

Request for funding towards the cost replacement PIR and LED lights to ensure the sustainability of the hall, helping to maintain lower costs for hirers. Cambo Village Hall have been heavily supported by RWF previously though they do experience high usage of the facilities by the community and local groups. The committee hold large reserves which could be put towards this project.

Scoring - Impact 35 Organisation 18 Engagement & Inclusion 18 Planning & Delivery 18 Total=89

Majority decision to award £3,000. Future applications would still be considered.

- **460 RTC £10,000**

Request for funding towards the salary of the Centre & Development Manager. This is a repeat of the grant awarded last grant year, discussions ensued about the sustainability of the centre. There has been a marked increase in turnover and attendance at events, though it must be evidenced that this is continuing and will cover the operational costs of the centre. The effectiveness of the manager must be clear from the accounts. A business plan for the future of the centre should be produced before any future grants would be considered.

Scoring - Impact 35 Organisation 15 Engagement & Inclusion 18 Planning & Delivery 15 Total=83

Majority decision to award £10,000.

- **462 Phoenix 60+ Social Club £2,800**

Request for funding towards the cost of the transport for the spring/ summer programme of coach trips for members. This is a repeat of a grant awarded in 2023 and offers subsidised coach trips to members allowing social interaction and a different experience that members would not get otherwise.

Scoring - Impact 38 Organisation 18 Engagement & Inclusion 18 Planning & Delivery 18 Total=92

Unanimous decision to award £2,800.

- **469 Kirkharle Parkrun £4,300**

Request for funding towards the cost of the setup of a parkrun at Kirkharle. JW has spoken to the Parkrun ambassador who confirmed the money would be ringfenced within Parkrun Limited solely for this parkrun, and she was enthusiastic about its success. Directors think this will prove beneficial to the area.

Scoring - Impact 38 Organisation 15 Engagement & Inclusion 12 Planning & Delivery 15 Total=80

Unanimous decision to award £4,300. Look at possible publicity opportunities and the display of Ray Wind Funds banners on the course.

- **470 Hannah's Pet Services £6,000**

Request for funding towards the purchase of a second-hand vehicle. The applicant is working with the local village show to introduce a dog show and increase footfall on the day, which will benefit the show and community. However, Directors had concerns that the grant request was much of the total project cost and the business did not show enough growth to justify the grant.

Unanimous decision to decline the application.

8. Community transport

Adapt Update – JW had liaised with Adapt to reroute the Byrness to Morpeth weekly bus, which would now start at Otterburn and pick up at Kirkwhelpington-Cambo-Scots Gap to Morpeth. Adapt have circulated a letter informing passengers in Byrness and Rochester that the service will cease from 9th April. There is an alternative weekly route for Byrness and Rochester to Hexham on Mondays. JW has received a letter from Rochester PC Chair expressing her dismay that this service will be ceased and concerns that people living in Byrness and Rochester, already at a disadvantage due to their outlying location with no option of alternative funding will suffer as a result. SC and JW to organise a meeting with Rochester PC Chair to discuss. JW has requested passenger figures from Adapt and the cost of the rerouted service for the coming year, to chase. **SC JW**

Volunteer driver scheme – MC and JW had met with Caroline Clarke and John Sadler of Church and Community Partnership, representatives of Elsdon, Otterburn and Rochester PCs and a representative of Bellingham Surgery to discuss the existing volunteer driver pilot scheme and the needs of the communities in terms of transport. The pilot is now ready to be expanded, John Sadler has produced a poster to attract new volunteer drivers, JW has spoken to Scots Gap Surgery who have expressed an interest. This is ready to be advertised with Parish Councils, though to ensure the figure that volunteer drivers will be recompensed per mile is added to the poster. CCP has funds remaining from a grant received from Karbon Homes for the pilot, Directors discussed ensuring an amount is allocated within the CIC budget next year for both the volunteer driver scheme community transport.

9. Grant Monitoring **JW**

Normally discussed at an ARC meeting, these were submitted after the last meeting.

- **326 B4RN** 204 properties have been connected for the Barrasford project with a further 316 properties enabled.
- **344 North Tyne Youth** have continued to increase their reach to children and young people across the area, **Directors approved the second £25,000 tranche of the three-year grant, JW to transfer.**

10. Small Donations Fund **JW**

- SDF113 Song Reivers Tasset request for £500 towards coach hire to The Glasshouse for a performance. The group are based outside the AoB. **Decline the request.**
- SDF114 Individual – Cambo litter pick request for £500 for a trolley to aid with litter picking undertaken by an individual and refuse bags. Directors agreed this should be supported by the Parish Council and/ or County Council. Directors on PCs have received refuse bags and supplies from County. **Decline the request.**

11. Policy Reviews

- Business Continuity
 - Document Retention
 - Environmental
 - IT Policy
- Accepted and approved.

12. Subcommittee membership

SC explained the Application Review Committee and Finance & General Purposes responsibilities and meeting schedule, PL, SS and CH were invited to join a subcommittee if they wish to do so. CH will join the F & GP and SS the ARC.

13. Marketing Spend Ratification

Twentyseven Design have been hired to undertake some publicity and social media marketing work, this has been supported by Vattenfall who are contributing £5,000 towards the overall cost as they have a working relationship with the company. This was communicated to Directors via email. **All approved the £5,663.50 spend.**

PL suggested presentations should be made at Parish Council AGMs about RWF and grants awarded to raise awareness. It is the responsibility of Directors who represent their Parish Council to ensure a regular report of RWF is given. The Annual report is shared with all Parish Councils across the area.

14. B4RN Update

MDG gave a report on the Kirkwhelpington project. There are 55 properties connected to date on routes 1 and 5 with more being connected next week. There are three sections still waiting on wayleaves to be signed off by Northumberland Estates. There will be digs beginning around Cambo and Scots Gap soon. More signups are required for the progress to continue and publicity has increased to spread this message.

15. Director Contact Details

JW

JW has added a separate Director contact details to the shared drive, do all Directors permit their telephone number and email address to be added. Confirmation that all approve their mobile number and RWF email address not personal email. This will be accessible to Directors only.

16. AOB

- SL informed the Directors that school budgets are not looking particularly healthy in current forecasting for the next few years with large deficits appearing due to government changes in PAYE and NI and less County Council support. To bear in mind for future budgeting.
- MC, parish Clerk for Elsdon PC. County Council have not invoiced for the speeding indicator sign that was approved for a CF SGP grant. The PC can return this or can spend on other needs in the parish. Directors requested knowledge of proposed spending and will decide whether it needs to be repaid.
- SC reminded all present, CIC meetings are the 4th Thursday of alternate months not the last, ARC meets on 3rd Thursday of every month and F & GP the 2nd Tuesday of alternate months in line with CIC meetings.
- Shared drive – please could all Directors ensure they can access documents on

the shared drive. Cavtec will rectify the issue if they cannot access the drive, this is part of the agreement we have.

- ARC April 17th is on Maundy Thursday, JW will monitor submissions of PEFs and/ or applications to see whether the meeting should be moved forward one week/ postponed to May or discussed via email.

Closed 9.10pm