

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Meeting

Date 29th January 2026
Otterburn Memorial Hall
Time 7.00pm

1. In attendance

Action

Sarah Crone (SC) Chair; Shirley Stuchfield (SS); Louise Crennell (LC); David Burn (DB); Sarah Lunn (SL); Martin Chilvers (MC); Peter Ramsden (PR); Chris Robson (CR); Charlotte Hird (CH); Joanne Willis (JW) CDO (Minutes)
Apologies Alison Thomson (AT); Phil Lawless (PL); Deb Walton (DW); Paul Andrew (PA); Martin Dickson-Green (MDG); Katie Wood (KW)
CH was welcomed as a new Director and Directors introduced themselves and the parishes they represented.

2. Declarations of interest

No changes. DB, SC and SL declared in interest for application 533 Birtley St Giles PCC.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 26th November 2025 and matters arising

Accepted as a true record.

4. Minutes of F & GP 13th January 2026

Accepted as a true record.

5. Notes of ARC 15th January 2026

Accepted as a true record.

6. Grant Analysis for 2025-2026

JW gave an account of the grant analysis. The money remaining within the fund is £192,728 which includes the allocations for schools, community transport, village shows, EAT Bursary and Small Donations Fund, which are fluid. The second term of schools' payments will follow on this agenda. £65,100 remains within the Community Benefit Fund which is for grants from businesses and community organisations.

7. Applications

- **526 Great Whittington Village Hall Committee £2,522**

Request for funding towards the installation of additional battery storage which would complete the renewable energy project at the Village Hall and ensure the energy costs for the VH remains as low as possible. Directors commented on the excellent application and the potential for this Village Hall Committee to act as an ambassador for others across the area. They have secured most of the funding required from Green Rigg Fund, this is the final amount which will complete the whole project.

Scoring - Impact 36 Organisation 18 Engagement & Inclusion 18 Planning & Delivery 18 Total=90

Unanimous decision to award full grant amount.

- **533 Birtley St Giles PCC £2,388**

Request for funding towards the cost of tree felling within the churchyard and adjacent Glebe field for health and safety purposes. This will ensure visitors to the church and those who undertake grounds maintenance are not at risk of injury and ensures the building is not at risk of damage from trees with rotten limbs or who are suffering ash die back.

Scoring - Impact 30 Organisation 18 Engagement & Inclusion 14 Planning & Delivery 16 Total=78

Unanimous decision of Directors able to vote to award full grant amount.

8. School Spring term awards

Directors agreed to the second term grant transfers for the First, Primary, Middle and Preschools in the area. The ten education settings totalling £20,470 for the termly grant.

9. School visit update

All schools and Preschool settings have been visited, with the final visit to Wark Primary School due on Monday 2nd February. A meeting with the Director schools' sub-group and Headteachers is scheduled for Monday 2nd February.

10. Risk Assessment

Cr explained the RR is reviewed and discussed at every F & GP meeting and then twice a year at CIC meetings.

11. Register of interests

JW

All Directors present had reviewed their register of interests, which are correct, LC presented her documents to JW to update the register. JW to forward document to DW and MDG for completion, as no up to date information held.

12. Review of Standard Documents

JW

Grant award documents were reviewed, suggested to add in about the possibility of installing a RWF plaque referencing the grant award where recipients must return a photograph of the installed plaque as part of their monitoring. JW and SC to review community benefit wording for business grant recipients.

13. Work experience student

JW

JW has met with a student at Newcastle College studying Media & Visual Arts, who resides just outside the area of benefit and would like to undertake work experience to the end of the academic year. Awaiting documents from the college on Safeguarding, Health & Safety and objectives of the position and will submit employers' liability insurance information. Once in post JW will work with them on visual campaigns for social media to continue to raise awareness of the Funds. JW to supervise what and how social media posts are shared.

14. Membership of ARC and F & GP

For the benefit of the new Director, SC explained the purpose of the sub-committees, the Application Review Committee (ARC) and Finance & General Purposes (F & GP), if Directors had skills that could benefit the committees or an interest they could join either. CH would like to decide after a few meetings. The succession of the committees was discussed.

15. Cascade Update

CR explained the purpose, to protect the money using several accounts which will be protected from risk by FCA regulations up to £120,000, especially at the start of the grant year after the transfer of the Vattenfall donation. SL will replace MDG as a signatory and is completing the necessary paperwork.

16. Show Committees meeting

JW

JW looking to organise a meeting of the show committees for February/ March ahead of the main organisational and financial planning of the summer and autumn shows.

17. B4RN Update

MDG sent apologies due to car breakdown, no update was provided.

Closed 8.20pm