

Ray Windfarm Fund CIC Meeting

Date 30th July 2026
Colwell Village Hall
Time 7.00pm

1. Introductions and Code of Conduct discussion

With new Parish Council representative Directors due to take over from PR and MC, and a potential replacement for CR as Treasurer next year Directors and observers gave introductions. The Code of Conduct for Directors had been circulated, which all Directors due to remain signed; this will happen every year as a refresh. KA and NH will be sent this with their introductory pack of documents and a RWF email address will be set up with shared drive access. The four leaving Directors term will end on 10th August 2026 following nine years, KA and NH's term will commence on 11th August 2026.

2. In attendance

Action

Sarah Crone (SC) Chair; Shirley Stuchfield (SS); Louise Crennell (LC); Alison Thomson (AT); David Burn (DB); Sarah Lunn (SL); Peter Ramsden (PR); Chris Robson (CR); Charlotte Hird (CH); Martin Dickson-Green (MDG); Katie Wood (KW); Martin Chilvers (MC); Paul Andrew (PA) from 7.10pm; Joanne Willis (JW) CDO (Minutes); Kevin Appleby (KA) due to replace MC as Otterburn representative; Nick Hodgkinson (NH) due to replace PR as Bavington representative and Klaus Vogelberg (KV) as an observer to potentially replace CR next year.

Apologies Phil Lawless (PL); Deb Walton (DW)

3. Declarations of interest

No changes, JW to bring a copy to September CIC for Directors to review, the document is currently on the shared drive.

SL and CH declared in interest for application 481 Chollerton First School. DB declared an interest for 594- Birtley Village Hall Committee.

4. Minutes of the last meeting 28th May 2026 and matters arising

JW

Accepted as a true record, CR asked that it be made clear that Berry Jordan remained at the meeting after her colleague left. JW to amend.

5. Minutes of F & GP 14th July 2026

Accepted as a true record. CR explained the underspend of £13,724 at the end of the 2025-26 grant year would be utilised as a working capital balance until the 2026-27 Vattenfall donation is received.

6. Notes of ARC 18th June and 16th July 2026

Accepted as a true record.

7. Grant Analysis for 2026-2027

JW gave an account of the grant analysis. The Vattenfall donation for the new grant year commencing 1st July 2026 will be £415,820. JW has invoiced Vattenfall, once the 2025-26 Annual Report has been completed this will be transferred. The amounts allocated to Schools £75,000, Education Apprenticeship and Training Bursary £15,000 and Small Donations Fund £12,500 remain the same as last year. An additional £10,000 allocation for the RTC has been added after receiving grant applications from them for three years, Transport has remained at £25,000, and Village Shows at £10,000. B4RN will receive £100,000 once the donation is received as their final grant of the multi-year award for the Kirkwhelpington and Corsenside build totaling £350,000. This leaves £35,000 for business grants and £107,370 for community grants. All allocations except B4RN are fluid and can be changed if required.

8. Applications

- **481 Chollerton First School £10,000**

Request for funding to match fund with the 90% of project costs provided by the Diocese towards the total electrical rewiring cost for the school. CH explained the project, which will now differ slightly from the original application, though the rewiring works will still be completed this summer. The project is essential to ensure the school remains safe for pupils, staff and visitors and will also enable it to take advantage of any potential renewable energy projects that could be provided for education settings.

Scoring - Impact 40 Organisation 20 Engagement & Inclusion 20 Planning & Delivery 18 Total=98

Unanimous decision to award full grant amount. JW enquired where the grant award information would go as staff are on leave. CH to provide the Headteacher's email address.

- **574 Corsenside Parish Hall £10,000**

Request for funding towards the cost to replace the floor in the main hall. Other funding has been secured with Northumberland Community Chest and the applicant is applying to Green Rigg Fund in the autumn along with internal fundraising efforts for the remainder. The usage of the hall has significantly increased over the past few years and this ensures the longevity of the hall as without the replacement floor the space is unusable.

Scoring - Impact 38 Organisation 20 Engagement & Inclusion 20 Planning & Delivery 18 Total=96

Unanimous decision to award full grant amount on condition that the matched funding is secured for the project to proceed.

- **581 Northumberland Community Energy Limited (NCEL) £14,085**

Request for funding towards the cost to install 22 ground based solar panels with battery storage at Elsdon Village Hall. NCEL will lease the land where the panels and battery are situated. NCEL will arrange a 20 year fixed price Power Purchase Agreement for the VH to buy electricity at a cheaper rate, saving them 45% on power costs p.a. NCEL will bear any maintenance and repair costs. NCEL are seeking to sign up as many rural community buildings for similar energy projects. They operate as a Community Benefit Society.

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

Unanimous decision to award the full grant amount.

- **585 Kirkharle Courtyard parkrun £1,960**

Request for funding towards the cost of a storage shed to house all equipment required for the Kirkharle Courtyard parkrun to operate safely e.g. cones, signs. It has been confirmed the shed will be sited outside of the barn currently used and the landowner has granted permission with mutual agreement that the shed can be lifted and shifted if necessary. The parkrun has been very successful since its launch last November and have recently received a lot of media attention due to the cancellations with toads crossing the course. We are referenced on the KC parkrun site as a contributor.

Scoring - Impact 40 Organisation 18 Engagement & Inclusion 20 Planning & Delivery 18 Total=96

Unanimous decision to award the full grant amount.

- **594 Birtley Village Hall Committee £900**

Request for funding towards the cost of a double doored fridge for hirers of the hall to utilise, the current fridge which is over nine years old has failed a PAT test and is unsafe, with repair not possible. The VHC will be contributing £118.80 to the cost. A lot of private hirers and village events use the larger fridge and so this will help to maintain the viability of the village hall.

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

Unanimous decision to award the full grant amount.

9. Recent EAT Bursary query

JW

An enquiry has been received from a previous EAT Bursary recipient who had not returned the monitoring form sent via email in autumn 2024 and spring 2025. The majority of Directors had asked that the application be refused as the monitoring is accepted and signed for with the terms and conditions of the grant award. JW had advised the applicant of this. They have replied to say they have not received the form by email and have checked junk and inbox. Directors discussed at length the next step and agreed that the monitoring form should be sent again, with a read receipt email, and to include the original emails sent in 2024 and 2025. Once the monitoring form has been received the subsequent EAT Bursary will be considered. Directors agreed that for young people this would be a valuable lesson learnt, if this were a business applicant they would expect better record keeping and would not allow a subsequent application.

10. Risk Assessment

CR gave an overview of the document which is reviewed at every F & GP meeting and biannually at the CIC meetings. The only amendment at the F & GP was the inclusion of the reputational risk from social media.

11. Show Attendance 2026

JW

Agreed to host a show meeting in November or January after this years shows and prior to planning for next years. Invite more of the local show/ fete committees, where discussion around funding can take place and advise that it can be for core funding and not solely capital projects. Agreed to attend Bellingham Show this year. JW to ask for a stand. RWF banners will go to all village shows supported by RWF. JW to review leaflets from Rich Brands, to look at potential uniform and gather some statistics for information. SL and MDG will be attending Bellingham Show so could assist on the stand.

12. Succession in Positions of Responsibility and Membership of Sub-Committees

With DB standing down as a Director, a vacancy for Vice Chair is created. SC has received one expression of interest for the role, if anyone else would like to stand please advise SC or JW prior to the September CIC.

SC gave an overview of the sub-committees for the new Directors, JW has circulated the terms of reference. KA would like to join the ARC, NH would like to bed into the role of Director prior to deciding. SS will become Company Secretary to replace MC and will attend the F & GP and the ARC.

13. CIC Meeting amendment query

Since there is a gap between the year-end at 30th June and the date when the Vattenfall donation is received, usually in August, SC had suggested the possibility of holding a CIC in June and then not till August when the donation is in our account. As CR had said in discussion of the F & GP minutes the underspend of the grant allocation and administration budget ensures there is working capital to grant applicants funding if successful, therefore no need to amend meetings.

14. 10-year consultation proposal

JW

JW shared the Firstport proposal for the 10-year consultation, Firstport were recommended by BJ at Vattenfall. CH raised a concern that there was more time spent looking backwards than planning for the future, JW to send to BJ. CAN emailed, JW to ask Paul Cowie if he knew of any other potential contacts.

15. AOB

- MDG advised about an end of B4RN project celebration at Kirkwhelpington, date TBC, either 25th or 26th August 2026.
- Register of interests update at next meeting, review on shared drive prior. JW will bring document to check.
- Heartfelt thanks issued to David Burn, Katie Wood, Martin Chilvers and Peter Ramsden for their service on the Board of Directors for nine years.

Closed 8.50pm