**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND Ltd**

**Meeting of Directors, Wednesday 11th May 2022, Preston Village Hall at 18.30**

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome – Stuart Renton, James Robson, Sharon Cleghorn, Keith Dickson, Juliana Amaral, Hazel Smith.
2. Apologies – Tim Myer, David Mycock,
3. Declaration of interest – HS for ReTweed
4. Approval of minutes from February 2022 - Approved
5. Applications – Update
* BF0197 - Astene - £650.00 - Awarded 24/03/2022
* BF0220 – Duns Tennis Club - £1,000.00 - Awarded 06/03/2022
* BF0221 – A Heart For Duns - £5,000.00 - Awarded 24/03/2022
* BF0222 – ParentSpace - £3,243.00 - Awarded 06/03/2022
* BF0223 – GPFCC - £3,500.00 - Awarded 24/03/2022
* BF0224 – Connect - £5,000.00 - Ltr sent 25/02/2022
* HS met with Connect to discuss their application. HS advised that core funding for an ongoing salary is not something that BWCF like to fund. BWCF need to make this clearer in our Funding Guidelines. SC to look into – See Below.
* BF0225 – Berwickshire Civic Society - £1,730.00 - Ltr sent 25/02/2022 - Application withdrawn
* BF0226 – A Heart For Duns/Keeping Duns Bloomin Marvellous - £920.00 - Awarded 24/03/2022
* BF0228 - Duns Players - £850.00 - Approved via email - Awarded 04/04/2022

6. New Applications – Bank Balance – 01/05/2022 - £38,599.38

* BF0227 - Ayton Heritage - £3,500.00
* To fund initial works to clear significant vegetation/ivy which is covering the ruin at high level and treat to prevent future growth.
* The ruin is of Ayton church dating back to the 12th century. This was not made clear in the application.
* Ayton Heritage aim to preserve the cultural heritage of Ayton and district via conservation of any building, structure or item which provides a link to the past.
* Their application to the BWCF is for the whole amount, with a one-line costing, no breakdown of costs or quotes.
* Out with our catchment areas however it is a place of interest and many from our catchment areas may wish to visit.
* Suggest going back to them and asking what other applications are submitted. If none, why?
* The application states it will commence in July 2022 and be completed in February 2023. However there is no indication of where the other funds are coming from.
* Poor application with no indication of the total project costs including repointing, how is this being funded?
* A feeling that we are not getting the full story.
* **Response** – Although we are sympathetic to this project, unfortunately we are unable to make a contribution due to the lack of information on this application.

If you would like assistance completing a more informative application, please get back in touch and I can put you in touch with one of our directors. (JA).

06/06/2022 – Forwarded email to Juliana from Michael requesting assistance with new application.

* BF0229 - SWI Langton - £500.00
* To pay for the rent for Gavinton Village Hall, and speakers, for meetings. As well as advertising and administration.
* Their aim is to advance the education and skills of women of all ages. Provide a platform for social activities and networking.
* They meet one evening a month in Gavinton Village Hall between September and May.
* Langton Branch is one of the only Scottish Women’s Institute branches in east Berwickshire that has survived the pandemic.
* National organisation that has a lot of money, however the local women get a lot out of attending these groups.
* Could the SWIHQ waive or reduce fees to enable this branch to survive.
* HS to put together a letter to SWIHQ regarding the waiver of fees due to the current financial situation of local SWI groups.
* **Approved** - £500.00
* BF0230 - Greener Duns - £600.00
* To fund a meeting room at Volunteer Hall in Duns once a month for a year, including coffee.
* Only became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 16th March 2022 and currently in the process of opening a bank account.
* Great initiative and excited to see how they grow.
* We would welcome them back with future applications as and when required.
* Their first event is Make Do & Mend at the Volunteer Hall funded by BAVS.
* Good application and well organised.
* **Approved** - £600.00
* Individual village halls charging for meeting space seems an inefficient way to cover costs. Would it be possible for community space being used for a community activity be FOC? The group looking after the running of the hall could then apply to BWCF for funding to cover their running costs.
	+ - 1. BAVS support the confederation of community halls and campaign for funds to be made available for village halls.
	1. This can become very political when different groups are involved that use different amounts of electricity etc.
	2. Further discussion would be needed to decide if this would be possible for the 4 community councils funded by BWCF.
* BF0231 - BHS Senior Musical Theatre Group - £1,200.00
* To cover some of the costs of the production of "Sister Act".
* Looking to ensure that ticket prices remain affordable, proposed price of £8/£5 but if funding is secured prices will be lowered as much as possible.
* Seeking plenty of match funding.
* Great activity which benefits the participants as well as their families and the wider community.
* **Approved** - £1,200.00
* BF0232 - ReTweed - £4,000.00
* Looking for funding to enable ReTweed to grow International Tartans as part of their trade-up activities.
* They will do this by employing an Operational Support Officer, website development, admin, marketing, stock & materials and training Graduate Entrepreneurs.
* International Tartans was established by David McGill who bequeathed the rights and licenses for his tartans to ReTweed following his death in January 2022.
* Have applied for and secured additional funding from South of Scotland Enterprise and as well as inputting £10,000 themselves.
* ReTweed is a community group that supports women returning to the workforce with skills development.
* A combination of a social project with a financial element with a good potential to be self-sufficient given time.
* A great achievement for ReTweed to be chosen out of all the other projects that could have been selected.
* ReTweed tick every box within our requirements and they have applied for a relatively modest amount.
* **Approved** - £4,000.00
1. PR Update
	* HS & JA have set up the Facebook page and are looking for a student to take over the day to day running of the page.
	* SC to run page in the meantime.
	* Initially look to post once a week on a Friday. SC to create a table of content to be agreed prior to posting.
	* SC emailed brief outline to directors – 08/06/2022

8. AOB

* Our next meeting, AGM, is scheduled for 17th August. SC is away from 31st July to 7th August.

Leave meeting on 17th August, SC to circulate all applications received by 30th July, any applications received after 30th to be circulated on 8th August.

* Invitations to attend our AGM in August to be sent to past successful applicants. SC emailed past applicants – 26/06/2022
* Emailed Doyle Accounting 10/06/2022
* BWCF provided funding in 2019 for BHS Musical Theatre Group to purchase a mixing desk, microphones etc. As part of the funding agreement other groups, such as Duns Players, where to be allowed free use of the equipment. At the recent DunsPlayFest this equipment was being used by a young man who had attended BHS and who, after learning to use this equipment, went onto college and a career in sound management. SC to contact Cameron Mabon to obtain this young man’s name/contact details, to request a feature for our website/FB page. – Emailed CM 02/06/2022 – Emailed Will Derries 08/06/2022
* Report received from Will – 26/02/2022
* Addition to Guidance Notes – Page 1 Introduction

“……. grants of between £300 - £5,000, in support of about 20 applications per annum. The success of your application will be improved by showing you have explored other funding sources. *Please be advised that core funding for ongoing salary costs is not usually supported”.* – Updated 06/06/2022

**Future meeting dates** –

17th August 2022 AGM – Volunteer Hall, Duns

16th November 2022 – Lammermuir Community Council - TBC

15th February 2023 – Gavinton Village Hall - TBC

17th May 2023 – Preston Village Hall - TBC