**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND**

**Meeting of Directors, Wednesday 14th February, Gavinton Village Hall, 6.30**

**MINUTES**

1. Present – Stuart Renton, Keith Dickinson, Hazel Smith, Adam Prokopowicz, Sharon Cleghorn, Maggie McCole – Observer.
2. Apologies – Joy Dobie, Juliana Amaral, Tim Myer
3. Declaration of interest – KD declared an interest in Word Weavers.
4. Approval of minutes from November 2023 - Approved
5. Applications – Update
   * BF0259 – Greener Duns – Ltr sent 30/11/2023 - £696.06 returned. (£800.00 less cost of flipcharts and display boards)
   * BF0269 – Greener Melrose – £1,750.00 – Awarded 14/12/2023
   * BF0271 – Duns Players - £1,636.33 – Awarded 20/12/2023
   * BF0272 – Peer 2 Peer Mindfulness – Ltr sent 28/11/2023 – Awarded 14/02/2024
   * BF0273 – Border Links - £3,000.00 – Awarded 12/12/2023
6. New Applications – Bank Balance – £29,428.40 as of 14/02/2024
   * BF0274 – Word Weavers - £618.00
     + - A small creative writing group who first met in 2017 during the Writing for Wellbeing project which was part funded by BWCF.
       - Looking for funding for the following -
       - 1. The publication of an anthology of the pieces to be performed at DunsPlayFest 2024.
       - 2. To produce a second anthology of other previously unpublished pieces.
       - 3. To engage a drama coach to provide support and guidance through series of 3 short workshops.
       - Very small amount requested in a well written proposal.
       - A good example of a community project that can benefit from community benefit funds.
       - Approved - £618.00
   * BF0275 – DunsPlayFest - £5,000.00
   * Annual festival of theatre, first started in 2019.
   * Received £3,000 in 2019 from an application from Duns Players
   * Received £5,000 in 2022 for a Festival Co-ordinator.
   * Requesting funding to develop marketing, contribute to the staging (Allanbank Arts) and contribute to the cost of a series of 8 development workshops and 4 school workshops.
   * This is a benefit to the community but how many beneficiaries are there for the amount spent on the overall project, £60k?
   * A logical and well written application requesting a small amount compared to total cost of the project.
   * What is the trading income and how is this being used?
   * BWCF try not to fund the same projects every year to enable us to spread the funding to as many projects as possible.
   * Number and cost of workshops varies throughout application.
   * Where are the workshops being held and who are they for?
   * Approved - £3,500.00 towards the workshops.
   * Subject to confirmation of the costs, number of beneficiaries and where the workshops will be held.
   * BF0276 – Berwickshire High School - £5,000.00
   * This application should not have been circulated as they do not meet our funding criteria.
   * Guidance Notes 3.3 – Grants will not be made to support the following - Any service that the local and/or national public authorities are statutorily obliged or committed to provide.
   * Rejected – Due to requesting funding for core/statutory funding which goes against our funding guidelines. Guidance Notes 3.3.
   * BF0277 – BAVS - £7500.00
   * 2011 - £11,000 for a graduate internship
   * 2021 - £5,000 towards a Nissan Leaf
   * 2022 - £500 towards the Berwickshire Awards
   * Requesting funding for 6 months rent for Berwickshire’s first reuse hub, based in Chirnside.
   * Should the BWCF, who’s catchment area is a small subset of Berwickshire, be carrying the responsibility of the 6 months rent for a project that benefits the whole of Berwickshire?
   * What are the deliverables? What will they have achieved and who will have benefited at the end of the 6mths.
   * SBC selected BAVS to do this but what was their contribution to the rent?
   * A good project which we would like to support, however we are not sure what will happen after this 6mth funding.
   * BAVS underwent some restructuring but they have not updated there listing on OSCR.
   * They have £85k in unrestricted reserves.
   * £7,500 for 6 months rent in Chrinside seems steep.
   * 6 months is a very short term to get a project of this size up and running.
   * A specific project element of the overall project would be more appealing.
   * Rejected – Very supportive of the work BAVs does and the principals of this project. However, we are unable to approve this application as it stands.
   * We would welcome another application for funding for a more specific project that supports this overall goal.
     + Please be aware that we have an annual budget of about £35,000 and over recent years we have provided grants of between £300 - £5,000 in support of about 20 applications per annum.  The average award has been circa £1,500.
7. AOB
   * Successful applicants are requested to send reports 6 months and 12 months following the receipt of their funds.
   * Headings on Keith’s checklist could act as guidance for reports.
   * Keith has been making efforts to identify new directors. This is ongoing.
   * All directors are asked to actively look for potential new directors.
   * Hazel Smith has resigned as an Independent Director. Many thanks to Hazel for her valued contribution over the last 4 1/2 years.
8. Dates of future meetings

* 15th May 2024 – Lammermuirs
* 14th August 2024 – Volunteer Hall, Duns - AGM
* 13th November 2024 – Preston Village Hall
* 12th February – Gavinton Village Hall