**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND**

**Meeting of Directors, Wednesday 15th November 2023, Preston Village Hall, 6.30**

**MINUTES**

1. Present – James Robson, Keith Dickinson, Juliana Amaral, Hazel Smith, Tim Myer and Sharon Cleghorn,
2. Apologies – Adam Prokopowicz, Stuart Renton
3. Declaration of interest –
4. Approval of minutes from August 2023 - Approved
5. Applications – Update
	* BF0264 – LJ Dance Academy - £1,400.00 – Rejected – Ltr sent 30/08/2023
		+ Juliana met with Lynn and discussed the possibility of finding an umbrella organisation that could apply for funding and hold the funds on behalf of LJ Dance Academy.
		+ Once an individual was identified a voucher could be produced and funds drawn from the holding organisation.
		+ However, this may have a knock-on effect to the holding organisation.
		+ Also discussed Social Enterprise training.
	* BF0265 – Border Youth Theatre - £3,500.00 – 10/09/2023
	* BF0266 – Interest Links Borders - £2,000.00 – 10/09/2023
	* BF0267 – Re-Tweed - £3,200.00 – 10/09/2023
	* BF0268 – Duns RFC - £1,000.00 – Fast-tracked – Awarded 28/09/2023
	* BF0270 – Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth CC – Fast-tracked – Awarded 05/10/2023.
	* Cheque received from Duns Players for £860.00. Funds transferred to BWCF account on 6th September.
6. New Applications – Bank Balance – £37,562.44 (19/10/2023)

BF0259 – Greener Duns

Requesting a change of use of funds (£800.00) which was granted to purchase a gazebo.

Now looking to use the funds towards their ongoing Make Do & Amend/Repair Café project.

Appreciate that they have reassessed the best use of the funds received.

As this is a completely new use of the funds, the money should be returned and a new application submitted

Response – The directors appreciate that you reviewed the use of the funds awarded. However, as the Make Do & Amend/Repair Café is a separate project we would require you to return the funds. We are sympathetic to the new aims and would welcome a new application for funding towards this project. As the amount requested is under £1,000.00, you can submit an application at any time and it can be fast-tracked to the directors for a decision outwit our quarterly meetings.

BF0269 – Greener Melrose - £1,750.00

Requesting funding towards the cost of meetings and to produce a guide/promotional leaflet for each of the 7 sections of the Borders Greenway route.

Supporting a community group for what could be a multi-million pound project.

Seeding evaluation of the project, building community engagement and sustaining the capacity of local interest in the route.

South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) offers support to groups promoting the south of Scotland as a tourist destination.

Support - £1,750.00 and forward the link to SSDA

https://www.ssdalliance.com/

BF0271 – Duns Players – £1,636.33

Looking for funding to purchase blackout drapes.

They have received funding from BWCF on a number of occasions for a range of items/events.

Attracts a lot of interest and brings a lot of people to the area.

Approved - £1,636.33

BF0272 – Peer 2 Peer Mindfulness - £1,500.00

Funding requested to go towards delivering two free 9 week mindfulness courses in 2024.

The organisation does some really good work and heavily engaged in central borders.

Not held any courses in this area.

Response - Worthwhile project which we would like to support but we have a number of questions before we can make a decision.

What is the demand in our areas?

Where do you propose to hold the courses?

What are the number of participants you can cater for and how will they be identified?

BF0273 – Border Links - £3,000.00

Looking for funding towards creating a disability hub in Berwick Upon Tweed.

A £300K project in Berwick which operates across borders and will attract people from the Scottish Borders and Northumberland.

Disappointing application which is looking for a modest contribution towards a major project.

Border Links are registered as a Limited company and a charity.

Very active organisation and already supports vulnerable people in our area.

Community enterprise company whose core work is about supporting vulnerable people in our community.

Our funding is also about helping a small project become bigger.

Although we do not normally fund outwith our area, we do see the benefit of this project.

Approved - £3,000.00

1. Turbine Maintenance Issues & Contract
	* + Following a number of emails to RES regarding maintenance issues with the turbines at Blach Hill, Carey Green, Community Relations Manager, confirmed that they had been experiencing some supply chain issues in recent months which has impacted routine maintenance…. return to normal availability soon.”
		+ As the grant is calculated in accordance with output, this downtime alongside other factors such as weather, this maintenance will affect the grant amount.
		+ We currently receive funding under Option 2 – Productivity Linked, this is next up for renewal in September 2024.
		+ Awaiting response from RES regarding the amounts that we would have received if we had opted for Option 1 – Fixed Sum Option or Option 3 – Profitability Linked. – SC to chase
2. Baseline Report – Bigger Economics report commissioned by SCIO.
	* Keith spoke to Shona Glenn of Biggar Economics regarding how BWCF operate.
	* Biggar Economics where very complimentary about the practices that we adopted, including the rigour, transparency yet flexibility of our processes
	* Keith emailed Callum regarding how the amount of funding we receive is calculated and asked if and when the contract runs out? Awaiting a response.
	* There needs to be a more strategic plan for the distribution of funding from onshore windfarms and it needs to be tied to a community led plan.
	* This will firm up and encourage more community involvement in community planning.
	* What considerations have been given to community partnerships?
	* Communities need to think how they will make the best use of the windfarm generated funds.
3. AOB
	* Development Trust Ass Scotland (DTAS) meeting on Tuesday 21st November. – James to forward details
	* SC to collate a list of all windfarms in the area, together with contact details.
4. Dates of future meetings
* 14th February 2024 – Gavinton Village Hall
* 15th May 2024 – Lammermuirs
* 14th August 2024 – Volunteer Hall, Duns - AGM
* 13th November 2024 – Preston Village Hall