**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND**

AGM for year ending 31st March 2023

6.30pm Wednesday 16th August 2023

Hope Room, Volunteer Hall, Duns

MINUTES

Present - Keith Dickinson, Stuart Renton, Hazel Smith, Juliana Amaral

Cameron Mabon, Lindsay Wood, Marie Wood, David Pragg, Donald Rae, John Hughes, Nica Nicholson, Heather Bewick, Cathie Alman, Alex and Fergus.

Welcome from Chair of Board of Directors

1. Apologies – Tim Myer, James Robson, Adam Prokopowicz
2. Approval of Minutes of AGM for year ending 31st March 2022 (attached) – Approved.
3. Approval of Annual Report for year ending 31st March 2023 (attached)

Always a highlight of our year to hear from previous successful applications. This last financial year we have supported 20 applications to the amount of approx. £38k. We receive approximately £35k per annum from RES and our grant requests range from between £500.00 and £5,000.00. Current reserves at over £50k. which we want to distribute to local projects and are always looking for applications.

1. Update from 2021/2022 successful applicants

* David Pragg – Greener Duns
* £600.00 - To pay for meeting space in Volunteer Hall for 12 months.
* Greener Duns has been running for 2 years.
* Initially met in each other’s homes which is why we applied to BWCF.
* Using the Hope Room has made a huge difference, we can now have proper meetings.
* First initiative was the signs “Switch your engines off” and have also held 2 “Make do & Mend” events.
* Doing a lot of work with the Primary School regarding cooking and introducing proper nutrients.
* Currently looking into getting a gazebo to enable them to attend more events in all weather.
* Very active group driving conversations around green issues.
* Also have a Bike Bank cycling initiative.
* [www.greenerduns.org](http://www.greenerduns.org)
* Cameron Mabon – BHS Senior Musical Theatre Group.
* £1,200.00 - To cover costs of the production of Sister Act.
* Usually put on 2 school musicals, one just senior and one for the whole school.
* During the seniors shows the students take the lead with costumes, music, choreography etc
* Putting on a show costs approx. £6, and is increasing all the time.
* Ticket prices are set to encourage as many people from the local community to attend.
* The grant received was largely used to hire microphones.
* Previous funding from BWCF for the sound desk was used by 4 students who have subsequently gone on to work in the profession.
* The shows, as well as being a huge highlight for the drama and music students, also helps build confidence in other students be it in the chorus or backstage.
* Shows are enjoyed by the whole community and show that school is not just about maths and English.
* Hazel Smith – ReTweed
* £4,000.00 - To appoint a co-ordinator to help lead & organise the work of International Tartans.
* International Tartans started following the bequivement of 125 registered tartans after the death of a philanthropist who knew of Re-Tweed.
* Other donations along with some reserves from Re-tweed were used for the initial startup.
* It was a huge undertaking to sort through files and recreate some lost tartans. Now all tartans are catalogued and on new website.
* Rescued a business that would have folded and converted it into a social enterprise.
* All manufacturing has been moved to the South of Scotland, which will ensure the highest standards and secure ethical supply chains.
* Repurpose waste textiles alongside the tartans in product development.
* Provide training and to date have run Level 2 courses to provide higher level skills for items that will be sold.
* Employed 6 out of the 8 women who have received training.
* Started a design service and their first Tartan is being launched in September for the Samaritans.
* Have now secured premises in Eyemouth and are working with other businesses in the Scottish Borders.
* Re-Tweed & International Tartans provides a save place for women, many of whom come from difficult backgrounds and/or are new to the area.
* They provide training and support from an amazing group of women and Hazel and many have been able to restart their careers.
* It is an intercultural and inclusive group which has resulted in the great feeling of being “able to contribute and life is worth living again”.
* Received a Social Enterprise Award for International Tartans for Environmental Sustainability Business Model.
* Juliana Amaral – BAVS
* £500.00 - To go towards Berwickshire Awards.
* The night was a celebration of the 3rd sector in Berwick with a dinner, speakers and nominations in 5 different categories.
* One hidden category which was not voted on was the Community Activist of the year.
* Also received sponsorship from local businesses.
* A very successful night.
* Alex & Fergus – Eat Sleep Ride
* £4,000.00 - Tree planting & fencing.
* All native trees were used to develop our new site with big environmental aims.
* Ran programmes to teach about tree planting and care involving the children who attend ESR.
* Weed control and replanting – 96% success rate on the trees we planted which means fewer maintenance costs going forward.
* This has made a huge difference to how the yard looks and functions.
* Cathie Allman – SWI Langton
* £500.00 - To pay for the rent of Gavinton Village Hall, speakers & advertising for new members.
* Good group of women that meet regularly.
* Currently 12 members who each pay £26 in fees for the year.
* SWI take £25 per member and £1 goes to the federation.
* Run a monthly raffle to raise more funds.
* Small amount left over from last year to continue, however still struggling for funds going forward.
* Lyndsay Wood – AHFD
* £4,500.00 - Work with Duns History Society to develop a program and map with the history of Duns.
* Started with the Business Forum and the Duns Trail a few years ago.
* Working to move the focal point from AHFD to the local businesses.
* The aim is to bring more people into duns and build local pride by working with the local businesses enabling them to contribute.
* Slow progress but have learned a lot of lessons, now need to speed it up.
* Donald & John - Gavinton Village Hall
* £4,500.00 – To upgrade cinema equipment.
* The Gavinton Village Hall was refurbished in 2008 and received a large grant to install a state of the art cinema, projector and sound system.
* It was initially running as a film club and not as an open cinema.
* 2 years ago, received funding to help expand the films post Covid.
* Films have increased from 6 films a year to 1 a month.
* National Theatre have agreed for their shows to be shown twice a month.
* Last year the projector stopped half way through a film, now upgraded.
* None of this would have happened if we did not receive the funding from the BWCF.
* Gavinton Newsletter 3-4 times a year. Next one September.

1. Appointment of Directors.

* Keith Dickinson – Gavinton & Fogo CC
* Stuart Renton – Duns CC
* James Robson – Abbey St Bathans, Preston and Bonkyl CC
* Adam Prokopowicz - Lammermuir CC
* Independent Directors - Tim Myer, Hazel Smith and Juliana Amaral to step down and seek re appointment. – Approved.
* All directors to actively look for new board members.

1. Appointment of Independent Examiner - Doyle Accounting - Approved
2. A.O.B.