**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND Ltd**

**Meeting of Directors, Wednesday 16th November 2022, Volunteer Hall, Duns, at 6.30**

**MINUTES**

1. Present – Keith Dickinson, Adam Prokopowicz, Tim Myer, Stuart Renton, Sharon Cleghorn
2. Apologies – James Robson, Juliana Amaral, Hazel Smith
3. Declaration of interest – Juliana Amaral, Keith Dickinson, Adam Prokopowicz
4. Approval of minutes from August 2022 - Approved
5. Applications – Update

* BF0233 – BAVS - £500 – Awarded 30/08/2022
* BF0234 – Health in Mind - £2,177.99 – Awarded 07/09/2022
* BF0235 – AHFD - £4,500.00 – Awarded 12/10/2022
* BF0236 – Duns Football Club – Letter sent 31/08/2022
  1. KD & SR met with DFC and advised on best way forward with application.
* BF0237 – Ayton Heritage – Letter sent 31/08/2022

1. New Applications – Bank Balance – 31/10/2022 - £49,747.42
   * 12 applications requesting approx. £78k.
   * Keith had requested that directors email him their initial thoughts on the 12 applications to help him plan and chair the meeting. This worked well and enabled the meeting to focus on differences in the views of directors.

* **BF0238** – Gordon Community Sport Field - £4,000.00
* Purchase sports field
* Outwith our catchment area but would benefit the wider community.
* Value in the level of community involvement this has generated.
* Conceptually a great project creating a space the community owns.
* Funding this project will not affect other projects that have applied.
* Long term benefit if the community own the asset.
* **Approved** - £1,700.00 for legal fees etc and £1,000.00 towards their fund raising.
* **BF0239** – Berwickshire High School – School Sports - £10,000.00
* Purchase kit for students playing school sports.
* School bank account provided and concern that money would go into the BHS general account.
* This is a statutory responsibility; however, schools are currently underfunded.
* Applications from parent’s groups or sporting groups would be more acceptable.
* **Rejected** – This is a statutory responsibility.
* **BF0240** – Eat Sleep Ride - £5,000.00
* Tree planting and fencing.
* Aware of the great work that Danny and Eat, Sleep, Ride do.
* Prices were obtained in the Spring/Summer and may be out of date.
* BWCF have supported many times and seen the project grow.
* Eat, Sleep, Ride are now a well-established charity with a good base, therefore this may be a good time for BWCF to take a step back in regards to providing future financial support.
* **Approved** - £4,000.00 – Although Eat, Sleep, Ride are outwith our catchment area, we have made an exception and provided funding several times. We now feel that the project is sufficiently well established and we do not expect to see further applications to the Blackhill Community in the future.
* **BF0241** – Ayton Heritage - £5,000.00
* Used as part of grants sought to effect repairs to masonry on Fordyce Aisle.
* Outwith our catchment and of limited benefit to the Blackhill Community.
* No further clarification around other funding allocation despite this been requested.
* **Rejected** - Outside our catchment and no compelling evidence it will make a sufficient impact on our catchment area.
* **BF0242** – Berwickshire Swap - £7,000.00
* Towards rent and overheads of new premises in Duns.
* Excellent community project working with priority groups within our priority areas.
* Clarification needed regarding other sources of funding approved and sought. A decision will then be made as to whether and how much funding will be awarded. (Nominal £4,000)
* **Response** - Very supportive of your activities however we require further clarification on the status of the following applications:
* Drone Hill Wind Farm
* Robertson Trust Wee Grants
* SBC LAG Group
* We would also like to make you aware that we do not usually fund overhead costs, favouring applications for more tangible assets. However as this is a fledgling project we would like to support.
* **BF0243** – Sea the Change - £8,400.00
* Employ an officer to co-ordinate the work of volunteers.
* Have applied for funding for 1/4 of our annual budget.
* Great organisation doing good work and an excellent community resource.
* Although outwith our catchment it is clearly accessible to the residents in our priority areas.
* Have submitted similar applications to other funders for similar amount.
* Suggested to reconsider at February meeting once other funding resources have been clarified. (Nominal £4,000)
* **Response** - Very supportive of your activities however we require further clarification on the status of other funding applications.
* We would also like to advise that with an annual budget of approx. £35,000 this scale of request is higher than our usual funding amounts.
* **BF0244** – LJ Dance Academy - £13,780.00
* Renovate building.
* This application appears to come from a private business, rather than a community led organisation or a not for profit group with charitable aims and hence does not meet our funding requirements.
* **Rejected.**
* **BF0245** – Duns Football Club - £3,252.00
* Re-roof changing rooms.
* Necessary and worthwhile project following on from a lot of work that has been carried out since 2012.
* 100 kids and up to 40 adults that use the facilities weekly.
* Match funding and in-kind support have been identified.
* A local club run by volunteers.
* **Approved** - £3,252.00
* **BF0246** – DunsPlayFest - £5,000.00
* Employ a festival co-ordinator and venue hire costs.
* What is the total cost of the whole festival and what happens if the funding is not obtained?
* A good project for Duns and District with a mental health theme, workshops etc.
* Supportive but unsure why we are being asked to fund the co-ordinator rather than a workshop for example.
* Is it an issue which portion of the project we support as long as the project is funded?
* **Approved** - £5,000.00
* KD to get in touch with DunsPlayFest to discuss
* **BF0247** – Berwickshire Alliance - £2,922.00
* Facilities hire, travel expenses, laptop, printing.
* A sensible sum to help kick start a relatively new organisation.
* Have sought and received other funding.
* **Approved** - £2,922.00
* **BF0248** – Friends of Duns Primary School - £10,000.00
* Fix existing play equipment, purchase new equipment.
* This should be funded by the local council.
* Our funding sometimes leads to more support from the council.
* The school has children from many of the surrounding community councils and this should be brought to their attention.
* Application explains that they have approached SBC.
* **Response** - This application does not fall within our remit as it is SBC duty to repair. Our directors will raise this at their next respective Community Council meeting.
* **BF0249** – Community Cinema Gavinton/Gavinton Village Hall - £4,500.00
* Upgrade cinema equipment.
* Well thought through application and ticks all our boxes.
* Total project £10,314, applied for £7,000 funding elsewhere, leaving a deficit of £3,314.00
* **Approved** - £3,314.00

1. PR Update
   * + - New advert created which was circulated during 1st week of November.
       - Emailed to Berwickshire News, Dean at Enterprise Network and Mark Smith at ScottBorders.
       - SC to chase
       - Facebook
       - Outline of new posts to be produced by SC.
       - SC to amend Call for Directors advert and repost.

1. AOB
   * Living Wage Employer - £60.00 annual charge for an Accreditation Licence for Charities and Public Sector with 1-10 employees –
   * The benefit to BWCF does not warrant the £60.00 charge

**Changes to guidelines and application form**

* Application Form - Section 3 – Reason for Application
* Suggested addition
* a) Please indicate below which of the objectives, described in Section 3.1 of the guidance notes, your application addresses.

Current boxes a) and b) become b) and c)

* + Application Form – Section 4 – Details of Grants Requested
  + Suggested change

**“What other sources of funding has your organisation applied for / or received for this project?**

Include the name of the funder, the amount you have applied for and the date you received or expect a decision.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Funder** | **Funding already Approved** | | **Additional Funding Requested** | |
| **Amount** | **Date Received** | **Amount** | **Date Decision Expected** |
| **Xxxxn** | **£0.0** | **xx/xx/202x** | **£0.0** | **xx/xx/202x** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

* Proposed changes to the front page of the website
* See attached
* Proposed changes to the Guidance Notes
* See attached
  + SC to carry out necessary changes.
  + Lammermuirs CC on Borders Council Website is named Ellemford, Cranshaws, Longformacus CC – Adam to clarify.

**Future meeting dates**

15th February 2023 – Gavinton Village Hall - TBC

17th May 2023 – Lammermuir Village Hall – TBC

16th August 2023 – Volunteer Hall, Duns – TBC

15th November 2023 – Preston Village Hall - TBC