**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND**

AGM for year ending 31st March 2022

6.30pm Wednesday 17th August 2022

Volunteer Hall, Duns

MINUTES

Present – Keith Dickson, Juliana Amaral, Adam Prokopowicz, Hazel Smith, Stuart Renton, Sharon Cleghorn

Neil Gilmour, May Kinghorn, Madge Cran, Cathy Smith, Andrew Lister, Danielle MacKinnon,

Welcome from Chairman of Board of Directors

The Annual General Meeting is always a high point of the year as we hear how the projects that we have funded have been progressing.

In the 2021/2022 BWCF supported 15 applications to the value of £30.000 approx. This compares to £13,000 in 2020/2021, this is partly due to Covid. We feel our modest amounts make a big difference.

We currently have a healthy balance due to the reduction in grant applications during Covid and actively seek applicants from worthy projects.

1. Apologies – Tim Myer, James Robson,
2. Approval of Minutes of AGM for year ending 31st March 2021 (attached) - Approved
3. Approval of Annual Report for year ending 31st March 2022 (attached) - Approved
4. Update from 2021/2022 successful applicants

* Andrew Lister – AHFD - BF0221 £5,000.00 to upgrade furniture.
* Chair of AHFD
* Funding was received for new chairs to replace the hand me downs that were being used. Complaints about the old chairs had been made.
* The new chairs are more comfortable and easier to clean.
* Old chairs where uplifted from outside the hall.
* AHFD has employed a new general manager who has increased the number of events in the hall.
* Currently running a number of “Pay what you can” events i.e., Cinema.
* Cinema currently losing money therefore looking to revamp the advertising to emphasise that “Pay what you can” is about helping those that cannot afford to attend and not about getting cheap tickets.
* Trying to establish a Duns & District Business Group/forum.
* AHFD is not just about the hall.
* They are developing a partnership with the local food bank and converting the Hope Hall into a food bank/drop in café. This will be run 2 days a week on a “Pay what you can” basis
* There will be qualified people at the drop in café who can offer assistance to anyone that is struggling.
* What do they anticipate the end of year accounts will show in relation to trading v grants?
* Figures are still to be finalised but a loss was predicted for the year.
* Andrew will share the figures once they have been finalised.
* Danielle MacKinnon – Eat Sleep Ride – BF0211 £1,000.00 to employ part time volunteer’s co-ordinator.
* Eat Sleep Ride moved to a new site, which is completely off grid, and had an open day in June.
* Planted 2000 trees, has a sensory garden and started a community growing project growing fruit and veg.
* Reused containers to continue carbon negative scheme and reused the wood from the field shelter on the old site.
* Have a carbon neutral heating systems and access the local stream.
* Looking at accessibility for wheelchair access and awaiting funding to build a music and touch room
* Also looking for a small holding license to get sheep and chickens and looking into developing off grid glamping.
* Danielle got her dissertation and is now qualified in Equine Assisted Learning.
* Currently employ 13 people and have 76 volunteers.
* Working with Action for children and local schools to provide outdoor therapy.
* Challenges we are currently seeing. An increase in demand in cases of children under the age of 16 and as young as 8.
* Have a nutritionist and trauma counsellor and work with the whole family.
* Lack of housing and jobs are having a knock-on effect.
* The kids at ESR are looking to hold an activity day where they have individual stations and can talk about the issues they face.
* Up and coming events include a Winter Solstice 9th September 4 till 7. This will include storytelling and sharing of food, that they have grown over the summer.
* Also developing a corporate package day at the end of September to meet the well-being team and young speakers.
* Danielle started Eat Sleep Ride in 2017 with 1 pony. Now has 21 horses and ponies.
* Amazing achievement and in such a short time with not only growth in the organisation but in Danielle also.
* Danielle works with the kids that nobody else will/can work with.
* Grateful to have such a tenacious individual and organisation in Berwickshire.
* This is a great example of how our small input of funds can help a new project grow and make such a different.
* Madge Cran/Cathy Smith – Duns Senior Citizens – BF0217 £616.00 Christmas lunch for 44 people
* Very grateful for the funding received. Windfarm has always been very supportive of Duns Senior Citizens.
* DSC is run by volunteers with 48 members, all women, with a waiting list.
* Covid was devastating for the members as they could not meet.
* However, during lockdown, Duns Senior Citizens volunteers provided 7 different door step deliveries to keep in contact with their members i.e., Christmas Goody Box, Flowers, Easter Basket etc.
* Started up again face to face at the end of 2021 and had a Christmas lunch funded by BWCF.
* Held at the Golf Club, bused up from the square and was a very enjoyable.
* Some members had lost confidence and didn’t want to meet up with people just yet.
* Spaces are limited due to the room they use being limited to 50. They are also aware that the bigger the group the less intimate and less inclusive.
* Have recently applied to Age Scotland for funding for a screen and speakers.
* Juliana Amaral – BAVS – BF0213 £5,000.00 To purchase a Nissan Leaf.
* BAVS were looking into how they could transform Berwickshire Wheels into net zero transport, this led to the application of funding for new electric car.
* Old Nissan Leaf did not have a long range and the infrastructure was not in place.
* New Nissan Leaf is now the main vehicle for non-wheelchair users.
* Now also have a fully electric people carrier and looking into going electric with the mini buses.
* The change to electric vehicles has resulted in an estimated saving of £2,000.00 per vehicle.
* Berwickshire Wheels has been selected as 1 of 11 pilot projects with Development Trust Association Scotland.
* Duty towards our community to continue to run community transport. However, this is very expensive to run and has been a loss-making project for a number of years.
* Berwickshire Wheels is becoming more sustainable and this is the first year that our Community Transport nearly broke even.
* Neil Gilmour – GFPCC - BF0223 £3,500.00 To purchase a mobile generator.
* Neil moved to Gavinton 20 months ago and was told by locals that the community spirit had died due to Covid, then Storm Arwen hit.
* He noticed the village hall was closed and was all electric.
* A number of other households are also all electric.
* He applied for funding to purchase a very large generator which will be stored in the village hall and be used during any future power cuts.
* When the generator is running the power is now so good, they can run the heating, cooking, lighting and charge phones.
* Neil is now the Resilient Communities Co-ordinator for the CC and will run a training day with a number of local residences.
* The resilience committee will also identify 2 people in each street. When another storm hits, they will go knock on doors and inform residence that the Village Hall is open.
* A leaflet is being produced to include information about the generator at the Village hall and will be circulated to residents in Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth.

1. Appointment of Directors.

* Keith Dickinson – Gavinton & Fogo CC
  + Keith no longer on the Gavinton & Fogo CC but has been asked by the council to represent them on the BWCF.
  + Keith to remain as Chair
* Stuart Renton – Duns CC
* James Robson – Abbey St Bathans, Preston and Bonkyl CC
* (David Mycock stepping Down) Adam Prokopowicz - Lammermuir CC
* Independent Directors - Tim Myer, Hazel Smith and Juliana Amaral to step down and seek re appointment. – All approved

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

* The chair thanked all directors and especially Sharon for their continued efforts and contribution.
* November is trustee’s month, look to doing a collective call for new directors i.e., BAVS, ReTweed, BWCF