**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND**

**Meeting of Directors, Tuesday 28th May, Hope Room, Duns Volunteer Hall, 6.30**

**MINUTES**

1. Present – Joy Dobie, Tim Myer, Andrew McEwen, Sharon Cleghorn, Adam Prokopowicz, Keith Dickinson, Juliana Amaral.
	* Keith welcomed Joy, who has taken over from James Robson and now represents Abbey St Bathans, Bonykl & Preston Community Council, and Andrew, who is an Independent Director, to their first meeting.
2. Apologies –
3. Declaration of interest –
4. Approval of minutes from February 2024 – Approved.
5. Applications – Update
	* BF0274 – Word Weavers - £618.00 – Awarded 03/03/2024
	* BF0275 – DunsPlayFest - £3,500.00 – Awarded 13/03/2024
	* BF0276 – Berwickshire High School – Rejected – Ltr sent 23/02/2024
	* BF0277 – BAVS – Rejected – Ltr sent 23/02/2024
6. New Applications – Bank Balance – £41,001.85 as of 28/04/2024
	* BF0278 – PF Ayton Primary School - £5,000.00
	* To purchase playground equipment.
	* Good idea but outwith our catchment area.
	* The application does not include a quote or breakdown of cost.
	* Play areas are very popular and the proposal states this will be in a public area, therefore used by the whole community and not just by the school.
	* Although outwith our catchment we do fund certain projects where we see the value to the wider community which may include people from our catchment.
	* Worth supporting volunteer groups such as BF Ayton Primary School
	* Application is not clear on whether they have additional funding.
	* Outcome – Agreed £5,000.00 on receipt of the following
	* Clarification/confirmation on whether they have received £5k from Simpson McCreath Trust and £500 from Ayton Community Hall Trustees.
	* Breakdown of specific costs of the project.
	* BF0279 – Admiral Ramsay Museum - £2,750.00
	* To help spread the word about Admiral Ramsay and connect with local schools providing transport to the Museum and tours.
	* A lot of money has already been spent as it is a very well presented Museum in a converted barn with small garden. IT and presentations excellent with personal belongings of Admiral Ramsay and video buildup to Dunkirk etc.
	* Most of the directors had never heard of the Admiral Ramsay Museum therefore delighted to receive an application to spread his story.
	* Local heritage and living history.
	* Is the funding for the toilet a temporary solution? Cost only for one event?
	* Outwith our catchment area but looking to connect with BHS in Duns and other schools.
	* Also an attraction for people within our catchment and visitors.
	* Looking to create material to distribute to help spread the word.
	* No plan included regarding which events they will hold.
	* No additional funding requested.
	* Approved - £2,750.00 on receipt of the following
	* What publicity material is being produced, where will it be distributed and how many school visits?
	* SC to ask Derek for some information for a post on our FB on Thursday 06/06/2024.
	* BF0280 – A Heart For Duns - £4,910.00
	* Keith declared an interest.
	* To commission specialist services to carry out an "Ask the audience" and culminate the process in a weekend Beer & Food Festival in September.
	* A good application for a project that engages different people in the community.
	* There is no point in investing unless the community wants it, therefore a questionnaire to users and non-users is money well spent.
	* AHFD taking a lead on Community Led Planning as the Volunteer Hall is the biggest facility in Duns for events.
	* Trying to draw in the people that do not already use the hall.
	* We have received many applications from AHFD but as they act as an umbrella group for many smaller organisations not all applications have been for AHFD directly.
	* Other projects have been refused funding due to having applied a number of times.
	* A blanket application for what may be 2 separate projects.
	* BWCF would not use public funds for alcohol.
	* Application is for funding the bands which will include local talent.
	* Approved – £4,910.00
	* BF0281 – BHS Parents Council - £5,000.00
	* To refresh the library collection and hold workshops and events to support literacy, reading and storytelling skills for students and staff.
	* 100% behind the principal however this is just a regeneration of the application received from the BHS in February which was rejected.
	* Staff and volunteers should be involved to facilitate more involvement from the students.
	* Without new interesting material in the library, they will not get the interest from the students.
	* Sympathise with the project but our regulations do not permit us to fund activity that falls within core/statutory funding of statutory bodies such as SBC schools budgets.
	* SBC support may be very basic and Parents Council are looking to enhance this support.
	* How do we say no to buying books and would we fund this if it came from the local library?
	* The application highlights 10 objectives but the funding requested is mainly for books.
	* Approve - £1000.00 – To fund the workshops.
	* Advise that we may consider additional funding for a specific project that will allow the parent council and school to engage the community by hosting events, book clubs, books and blether and workshops which foster a sense of community and connection among students, parents and teacher.
	* Offer to put them in touch with the chair to have a discussion regarding a revised application.
	* BF0282 – Live Learn Earn CIC - £5,000.00
	* To deliver 30 R-evolve workshop sessions to create sculptures, street furniture or commemorative items in collaboration with BHS.
	* Applied April 2023, awarded July 2023, £5,000.00.
	* Cut and paste of their last application with date changes.
	* In partnership with Berwickshire High School who have approved £4k.
	* It is a repeat of the last project, should we fund the same project again?
	* No report has been received yet on last year’s project.
	* Community Interest Company based in Bristol and comes from Peebles, director gets £24k salary.
	* Outcome –
	* We see this is virtually identical to your last application therefore to help us make an informed decision we request a report on last year’s project outcomes including how many students participated and how participation in the project impacted them.
	* What are your specific goals for this year’s project?
7. AOB
	* Adams community council has asked him for a report on how his experience has been on the BWCF and will provide a copy of this report.
	* Juliana expressed her thanks to Keith for representing Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund at the borders wide Funding Event run by BCA.
8. Dates of future meetings
* 14th August 2024 – Volunteer Hall, Duns - AGM
* 13th November 2024 – Preston Village Hall
* 12th February 2025 – Gavinton Village Hall
* 14th May 2025 – Longformacus Village Hall