**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND**

**Meeting of Directors, Wednesday 16th August 2023, Hope Room, Volunteer Hall, Duns**

**MINUTES**

1. Present – Stuart Renton, Juliana Amaral, Keith Dickinson, Hazel Smith, Sharon Cleghorn
2. Apologies – James Robson, Tim Myer, Adam Prokopowicz
3. Declaration of interest – Hazel Smith
4. Approval of minutes from May 2023 - Approved
5. Applications – Update
   * + - BF0256 – Duns Countdown 2000 - £3,000.00 – Awarded 11/06/2023
       - BF0257 – Duns Summer Festival - £3,630.00 – Awarded 11/06/2023
       - BF0258 – Allsorts Childcare - £517.24 – Awarded 11/06/2023
       - BF0259 – Greener Duns - £798.99 – Awarded 11/06/2023
       - BF0260 – Reston Junior Agricultural Club - £400.00 – Awarded 11/06/2023
       - BF0261 – Live Learn Earn CIC - £5,000.00 – Awarded 26/07/2023 (following a discussion Keith had with Aegir Maciver to clarify a number of issues).
       - BF0262 – Keeping Duns Blooming Marvelous - £2,988.71 – Awarded 11/06/2023
       - BF0263 – Duns Players - £860.00 – Awarded 11/06/2023
         1. Due to the success of their ticket sales and other grant applications the grant from BWCF is no longer required. Therefore, happy to return the funds. However, they do not have online banking and can only pay by cheque? Triodos does not have a local branch which makes it difficult to lodge cheques. – Board happy for cheque to be paid to Sharon and Sharon to transfer to BWCF.
6. New Applications – Bank Balance – £52,479.69 (23/07/2023)
   * BF0264 – LJ Dance Academy - £1,400.00
   * Looking for funding to go towards the purchase of show t-shirts for 140 participating children.
   * Previous application for funds to renovate building, declined, Oct 2022, BF0244. Application did not meet our funding requirements.
   * New application still does not meet our funding requirements.
   * If the activity that funding is being requested for was to support the community directly, then we may more supportive.
   * We do not want to start a precedent by supporting a private business.
   * Rejected - Sympathetic to the aims but our constitution does not allow us to fund private businesses. If you were to partner with an organisation who targets a specific need of children/families then we may be more supportive.
   * If you would like to discuss this further, please let me know and I can put you in touch with one of our directors.
   * BF0265 – Border Youth Theatre - £3,500.00
   * Looking for funding to run an intergenerational project.
   * Previous funding - 2013 - £2,000.00 to create & tour a new youth theatre production.
   * 2015 - £2,000.00 to run an intergenerational project.
   * 2018 – Part approved £1,540.00 (£2,800.00) to run an intergenerational project.
   * Good project however the application did not provide specifics.
   * They have run similar projects in the past, would like to run this programme in Chirnside.
   * Chirnside has the highest free meal entitlement in the Scottish Borders, per capita.
   * Excellent group, inspirational with lots going on for those children that need it most.
   * Everywhere they go and every project they do are intergenerational.
   * No restricted reserves.
   * Approved - £3,500.00
   * BF0266 – Interest Links Borders - £2,000.00
   * To fund volunteer activity and travel expenses and group running costs (materials, refreshments, venue hire & tutors).
   * Previous funding - 2021 - £2,000.00 staff, office & admin costs.
   * Modest amount requested of £2,00.00 for a £21,000.00 project.
   * Working with vulnerable children and young adults with a range of disabilities.
   * A very well run hands on organisation with a good befriending model.
   * They may have other funding in the pipeline.
   * Approved - £2,000.00
   * BF0267 – Re-Tweed - £3,200.00
   * Looking for funding to go towards the cost of paying the trainer and the volunteer expenses.
   * Previous Funding - 2017 £2,500.00 programme of textile upcycling.
   * 2018 £3500.00 towards volunteer support costs.
   * 2019 £3,200.00 trainer costs and expenses.
   * 2022 £4,000.00 to apply a co-ordinator to help with International Tartans.
   * HS declared an interest and left the room.
   * Re-Tweed are currently looking to spread their wings and are offering courses in new areas within our catchment.
   * They have a proven track record.
   * They have been approved for match funding from the Neighbourhood support fund.
   * Approved - £3,200.00
   * Supportive of this application however can you clarify if the figures on the application are from the 2023 Financial Report?
7. Development of Code of Practice –

* A draft Code of Practice was discussed. The directors believed that it was a valuable complement to our existing documentation. Directors believed that it was important to have such a code and thought that the draft covered all the relevant areas yet was succinct. No amendments were suggested, and it was unanimously supported by the meeting. It was agreed that all Directors should formally agree to abide by the Code of Practice.

1. Administrators Annual Pay Review – Tim and Keith to discuss separately.
2. AOB –

* Mark Rowley had noticed that the BWCF turbines where not turning as much as they used to.
* SC to check with Callum (RES) if there is a maintenance issue with the turbines and if there are any long term plans that will affect our outcome. Also check when our contract is up for renewal.
* Recruitment of directors. All directors to actively recruit new directors.

1. Dates of future meetings

* 15th November 2023 – Preston Village Hall
* 14th February 2024 – Gavinton Village Hall
* 15th May 2024 – Lammermuirs
* August 2024 – Volunteer Hall, Duns