**BLACKHILL WINDFARM COMMUNITY FUND**

**Minutes of Meeting of Directors, 6.30 pm Wednesday 14th May 2025**

**Longformacus Village Hall**

1. **Present** – Keith Dickinson, Andrew McEwen, Tim Myer, Joy Dobie, Adam Prokopowicz, Sharon Cleghorn
2. **Apologies** – Stuart Renton
3. **Declaration of interest** –
4. **Approval of minutes from February 2025** - Approved
5. **Applications – Update**
   * BF0287 – Duns Community Nursery - £1,955.48 – Awarded 06/03/2025
   * BF0288 – Greener Duns - £3,460.00 – Ltr sent 28/02/205 and passed to Keith
   * Keith met with James and discussed their application in depth.
   * BF0289 – GFPCC - £13,182.50 – Ltr sent 28/02/2025 and email correspondence followed where Sharon explained their application raised more questions than answers, such as-
   * How did they seek, collect and collate the information provided in the application?
   * How many people in the catchment area are restricted from swimming on financial grounds?
   * BF0290 – DDAOS - £1,800.00 – Awarded 20/03/2025
   * BF0291 – DPS - £1,000.00 – Awarded 04/03/2025
   * BF0292 – Duns RFC - £3,500.00 – Awarded 04/03/2025
   * BF0293 – BHS Musical Theatre Group - £5,000.00 – Awarded 04/03/2025
   * BF0295 – Chirnside Common Good - £958.00 – Fast tracked by email & awarded 27/03/2025
6. **New Applications – Bank Balance – £38,166.84 (30/04/2025)**
   * **BF0294 – Sea the Change - £5,000.00**
   * Funding requested to purchase an electric van.
   * Have sought match funding from Drone Hill and NatureSave.
   * Submitted previous funding applications in Jan 2020 (rejected) and Oct 2022 (more info requested, none received).
   * Speculative application which lacked detail and evidence.
   * Unable to open quote word document.
   * Good organisation that does some great work but the application did not show what the van would be used for.
   * £51k restricted and £17k unrestricted reserves.
   * Response – We are supportive of the work that you do.  However, in order for us to fully consider supporting your application, we require more comprehensive answers to questions 3 and 4 of the application form with information on for example:

* What impact has the Cycle for Change programme had during its first full year?
* What specification of van is being sought and why, including a breakdown of all costs?
* What specifically will the van be used for?
* How will the van add value to the current Cycle for Change programme?
* The outcome of your two match funding applications?
  + **BF0296 – Allotments 4 Chirnside - £4,270.00**
  + Funding requested to fund 5 sheds for 10 individual allotment plots.
  + Received funding in Aug 2020 for a grass cutter with mulcher.
  + Chirnside is out with our catchment area however they have received an application for an allotment from a Duns resident.
  + They have done their research and produced a good application which breaks down the project and costs.
  + This is a good community project with long term goals.
  + Quixwood have rejected a recent application as there is no one within their catchment that will benefit from this project.
  + Does Chirnside benefit from any funding from a local windfarm?
  + Approved - £4,270.00
  + **BF0297 – Berwick Literary Festival - £2,900.00**
  + Funding requested to fund workshops at BHS and events at Duns Volunteer Hall and Fogo Church.
  + KD declared an interest.
  + An established festival that is enhancing cultural development and is this year reaching out to selected local communities
  + The application is for specific funding of three events in Duns.
  + Is there a demand for these types of activities in this area?
  + They already have established presence in this area with AHFD, BHS, DunsPlayFest.
  + Difficult to predict demand for a speculative project.
  + Based on our knowledge of what happens at the BLF and Duns Volunteer Hall there is the believe that the demand is there.
  + Approved - £2,900.00
  + **BF0298 – Admiral Ramsay Museum - £9,858.00**
  + Funding requested to go towards the extension of the museum and create a lecture/meeting room in nearby greenhouse.
  + Received funding in April 2024.
  + Very ambitious project requesting double what we would normally fund.
  + The project is dependent on other funding requests - £53k from Fallago Rig.
  + No detail or timelines and part of the funding request is for planning consent.
  + Somebody has to cover the cost of planning consent, why not BWCF?
  + Do we want to fund something that may not get approval?
  + Hard to assess the likely impact of this project on the community based on this rather poor application.
  + Out with our catchment but does benefit our community.
  + Proposal to partially fund application as an indication of general support.
  + Planning consent is effectively seed capital.
  + Approved part funding - £2,190.00 for planning consent and would welcome another application when planning consent and other funding has been received.
  + **BF0299 – Live Learn Earn CIC - £5,000.00**
  + Funding requested to fund R-evolve workshop sessions.
  + We have funded this twice already, £5,000.00 in 2023 and £5,000.00 in 2024.
  + We do not generally provide continuation funding.
  + Good connection with local businesses.
  + Over the past 2 years what measurable effect has the programme had on student employability?
  + Response - We are sympathetic to this project however we request a detailed report showing tangible results on how this project has made a significant impact for the students involved. For example, how many students have gone entered long term placements as a result of skills obtained on this course.
  + **BF0300 – Duns Amateur Swimming Club - £2,000.00**
  + To fund lane hire, coaching sessions, taster sessions and open nights.
  + Received funding in 2013, 2017 and 2019
  + Good application, easy to follow and well thought out and demonstrating forward planning.
  + Ticked all the boxes and are using membership fees towards this project.
  + Approved - £2,000.00
  + **BF0301 – Manderson Cricket Club - £3,452.31**
  + To fund a mobile net.
  + Received funding in 2014.
  + Cricket lessons have started at the BHS
  + Provided 2 quotes, and their application has not specified why they are requesting funding for the more expensive net.
  + Approved - £2,734.00
  + If you can justify the purchase of the more expensive net, we would be happy to increase the funding to £3,452.31.

1. Website
   * The new website is looking great and an improvement on the current one.
   * Some formatting required on headings and banners as wording is unclear due to the background.
   * Drop down menus also unclear.
   * Check the format on different devices i.e. tablets/phones etc
   * Headings/links along the top need to be bigger.
   * At the bottom of each page add a “Back to the top” button.
   * Photo of tennis court on 1st page is of poor resolution.
2. AOB
   * On future agendas add a note on any previous funding requested for each application and attach spreadsheet.
   * Start Annual Report process for AGM.
3. Dates of future meetings

* 13th August 2025 – Duns Volunteer Hall – AGM
* 12th November 2025 – Preston Village Hall
* 11th February 2026 – Gavinton Village Hall