



## Hutton Community Fellowship AGM Minutes

**Sunday 16 December 2018 3pm Boreland Village Hall**

1. Present: Chris Miles, Liza Pern, Kat McKay, Paul Rogerson, Sophie Dupre, Theresa Parker, Neil Parker, Samuel Parker
2. Apologies: Karen Carruthers, Stephen Thompson.
3. Approval of previous minutes. No matters arising. NP proposed; SD seconded.
4. Chair's Report (attached)

Re the £850 in the Minsca Fund for events. Karen Carruthers has expressed an interest in using some of this for a Community excursion.

Discussion focused on how to utilise the £30,000 in the Ewe Hill Fund for the benefit of the community.

The website is now accessible to the community so information on the fund and applying is available to all.

An application form is on the HCF website.

NP asked if there might be a list of funded projects to date. It was agreed these could be added to HCF web site. CM noted that those projects supported by the larger Ewe Hill fund should be on the Southern Upland Partnership website pending creation of a DECBG web site. LP suggested a press release to local newspapers would help people see what is funded.

There is also to be a Community Consultation Process in this area later in 2019 to help community knowledge of and use of these funds. This will include discussion and a section in the final Community Plan for Boreland. It is hoped that the CCP will result in residents generating ideas and setting up projects.

Some discussion took place of investigating the possibility of funding either a phone mast or some way of providers sharing a mast to improve mobile coverage.

Muirhall Energy recently held a meeting in the community re community ownership of the Crossdykes wind farm. There would be community benefit money. CM briefly outlined the proposal whereby the communities would own part of the income from the windfarm if they invest in the capital costs of building it. DECBG is to explore this on behalf of the communities and DECBG was holding a meeting in January 2019 to discuss this matter.

5. Treasurers Report. (attached)  
TP clarified the status of HCF as a channel for windfarm funds to the community. HCF is not a Community Council. Boreland has a Fellowship as there was no Community Council at the time of establishing the Fellowship. PR is a member of North Milk Community Council and agreed that it would be useful for members of groups to attend each other's meetings.  
TP explained the two reports on Minsca Funding. They are tracking the underspend and the balances. Minsca has not taken back underspend as they have in previous years. It is

the 11<sup>th</sup> year of Minsca. Minsca may have started out with more restrictions than have proved to be necessary. There are various models used.

Re the Ewe Hill allocation: Scottish Power Renewables are yet to comment on the underspend of Ewe Hill 6 funds. They do have a team that attend community meetings and who can see the plan for a community consultation to unlock ideas.

PR questioned the spend on the website design company Freshspace. The committee assured him it had been essential and that the annual fee was reasonable.

## 6. Election of Committee.

Paula Gillfillan is standing down. Liza Pern offered to join the committee.

Chair: Chris Miles: NR proposed, KMcK seconded.

Treasurer: Theresa Parker: NP proposed, SD seconded.

Note taker: Sophie Dupre: LP proposed, CM seconded.

## 7. Any Other Business.

Liza Pern agreed to manage website content.

LP mentioned that there will be a Championship in September so committee must check dates nearer the time re date of next AGM which it has been agreed to hold in September.

Date of next meeting 24.02.2019.

## **Hutton Community Fellowship – Chairman's report of activity in 2018**

- The Fellowship met four times in the year to date. 26 Feb, 15 April, 2 November, 2 December.
- Funding from the Minsca this year amounted to £2142. These funds have been allocated for the following
  - Hutton Community Fellowship cost of public liability insurance and admin costs.
  - Repairs to the swing including new matting
  - Hutton Primary School for a school trip
  - Funds for community events and excursion
  - Funds for repairs to the noticeboard
  - Funds for a new printer for the Fellowship

To date. Funds have been given to Hutton School. Repairs have been carried out on the swing. The Fellowship has a new printer. There remain funds for community events and excursions for anyone with ideas and who will organise them.

- For the first time this year we also received funding from the Ewe Hill 6 Scheme, operated by Scottish Power Renewables. Because the mechanism for handling the funds, the DECBG, was only finally in place after the Ewe Hill scheme became operational we received two years' annual payment in February and a further annual payment in September. Each annual payment is just over £11k pa. Unlike the Minsca funds we do not have to bid to DECBG or SPR for them so they are available for project ideas throughout the year. We do though have to give an

annual report of what is done with them and satisfy SPR that the funds are managed in accordance with the Minute of Agreement that we have with them.

This level of funding is a challenge for the community as it requires a new mindset in terms of what to spend such sums on. To help this process HCF has this year developed a website so that people can get more information about what funds can be spent on and access the funding application form and information on contacting the Fellowship. We also wrote to every household in the HCF area with details. It is still early days in the use of these funds but to date they have paid for the following:

- Development of the new website.
- The community mailshot
- Costs of repairs to the swing (over and above those funded by Minsca)
- First Aid training event
- Repairs to community brushcutter

- This year we have also met with the 5 communities who receive funds from the Ewe Hill wind farm, Hutton, Corrie, Tundergarth, Waterbeck, Langholm and Ewes as the DECBG. Each of the 5 communities has 2 Directors on the DECBG which is a Scottish Charity. The fund from the Ewe Hill 16 turbines, worth £180k pa, is available to applications from all communities in East Dumfriesshire. Two rounds of grant funding have now been held, one in March and one in October, and a total of 26 projects have been funded to date with a value of c£325k. DECBG recognise that there is a need for wider community awareness raising and to develop some plans in consultation with the communities. It agreed to seek support from Local Energy Scotland to engage communities in developing ideas and plans for how funds should be used in the years ahead. It is hoped that this work will commence in early 2019. This will include meetings in Boreland to help focus thinking on how funds can be used here.
- There has been further contact from Muirhall Energy who are promoting the Crossdykes and Loganhead WFs. They attended a community meeting to explain their thinking on transporting the turbines to the site through the village. They also held a meeting in November to discuss further the potential for community ownership in these schemes. A further meeting is being arranged to allow the communities around the schemes to look more closely at this opportunity with input from Local Energy Scotland.
- After concerns were expressed about HCF's knowledge of a windfarm scheme north of Boreland in the summer, it was established that HCF had simply agreed to act as a point of contact in the community for the company but had no further information about the proposal. No further contact has been received from them.