

Hutton Community Fellowship
AGM 27 October 2019
Boreland Village Hall 2pm.

1. Present: Chris Miles. Alison Miles. Liza Pern. John Gault. Rosemary Flexney. Neil Parker. Theresa Parker. John Elias Dupre. Sophie Dupre. Louise Kaiholm.
2. Apologies. N/A
3. Minutes of last AGM: TP; proposed. LP. seconded.
4. Chairman's Report. The full report is available on the HCF website.

There have been 3 meetings of the HCF in 2019. CM reminded all present that the fund applications and awards did not correspond with the financial Year meaning that some expenditure fell into the current year and so the Chairs report included activity after 31 March 2019.

2019 was the start of Year 12 of the Minsca Wind Farm Fund and the application process had secured £2,364.00 which was received in July. This has, historically, been used for Boreland community activities and funds remain available for events through 2019/20.

The community is now also in receipt of c.£11,000 annually in funds from Ewe Hill 6 WF. Funds have been used for two First Aid courses and two Quadbike training days, to support Hutton Curling Club, the Hall and the Dryfe Valley Singers. Some of the funds have contributed to the costs of engaging consultants to undertake a community consultation which is shared with the other Ewe Hill funded communities. The Community Consultation process is underway and further community engagement will happen through the winter. This consultation, which will run until Feb/March 2020 is developing a community wide conversation on how best to use these funds. This will result in a plan of action that will outline how best to fund projects suitable for the whole area and for small rural communities. Ideas are still being gathered but as an example there a suggestion of using a paid employee i.e. a Community Coordinator, to help deliver elements of the plan across several of the smaller communities.

The Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG) which is made up of members of the five community groups funded by Ewe Hill WF, including CM and TP, meets twice a year to facilitate the use of funds of £180.00 pa. for the wider community. They last met in September. An example is the funding offered to Annandale Transport for their running costs.

Crossdykes Wind Farm, with 10 turbines, is going ahead with construction now underway. This is situated between Paddockhole and Bailliehill. It will mean some road disruption in Boreland as the turbine will go through the village on their way to the site. This will result in further community benefit funding for Boreland once operational. Crossdykes has also offered Shared Ownership to the communities. A community could buy a stake in the windfarm and share in the income generated. The communities are offered up to 10% of the income for which an upfront cost

would be about £2m. This has the potential to deliver about £7m in income. The Scottish Government is keen on communities taking up such offers and through Local Energy Scotland has offered a grant to the communities towards investigation costs. This covers the fees for the financial and legal expertise of c £75,000.

Discussion followed as to why we generate more electricity than the community needs? If the community wanted to generate its own electricity it would need to invest in its own WF. The model here is different, the electricity going into the grid and the benefits are an income stream that can then be used for ambitious projects, for instance eco housing that in turn might bring much needed people to rural areas.

It was noted that Little Hartfell WF, currently in planning, will also give community benefit funds and offer shared ownership.

5. Treasurers Report.

TP handed out printed copies of the accounts. The accounting dates were noted. The terms restricted funds and unrestricted funds were explained. The cost of the swing was questioned. The costs related to replacement of the top beam and installation of safety matting. The details of the swing repairs are available. JG proposed and AM seconded the accounts.

6. Election of Committee. All present were invited to join the committee. John Gault, Neil Parker and John Elias Dupre joined. AM proposed. LP seconded. All office bearers agreed to stand for the next year. Chris Miles: Chair. LP proposed. SD seconded. Theresa Parker: Treasurer. CM proposed. LP seconded. Minute Secretary: Sophie Dupre. JG proposed. NP seconded.

7. A.O.B. Signatories need to be ratified by the Bank. CM and AM asked about online payment security. TP explained that all online payments are scrutinized, she circulates to the committee before the payment is made and statements show the name of recipient. Therefore, actually it is more secure than payments by cheque. CM noted that online banking is not covered in the HCF constitution and should be amended. This could be considered at next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting. Sunday 17th November 2pm Boreland Village Hall.