



Hutton Community Fellowship Zoom Meeting
28th March 2021

1. Present. Chris Miles. John Galt. Liza Pern. Sophie Dupre.
2. Apologies. T & N Parker were unable to connect.
3. Minutes of last meeting, 20-10-2020. JG proposed: CM seconded.
4. Matters arising. Put forward to later in the meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report. N/A.
6. **Consideration of funding applications.**
Hutton/Applegarth School shelter.
 - *Is it to be shared with other groups?
 - *Might it have guttering to collect rainwater.
 - * HCF agreed to fund £2.000 of the cost.

Future project ideas from Community Consultation csp p4-10 of Consultation Feedback document.

It is clear that East Dumfriesshire needs a paid co-ordinator to manage applications and funding. DECGB met to discuss this and will move forward to establish a paid employee for this role. DECGB have the option of contracting out to other organisations such as Southern Upland Partners to recruit and employ the co-ordinator. SUP now has 20 staff and is expanding into South Ayrshire. DECGB will remain accountable.

SD suggested this may be a turning point in the way that funds are managed. JG. Asked whether some of the Funds be invested, (as in Norway) for long term use? CM.

CM has opened dialogue with the Forestry Commission re Black Esk and Castle O'er in collaboration with Eskdalemuir Community Council. The idea would be to formalise walks and cycle trails with markers, car parking, picnic tables and perhaps some conservation work. As this project develops, signage/way markers/surfacing will need to be funded. This will likely need a dedicated committee in order to interact with FC. JG noted that consideration will need to be given to what is needed/ liability etc.

Once the site is developed the matter of overnight stays will have to be addressed. Parking spots could be mapped. For example, at the Eskdalemuir Community Hub, perhaps. CM noted that he had seen an interesting report from SUP re camping opportunities. JG said that camper vans need facilities to service the vehicles, (waste disposal etc) Were these in place it would attract visitors and potentially other opportunities.

LP. Suggested that village Halls came out as a funding priority while SD. Thought there might be funds for the community to buy land and build affordable housing?

JG. Has experience of the Self-Build Association and suggests that the regions funding committees hold a post lockdown gathering to canvas support for an appetite to engage in radical action.

CM. A Community Benefit Fund is being considered to create a grant fund to cover fuel costs for low income families.

LP. Could an Electric Charging Point at the Hall be funded from wind farm monies? Annandale Community Transport might have this matter in their remit. Also, a community owned electric vehicle could be considered.

The Committee were unanimous in supporting the idea of a post lockdown community event. Coffee morning/Afternoon tea.

Action CM will share this idea with Boreland Village Hall committee.

LP. The matter of the installation of the Defibrillator has stalled over potential sites. CM said we had an electrician look at potential sites and give a quote on the costs of installation. The next steps is to get it done.

Minsca Year 14. CM suggests that HCF ask Minsca to freeze payment till next year. Lockdown has meant the historical funding with these monies has not been used. This was agreed.

7. Discussion Points.

DECBG approved to 7 out of 10 of funding applications in the latest round. It is always oversubscribed.

DECBG has agreed to help the communities in the 10k around the Solway Bank Wind Farm to distribute £60k pa CB funds. This brings Kirtle and Eaglesfield and Canonbie CCs into DECBG.

Cross Dykes wind farm is about to be commissioned. The Community buy in has been explored. The current proposal is that the Bank that lends the money for the buy in would take the risk. DECBG will be organising a presentation to communities shortly regarding the legal structures.

Next Meeting. 6th June 2021.