

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Of the
BRADENSTOKE SOLAR PARK COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND
Wednesday 2nd November 2022
MINUTES

Attendees:

Allison Bucknell (AB) Wiltshire Unitary Councillor for Lyneham, Local Grant Committee Chair
Mel Wilkins (MW) Chair of Hilmarton Parish Council
Richard Tucker (RT) Chair of Bremhill Parish Council
Stephen Depla (SD) Chair of Christian Malford Parish Council
Matthew Ash (MA) Environmental Advisor
Mary Hardwidge (MH) Administrator Community First, LGC Secretary
Matthew Young (MY) Grantscape

AB: Welcomed everyone to the AGM

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Harry Tipple (HT) Head of Community and Partnership Development, Community First
Frank Ball, Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council
Vernon Gadsby, MoD Lyneham

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Signed as accurate by AB (Proposed by RT Seconded by MW)

3. INTRODUCTION OF MATTHEW YOUNG – CEO OF GRANTSCAPE

MY introduced himself as the Chief Executive of Grantscape, the experts in community fund management. Part of his role is to provide an oversight of the fund to Bluefield SIF Investments, the owners of the Bradenstoke Solar Park.

4. INTRODUCTION OF VERNON GADSBY – MOD REPRESENTATIVE

Vernon could not make the meeting but AB explained that he is the MOD representative who has not been in post for long. The MOD personnel change frequently but Vernon has made a good contribution to giving his opinions and considerations to projects when they have arrived recently.

5. REPORT TO AGM (Chair)

AB reported that her Chairman's report was circulated before the meeting, so there was no need to read it out. MY said that he would check whether or not the fund has been extended from 30 to 40 years. AB acknowledged the fact that the fund needs more eco-friendly projects to be encouraged by the committee.

6. REPORT TO AGM (Financial)

It was noted that the fund had been very quiet in this period. Matt Young confirmed that this is the same across the board with other grant funds.

MH confirmed that at the end of the period (31st August 2022) there was a total of **£113,803.17** in the bank.

MH pointed out that the total of uncommitted funds was **£38,317.51** awaited at the end of the period ending 31st August 2022. This means that there is currently **£75,485.66** unallocated.

MH reported that she is now using the Community First accounts to reconcile the figures and this will be the case from now on.

7. REVIEW OF GRANTS SINCE THE LAST AGM

MH reported the following:

Grants since last AGM:

- Christian Malford Cricket Club - £1,500 - complete
- Christian Malford Village Hall - £10,000 – awaiting quotes and Planning Permission
- Hilmarton Jubilee Play Park - £5,000 – approved and awaiting claim (this project has also had substantial grants from both Hills and Crapper and Sons through the Landfill Communities Fund)
- Lyneham Methodist Church - £4,000 – complete

There have been applications after the end of the period (31st August 2022) and these are:

- Lyneham Primary School
- Lyneham Community Centre
- YMCA – Little Ducklings

AB explained the projects for the benefit of MY

8. FUTURE PROJECTS

AB referred to her Chair's Report and there was a discussion about the groups in the funding area who may have been in some difficulty due to the current Cost of Living Crisis.

It was decided, after much deliberation, that the fund is so large at the moment that it would be helpful to offer the same groups in the area who received a Covid Relief Grant in 2020 and 2021, a £1,500 funding boost. This was proposed by AB and seconded by RT. There will be a simple form created which will also include a question asking groups if they would be willing to undertake an Eco Audit on their building, with a view to helping them to make their building more eco friendly, such as installing Solar Panels or eco friendly heating systems. To be completed over the next couple of years.

Other eco friendly suggestions were, eco friendly lighting and Infrared Guns, which measure the energy efficiency of the building. MA suggested that the guns were not always very reliable. They would cost around £500. AB suggested that maybe a Parish Council could take on the task of trying them out???? MW reported that they may need to be recalibrated each year.

Action: MH to compile a list of all groups who benefited from the earlier Covid Relief Fund and send to AB along with a new form (modelled on the Covid Relief Fund Form) adding the question 'Would your group be interested in having a FOC ECO Audit on your building with a view to a future grant to make your building more Eco-friendly?'

RT suggested that the committee might want to check the contacts for all of the groups in their areas as they may have changed.

Once the list was agreed, the form will be sent to the committee members to send around to their community spaces.

Other uses for the fund were discussed:

- SD – Footpath Grips
- Wild Flower and Tree planting
- Farming Corridors
- Bulb Planting

9. VOTING: LOCAL GRANT FUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All posts were reelected on block. AB proposed and RT seconded

The committee consists of:

Allison Bucknell – Chair
Mel Wilkins – Cheque Signatory – Hilmarton PC
Stephen Depla – Treasurer - Christian Malford PC
Matthew Ash – Environmental Advisor
Vernon Gadsby – MOD Lyneham
Richard Tucker – Bremhill PC
Frank Ball – Lyneham & Bradenstoke PC

10. ELECTION OF CHAIR, TREASURER AND SECRETARY

All posts were reelected on block. AB proposed and MW seconded.

Allison Bucknell – Chair
Stephen Depla – Treasurer
Mary Hardwidge - Secretary

11. AOB

There was no Any Other Business.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be circulated next year and will be on a Wednesday in October 2023