**Bradenstoke Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund.**

**Annual General Meeting**

**21st October 2020 – 6:00pm**

**Chairman’s report**

Chair’s Report October 2020

This AGM marks the end of the first full year of the administration of the fund by Community First, and what an excellent job they have done for us.

I would particularly like to thank Mary Hardwidge who certainly knows her stuff. Thanks also to Alan Truscott for overseeing the process.

We welcome Cllr Frank Ball to the committee as chair of Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council, and we say goodbye to Captain Bowhay and hope to welcome his successor onto the grant committee shortly.

I would like to thank also the members of the Grants Panel for their swift and measured responses to requests for grant funding and Expressions of Interest.

Our year started in its customary fashion, with a smattering of grant applications from our eligible parishes and then in March 2020, as we are all well aware, along came COVID-19 which knocked a lot of projects sideways.

Mindful of the challenges facing our numerous community halls, we swiftly leapt into action and offered our local community facilities a very simple to apply for grant of £1500 per building. This was well-received and 12 premises benefitted.

A full list of the grants approved this year form part of the overall AGM papers. Amongst these are church roof repairs, new toilets for Little Ducklings Nursery in Lyneham, replacement LED street lighting at Bradenstoke Junction , Cricket safety nets in Goatacre and a major revamp of the Lyneham Memorial garden.

Details of all grants awarded are on our website (www.bradenstokesolarfund.org).

We decided at last year’s AGM not to widen the geographic area for applications. This is something to keep under review especially as many of our community buildings have already received grants and are looking pretty good as a result.

One of the main aims of the fund is to promote “green” and sustainable projects. With the renewed national and global emphasis on this, it would be great to get some innovative schemes going in our communities. Finding somebody to run them is the challenge!

I look forward to another year of investing in our communities.

Allison Bucknell

Chair of the BSPCBF