**Bradenstoke Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund.**

**Annual General Meeting**

**21st October 2020 – 6:00pm**

**Grants Review**

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide members with details of the grant activity of the fund during the period 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020

1. **Background**
   1. The fund provides grant in the parishes of Lyneham and Bradenstoke, Christian Malford, Hilmarton and Bremhill under the following criteria:

* Alleviating fuel poverty
* Developing community scale & micro renewable energy schemes
* Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
* Advancing efficiency in the use of natural resources
* Protecting or enhancing the natural environment
* Protecting or enhancing biodiversity
* Promoting environmental sustainability
* Other purpose in the interest of the community

2.2 Grants are awarded to charities and community organisations under a two-stage application process, Expression of Interest followed by a Full Application.

1. **Activity during 1st September 2019 to 31 August 2020**
   1. The table below shows details of the grant activity since the fund was set up within the above period highlighted in blue.
   2. 8 projects have been approved during the period. The full applications on two projects are still to be received.

3.3 During the year, Covid-19 has meant that many projects have been unable to progress. It became obvious to the committee that Village Halls and Community Spaces would struggle to pay their utility bills and insurances whilst their facilities were closed. It was decided that said facilities would be invited to apply for some financial relief and were offered £1,500 per facility. These facilities are listed below. 12 groups took advantage of this fund. This meant the fund spent £18,000. When you include the admin fee for Community First, this equated to £19,800.

1. **Recommendation**

4.1 Members are asked to note this report



