

Drone Hill Community Fund

Panel Meeting

6th November 2017, 7pm – 9.20 pm

Cockburnspath Village Hall

Minutes

Present:

Cockburnspath & Cove: Pauline Hood, Sarah Weigelt
Coldingham: Ethne Turnbull, Rhona Goldie, William Mykura
Grantshouse: None
Reston and Auchencrow: Logan Inglis

In attendance:

Tom Black (Foundation Scotland).

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Apologies: Barrie Forrest, Marion Donovan, Carol Pearman.

Ruth Donaldson (Reston & Auchencrow) had stood down.

The meeting was inquorate. However, it was agreed to continue the meeting as provisional out of respect to applicants who would be awaiting decisions on their grant applications, and that this minute and provisional decisions would thereafter be circulated to absent Panel Members for ratification or, failing that, for an alternative meeting date to be set.

2 Minutes of Last meeting and Matters Arising

Those present were content with the minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2017, with one amendment (typo).

There were no matters arising.

3 Fund Business

a. Panel membership & recruitment

There was a brief discussion relating to current quorum, which was considered to be too high by those members present. It was agreed that an alternative quorum should be considered at the next Panel meeting. **Action: Tom Black** to draft alternative.

Tom also suggested that, similar to other Panels the Foundation works with, there should be provision for the Panel to remove any member not attending for two or three meetings consecutively where apologies and good reason are not provided in advance. Those present agreed. **Action: Tom Black** to draft policy for consideration at next meeting.

The following Panel members had come to the end of their three year term:

Sarah Weigelt, Cockburnspath
Carol Pearman, Cockburnspath
Denise Crerar-Torr, Reston & Auchencrow

It was noted that these members may re-stand should they wish to do so. **Action: Tom Black** to send Panel recruitment text /posters to Pauline Hood and Logan Inglis. **Action: Logan Inglis and Pauline Hood** to circulate posters/ text via local noticeboards, websites, and newsletters.

It was considered that the most effective method of recruitment was to speak with individuals who may be interested. A closing date of end of January or the January meeting of the relevant community council was agreed.

b. Fund Statement

A balance of £54,162.33 was noted. This included an interim payment of £10,937.75 from Greencoat covering 30 September 2017 to 31 December 2017. Panel noted an improved situation compared with the balance in November the previous year of £99,736.39.

There was some discussion around Scottish Borders Council's process of developing Locality Plans and plans for disbursement of new Locality Funds.

c. Annual report / review

Those present were happy with the year 5 report from Foundation Scotland. Tom Black highlighted that Coldingham and Grantshouse had received a lower proportion of funds to-date than the other two areas.

Pauline Hood reported that a member of the local community involved in the award for a defibrillator (to Cocksburnpath Community First Responders) in the previous round, and on whose house the defibrillator cabinet was to be located, had been unhappy with the assessment call and had been asked to

change her title deeds to ensure permission for the siting of the cabinet in perpetuity. Tom Black stated he was certain the condition of grant was simply to provide a letter of agreement that the cabinet could be placed on the house. **Action: Tom Black** to investigate.

There was discussion around the Community Empowerment Act which had made it possible for community groups to take on under-used or un-used assets. However, Members noted challenges in progressing such projects including identifying owners, capacity of local groups, local authority processes/ timescales and difficulties in achieving consensus locally on the future use/ development of the assets in question.

d. Fund Promotion

It was agreed that publicity was required through pro-active press releases to the Berwickshire News and posters with 2018 application deadlines. **Action: Tom Black**

Also that Panel members and community councils would promote the fund via: newsletters, posters, websites, Facebook and other social media, as well as face-to-face. **Action: All Panel members.**

4 Grant-making

Declarations of interest

A457395 Reston Community Company Ltd: Logan Inglis.

a. Assessment reports and decisions

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount Proposed	Notes / further conditions / feedback
Reston Community Company	To purchase a flail mower.	£4,752.00	Members noted the price secured was very good; normally such machines cost in excess of £5,000.
Coldingham Primary School Parents & Friends Association	To purchase play equipment.	£1,080.00	Members noted costs had been reduced and that the SBC Community Service Personnel has provided an excellent service elsewhere. Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the overdue completion report for the 2015/16 fireworks grant (Ref. A367782) is submitted.
Borders Tae Kwon Do	To contribute to the cost of holding a party for the local community, including catering, hall rental, decorations, and entertainment.	£904.00	Members proposed an award at more than the amount requested in order to make the event accessible to all regardless of income / number of children. Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That entry is to be provided free of charge. The applicant can issue tickets should they be concerned about numbers in relation to catering.

The following applications received by Foundation Scotland were ineligible:

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Notes / feedback
Scottish Borders Greyhound Rehoming Centre	To purchase and install a new portacabin at the group's kennels.	No beneficiaries drawn from Fund's area of benefit; governance requirements not met (minimum of three unrelated committee/ board members).
Rotary Club of Eyemouth and District	To fund transportation of pupils from Reston, Ayton, Coldingham and	Project is toward statutory duties only (Curriculum for Excellence and primary/high school transition); benefits only pupils through activity delivered on school property and during school hours only.



	<p>Cockburnspath to Eyemouth High School and the purchase of JASS resources for each student as part of the group's "EyeLearn" project.</p>	
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b. Devolved grant-making

Pauline Hood asked whether the availability of the £10,000 per community for devolved (i.e. onward) grant making towards projects identified as local priorities would expire or carry forward to the next Fund year. Those present proposed it should carry forward to next year.

Both Cockburnspath and Coldingham Community Council were intending to apply for up to £10,000 in 2018. However there were some barriers to this including galvanising local activity, establishing ownership or agreement of owners for projects relating to land /buildings, and other complexities in planning and development for larger projects.

Logan Inglis asked whether underspend against the £10,000 devolved grant-making funds that Reston & Auchencrow CC had received could be ascribed to other projects as actual costs had varied from those planned. Panel proposed they could. Tom Black confirmed, but the Foundation required further information on any new projects to be funded so as to check these were charitable in nature. **Action: Logan Inglis.**

Micro-grants

- Grantshouse: £1,000 paid out in September
- Reston & Auchencrow: £1,000 paid out in July
- Cockburnspath & Cove: £500 paid in September 2016, completion report due prior to release of next instalment (£1,000).
- Coldingham: £500 paid in November 2016, completion report was submitted at the meeting. Next instalment (£1,000) to be paid out.

5. Any Other Competent Business

Tom raised that Foundation Scotland was now a sub-contractor to the CARES (Communities and Renewable Energy Scheme) programme. As follows:

“Foundation Scotland is now delivering some community engagement and community benefit aspects of the Scottish Government’s CARES (Communities and Renewable Energy Scheme) programme (2017 – 2020). On behalf of CARES we are responsible for updating and maintaining the online Community Benefits Register (<http://www.localenergyscotland.org/view-the-register>), developing a community benefit toolkit and case studies that will be available on the CARES website, and providing support to the CARES Enablement Grants scheme. We welcome the opportunity to contribute our expertise into CARES and identify and share more widely good practice in relation to community benefit and aspects of community engagement relevant to renewable energy projects. I may be in touch with some of you in due course regarding input to the CB register from a community

perspective. We will of course continue with the administration and support we already provide directly to community benefit funds across Scotland, including of course administration of Greencoat Drone Hill Community Fund.”

Pauline Hood flagged that the agreements that communities had with RES and Borders Housing Association would make good templates to share with others. **Action: Pauline Hood** to provide copies to Tom Black.

6. Date of 2018 Meetings

Proposed as follows:

Application deadline	Panel meeting
Friday 16 th March	Monday 7 th May (Reston)
Friday 14 th September	Monday 12 th November (Grantshouse)

Action: Reston & Auchencrow Panel members to book venue for 7th May at 7pm.