

## Minutes

# Gargunnock Trust

## Gargunnock Windfarm Fund Panel

16<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 7.30pm, Gargunnock Community Centre

### Present:

Interim Chair - Geoff Peart

Panel Members - Julie Cole, Kirsty Baird, Mark Evans, Stuart Ogg, Kimberley Hay, Charles Fitches

Administrator - Carol MacGregor

### Invited Applicants in attendance

Douglas Johnston – Gargunnock Trust

Kimberley Hay – Gargunnock Playgroup & Toddlers

Tracy and Archie Peddie – Parent Council Association

Andrew James and Kevin Brodie – Gargunnock After School Club

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## 1. Introduction

Interim Chair, Geoff Peart welcomed Panel members and the invited applicants and thanked them for the applications. It was explained that the procedure would be for each applicant to make a short presentation, followed by questions from the Panel, after which applicants would withdraw. Applicants would be asked to wait in an adjoining room and be called in when required.

## 2. Apologies

None

## 3. Overview

The Interim Chair reminded the Panel that they should consider the submitted applications fairly and impartially against the agreed Fund Guidelines and that there were a number of decision options open to them. These were to:

- [a] support the application in full
- [b] reject the application
- [c] approve part of the funding
- [d] approve funding subject to certain conditions
- [e] continue the application for further information

The Chair pointed out that the applications before the Panel for consideration if approved in full would commit £26,922 which would represent 59% of the available funds for the present financial year.

## 4. Submitted Applications

### **Reference: GWF 1/17.... Outdoor Learning Zone – seeking funding of £19,000**

This was submitted by the Primary School Parent Council Association and Tracy and Archie Peddie spoke to the application. They indicated that the application was at an early stage and they had only been working on it for 3 weeks, consequently costs and designs were preliminary. The facility

would directly benefit primary pupils and groups such as Brownies, Playgroup etc., providing a multi-use outdoor classroom for learning, play, storage and shelter. There had already been a considerable amount of consultation and pupils themselves were actively involved in the design process. £1000 had been raised and a number of other sources were being pursued. It was hoped to make a start during the Easter Holidays 2018. In response to Panel questions it was stated that any contribution from the school itself would mean less for other education needs. It was not envisaged that any services [water/electricity] would be provided in the unit. Furthermore, the School would own the structure and be responsible for ongoing maintenance and insurance.

At this point the applicants left the room. Mark Evans declared an interest and also left the room.

The Panel felt that this was a great legacy project which would be of benefit to large numbers of pupils over time and had a good level of community support. It was considered that more work needed to be done on the design, location and costs but that in principle the application should be supported.

**Recommendations:**

- [1] That a commitment of £10,000 be allocated to the project
- [2] £1,000 to be made available immediately for professional assistance with design etc. The balance payable when the conditions have been met.
- [3] That the letter awarding the grant should state that it is private funding and can be used for match funding purposes for other applications
- [4] That the applicant report on progress at the next meeting of the Panel in January 2018. This should include:
  - (a) A Project Plan including timescale, milestones, and spend profile for the project and anticipated drawdown of funds from the Windfarm fund
  - (b) What statutory consents are required or have been obtained (Planning, Building Control Etc.)
  - (c) Progress on match funding applications and amounts.
  - (d) Clarification of final ownership of the facility

**Reference: GWF 2/17...The Glebe Land Geotechnical Study - seeking funding of £1375**

Submitted by the Community Trust. Douglas Johnston spoke to the application. Following a community survey a number of potential uses had been suggested for the Glebe. It was known that there were potential problems with the land and the Trust had decided that it would be prudent to commission a desk-based geotechnical survey to see what uses might be possible. Three tenders for the work had been obtained and funding was sought for the lowest. There were questions regarding the desirability of a desk-based approach as against a full survey with boreholes etc. The Trust felt that the latter approach might alarm residents and suggest that some form of building would be going ahead. It was acknowledged that further work may be necessary. At this point Douglas Johnston left the meeting. Geoff Peart and Stuart Ogg declared an interest and left the meeting.

**Recommendations:**

- [1] That the full funding of £1375 be approved.
- [2] A request for further funding from the Trust for a more detailed survey should be accompanied by a statement which sets out the programme of community consultation envisaged prior to commissioning.

**Reference: GWF 3/17....Community Centre Sinking Fund - seeking funding of £3000 per year over 5 years**

Submitted by the Community Trust. Douglas Johnston [DJ] spoke to the application. The Community Centre [CC] is a major asset for all village residents and should be properly maintained. A Sinking Fund would build up a reserve to deal with maintenance issues and is recommended by OSCR and the Trust's External Examiner. A 30 year Business Plan projection suggests a £90,000 deficit which would equate to £3000 per year. Responding to questions, DJ indicated that the alternative of not using the wind farm funds would result in putting up the charges to all the groups who use the CC by 15-20%. Douglas Johnston, Geoff Peart and Stuart Ogg remained absent from the room for the decision-making discussion.

**Recommendations:**

- [1] That funding of £3000 per year be approved for a period of 3 years
- [2] The Trust should examine the possibility of specific fund-raising events for sinking fund monies
- [3] The Panel will review progress after the initial 3 year period.

**Reference: GWF 4/17....After School Club Revenue Support – funding of £1500 sought**

Submitted by Gargunnock After School Club [GASC]. Andrew James and Kevin Brodie spoke to the application. The Club is used by 27 families in the village and provides a safe environment for Primary pupils at the end of the school day. The GASC provision [together with the Breakfast Club] enables parents in the village to go back to work, estimated at providing £120k in earnings to parents within the village per year. Parents pay fees for the children but this does not cover core costs and the GASC view is that an increase in fees at present would create hardship for lower income families in the village. GASC aim to raise £2500 this year and would envisage gradually increasing fees over the next few years. The Panel considered that this was an important service for families in the village and that temporary support could be justified given current cost pressures.

**Recommendations:**

- [1] That funding of £1500 be approved
- [2] That no commitment to multi-annual revenue support could be given

**Reference: GWF 5/17....Playgroup & Toddler Group Revenue Support – funding of £1046.65 sought**

Submitted by Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers. Kimberley Hay [KH] spoke to the application. This is the only early years service in the village providing an environment for learning and play for children and mutual support for parents. It runs during the school term on Mondays and Thursdays. There are relatively small numbers of children benefiting at present [6 ] but these will increase in the New Year by 5 or 6 . The employment of a new Playgroup Leader and reduced fees due to smaller numbers have created a cash flow problem. In response to questions, KH indicated that the provision of a government supported pre-school facility was not viable at this point in time. KH declared an interest and left the meeting. The Panel considered that this was an important service for families in the village and that temporary support could be justified given current cost pressures.

**Recommendations:**

- [1] That funding of £1046.65 be approved
- [2] That no commitment to multi-annual revenue support could be given

**Reference: GWF 6/17....Book Club – funding of £500 sought**

Submitted by the Primary School Parent Council. The application was for funds to establish a Book Club in the Primary School which would provide specialist books for pupils with some additional support needs such as dyslexia. There were no School Funds available for these additional specialist books. Mark Evans was not present for the Panel discussion. The Panel agreed that this was worthy of support.

**Recommendations:**

- [1] That funding of £500 be approved
- [2] That copies of receipts for the book expenditure be submitted to the Fund Administrator.

**Reference: GWF 7/17....Breakfast Club Revenue Support – funding of £500 sought**

Submitted by the Primary School Parent Council. The Breakfast Club provides meals for around 40 pupils per week and runs from 8.15am to 9.00pm during term time. Meal costs [£2.30 per pupil] do not cover kitchen staff expenditure. Without support the service would have to close. Mark Evans was not present for the Panel discussion. The Panel considered that this was an important service for families in the village and that temporary support could be justified given current cost pressures.

**Recommendations:**

- [1] That funding of £500 be approved
- [2] That no commitment to multi-annual revenue support could be given

**5. Any Other Business**

Next round of applications to be invited prior to the next meeting in January.

**6. Date of next meeting**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre