

Windfarm Panel

Minutes of Meeting of 7th June 2021

Location - Meeting held by Zoom

1 In Attendance

Trust representatives	Jill Patrick, David King
Community Council representative	Jon Sutherland, Douglas Barr
Community representatives	Alison Younger, Chloe Bruce, Jackie Campbell, Fiona McCartney,
Clerk	Helen Hyland

1.1 Apologies

Mike Fitches, Ewan Hunter

2 Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved. David King sought clarification of his undertaking to investigate the possible availability of further community benefit funds through recent solar panel planning applications. He undertook to raise this at the next Trust meeting. Action DK

3 Declarations of Interest

Application Number 65.GWF 11-21 Callander YFC T-O-W Boots
Interest No conflict of interest

Application Number 66.GWF 12-21 GCT Footpath Renovation Consultation
The following interests were declared and concerned Panel Members left the meeting before the application was discussed.

David King - Chairman of the Community Trust

Jill Patrick - Community Trust

Douglas Barr – volunteer with footpaths group

4 Current Balance of Funds available

Bank Balance	£27,107.93
Grants committed but not yet paid (fund)	£20,631.00 (including CC Sinking fund)
VAT due to be repaid	<u>Nil</u>
Available Resources	£6,476.93

DJ asks the Panel to note that the next tranche of funding (£25,000) will be paid before the next meeting and suggests that since £10,000 of the committed expenditure is not due to be spent until after 2022, the available resources can be more safely expressed as **£16,476.93**

5 Applications

Application 65.GWF 11-21 Callander YFC T-O-W Boots £240

This is an application for funds to purchase three pairs of Tug Of War Boots. Eilidh Graham, Secretary of Callander YFC, told the Panel that the Club do not have enough pairs of boots as, following recent recruitment, it was hoping to field one men's team and two ladies' teams in competitions at shows this summer. The club hope to buy a further two pairs from club funds.

In discussion, Eilidh confirmed Callander Young Farmers were the local branch covering Gargunnoch and they had current members from the area. Questioned about current financial position, she advised that the club's funds had suffered because of the covid situation, as much of their income would generally come from social events – to which end an application was presently being considered by Fintry Windfarm Panel to help subsidise membership subscriptions.

Recommendation **The application was approved in full - £240.**

Application 66.GWF 12-21 GCT Hill Footpath Renovation Consultation £1,200

Gavin Fleming from the Footpaths Group of the Gargunnoch Community Trust advised that this application had been promoted by recently increased pressures on hill footpaths and difficulties in reconciling the needs of farmers and walkers. The application is for funds for the employment of expert advice on improvements which could be made.

Gavin advised that he had sought estimates from five possible firms of consultants and that he was satisfied with his preferred choice on grounds of both experience and cost. Panel members sought, and received, reassurance about how the resulting Report would be used. Landowners and the community would be consulted on the potential improvements prior to the final design brief which could then be used to form the basis of a tender for works and future fundraising to implement.

Recommendation – **The application was approved in full- £1200.**

The panel noted that this application had come forward at this time due to recent pressures on the hill access paths. It was hoped that the Trust would again incorporate these proposals into a longer-term Strategic path Plan for the whole area so that external funding could be levered. It also asked that the Trust to clarify whether the proposal for Under the Craigs footpath signage (59 – GWF 5-21) was still to go ahead or if it would be deferred pending the outcome of this Report.

6 Monitoring / feedback

Most grant applications acceptances had been received. Helen Hyland reported that Playgroup's most recent acceptance would be recorded in the Grant Tracker shortly.

Action HH

7 AOCB

Retirals - Panel Member replacement

Ewan Hunter has intimated that, due to changed circumstances, he is no longer able to be part of the Windfarm Panel. Alison Younger advised that the Trust had received another applicant when vacancies were last advertised, so she would revert back to that applicant to see if he was still interested in joining.

Alison also thanked Chloe Bruce for her contribution and canvassed Panel Members' views on how a replacement for a youth representative might be sourced. An advert will be placed in the next Gargunock Bugle and circulated on village facebook page.

Dropbox

Helen Hyland had been tasked with investigating alternative free file sharing arrangements because of Panel Members' difficulties. She reported that Dropbox was still amongst the most highly rated and recommended that no change be made at the present. She reported that the Community Trust Dropbox account is currently using 1.49 GB of its 2GB entitlement, however much of this is filled with contribution to past issues of The Bugle that might be removed to free up more space as needed. The Windfarm area only accounted for 419 MB of space. On the subject of members' individual Dropbox accounts filling up, she pointed them to the 'Shared' files section and recommended that they check their respective accounts for redundant files that might be deleted to free up more space.

Future Admin Arrangements

Alison Younger intimated that Helen Hyland was to be standing down from her role as Trust Administrator and thanked her for her contribution to Windfarm Panel meetings. David King advised that the vacancy would be advertised in the next issue of The Bugle and suggested that the Trust was open to splitting the role if appropriate. He also advised that the Trust was giving consideration to co-ordination of dates to ensure that future clashes of workload (Bugle v Windfarm) and of meetings (Windfarm v Community Council) could be avoided.

Action DK

8. Date of next meeting Monday 27 September 2021

This is a revised date from that previously published.