

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 3rd July 2013

Ellingham Village Hall

Present	Gustav MacLeod, Heather Cairns, Robert Stuart, George Unwin, Ruth Machen, Alan Creedy (Ethical Partnerships)
Apologies for Absence	Christopher Watson
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of June meeting (previously circulated) were approved and signed.
Green Energy initiative - Strategic Plan	<p>AC reported to Trustees that Ethical Partnerships had acted on instruction to take forward priority schemes. He passed on copies of applications to the National Grid for power connections along with technical submission made with each. Costs for these connections not yet received back therefore final costs for various projects cannot yet be given. Work on hydro scheme also pursued – information received on what work would be needed to get approval and costings; full detailed site appraisal carried out for biomass scheme including size of station, costs and returns.</p> <p>AC further reported on meeting that he and GM had with Louis Fell (Messrs Geo F White/Ellingham Estate), at which LF noted that the Estate would not support applications for the three smaller wind turbines around the parish (at Ellingham School and Brownieside) but would probably be interested in entering into partnership with the Trust to erect one large wind turbine just this side of Wandylaw. This would give a higher return than any of the other projects so far considered by the Trust but Trustees but might be contentious.</p> <p>Ellingham Estate would also most likely support solar panels erected on field.</p> <p>AC then talked through funding options, providing a table with different grants/loans which may be available. He noted that availability of loans, grants and expected rates are all subject to frequent change – eg a “community energy” project likely to be subject to increase in pay-in tariffs later in the year and also a possible doubling of the money available to individual households for renewable heat project. He strongly recommended applying to the Rural Community Energy Fund and passed copies of T&Cs and application forms to GM.</p> <p>With regard to borrowing, the Community Trust can only access certain loans – generally unsecured, over shorter repayment period and at higher interest rate than initially anticipated. The PURE Community Energy Fund would support the Trust but to make a successful application project needs to be almost ready to go, and only a proportion (35-65%) of the required funds would be offered.</p> <p>Further noted that Barclays will lend to landowners undertaking renewable projects at very low rate of 2.5% over 2 years, securing the loan on the land – Ellingham Estate could do this and therefore make much greater returns on energy than the Trust can. Suggested that it is worth keeping channels of negotiation open with Ellingham Estate as it is in a better position in terms of borrowing but cannot access the grants that the Community Trust can.</p> <p>In conclusion, Ethical Partnerships cannot go further with any of the work</p>

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without going into next level of negotiations; Trust needs to make applications for funding/grants on a project-by-project basis; parishioners now need to be informed of proposals via public meeting at which 5 prospective schemes, without costs, will be outlined and support sought from community. Trust to meet to discuss the content of this meeting.

GM thanked AC for completing work to this stage and for attending meeting – will inform of date of public meeting so that AC can also attend.

Matters Arising	Report on feasibility of buying timber/producing logs – carried forward to next meeting. Action: GM/CW
Applications received/ response to Brownieside	<p><u>Response to Brownieside</u> – Following GM's response to Mr A Stockwell on behalf of Community Trust, Mr Stockwell had replied requesting that Trust gave further consideration to funding total cost of project. After considerable discussion it was established that not all residents were aware of the original application, and not all residents were prepared to contribute to the cost of having the road improved. It was also noted that ownership of land, which at one time belonged to AR Bell Plant Hire, was still in question. Trustees agreed that it was not unreasonable to request a financial contribution from residents towards this project which is relatively costly and which would benefit them and increase the value of their properties. Decision: stand by decision made at June meeting. Action: GM inform Mr Stockwell</p> <p><u>New Application</u> received from Mrs S Pringle for training costs in respect of a cookery course. GM had scored the application against the original criteria agreed by Trustees and found it scored quite high on the scale. Trustees agreed that the application if funded would facilitate personal development/training for the applicant, although concern was expressed that listed costs were not precise. Decision: costs of training as detailed on application form to be met, along with a contribution towards fuel costs (rather than the recommended HMRC rate which covers maintenance, wear and tear etc) and a condition attached requiring repayment of a percentage of the funding should the course not be completed. Action: GM</p>
Treasurer's Report	Payment from Blue Energy still awaited.
Website	Zip file with minutes forwarded, will be added to website when CW returns from holiday. Action: CW
Broadband update / Satellite provision	Information sent to GM from Parish Council Clerk. For individuals the cost is fairly high but GM to enquire what cost would be for a package for the parish. Action: GM
Next meeting	Thursday 11 th July (to discuss public meeting); Wednesday 7 th August – both at 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall
Minutes prepared by	Elsbeth Gilliland

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