

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 10th May 2013

Ellingham Village Hall

Present Gustav MacLeod, Heather Cairns, Robert Stuart, George Unwin,
Christopher Watson, Ruth Machen
Allen Creedy (Ethical Partnerships)

Feasibility Study Discussion Feasibility study had been emailed to Trustees prior to meeting. AC gave synopsis of the study:

There are not as many opportunities and there are more restrictions than initially anticipated due to small demand for power, infrastructure, relatively few players.

Any agreement to partner with a landlord or farmer must be very simple – anything involving Ellingham Estate or Northumberland Estate is likely to be complex and should therefore probably be the second tier of projects. For example farmers' tenancies are renewed annually therefore to make any long term plan it will have to be underwritten by the Estate.

Private landowners can make quicker decisions and should be considered in first tier of possible projects.

With the aim of making as much money as possible Trustees should look at who can buy electricity generated rather than exporting to the grid. (Current figures – 4.6p/kw for selling to grid, whereas could sell for 10-12p/kw to users in the parish. NB rates are set and change annually but once agreement made they remain constant for 20 years and are index linked). There are not many places with big power demands – limited to Ellingham Hall, Ellingham School and – possibly in the future – the Church if it is developed into a community facility.

Northern Power Grids have confirmed that there are two outdated and fragile power lines into the parish with a capacity of up to 100kw. Once the 100kw has been reached any further access to the grid will be denied. Costs for connecting to the grid would depend on what was being connected, where and whether going through an existing meter. Ideally any new project should work within the 100kw available and should be done sooner rather than later.

[Discussions centred on connections to the grid and costs which would depend on what was being connected, where and whether going through an existing meter.]

At present there are no costs available for connection – once Trust has identified priority projects EP will go to NPG and request quotation then costs/benefits of each scheme can be assessed.

Community Trust should therefore work up a priority list of 10-12 projects from the feasibility study, balanced between power and heat projects, so that they are not all limited by the 100kw available.

Wind power most reliable, consistent across parish and cheapest way to generate energy. Several possible sites for small/medium wind turbines. Photovoltaics, hydro, small scale biomass and solar may also be considered.

Main sites for consideration are (a) school (b) Andrew Frater's land at Tynley and at Brownieside (c) Pip Robson (d) Ellingham Hall (e) Brockdam (f) Church/Glebe land (g) Preston. Note – some of these landowners/estates may choose to do work themselves.

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Also outside the parish Lucker caravan site may be considered – this however is Northumberland Estate land which looks to receive a minimum 15% return on any investment.

School project - possible 25kw wind turbine and biomass heat system. Should this be identified as a priority project, engagement with school governors, NCC, Ellingham Estate and Church required if this is to be taken further.

Louis Fell (Ellingham Estate) has expressed an interest in discussing projects further with the Community Trust – meeting to be set up with Trustees and LF.

Decision: Trustees to meet and discuss all the options – **Friday 17th May, 7pm**, at GM's house. Trustees also to contact Blue Energy with a view to seeking support to connect to their connector.

Approval of Minutes	Minutes (previously circulated) were approved and signed.
Matters Arising	'Letter of Engagement' with Ethical Partnerships now signed.
Treasurer's Report	Bank balances: current account £15,428.67; deposit account: £20,007.67. Payment of £200 to Ellingham PCC in respect of Parish Magazine made 2.5.13; £600 paid to Ethical Partnership 2.4.13.
Website profiles and photos	"Who we are" page – GM to forward photos to RM. RM to check text sent to her and forward to CW. Action: CW, GU, RM
Applications received	(RS declared interest). Angus Stockwell has submitted application on behalf of residents at Brownieside for access improvements to Brownieside. Trustees will consider at June meeting. A Griggs had approached GU regarding footpath maintenance – D Griggs has contacted P Bradley (NCC Footpaths Officer) to clarify who is responsible for various aspects of footpath maintenance before proceeding with application.
Broadband update	70% sign up in parish – excellent. Information received from J Cooper (NCC) indicates that superfast broadband will be rolled out across approx 91% of county, commencing 2014.
Dates of Next Meeting	Wednesday 12 th June 2013, Ellingham Village Hall
Minutes prepared by	Elsbeth Gilliland