

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Community Benefit Fund Committee

A committee which reports to, and is overseen by,
Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council (BCPC).

Date of meeting: Thursday 24th May, 2018 at 7.30 pm
in Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall Committee Room.

Present: Parish Councillors - Nigel Manners, Bill Pennington, John Rennie, Kate Rowlands, Mike Welch. Parishioners - Paul Clarke, Phil Drummond, Chris Reed, Andy Smith.

Apologies: Parishioners - Geoff Pitt, Catherine Smale.

Election of Officers: Chair: Nigel Manners. Secretary: Paul Clarke (Both unanimous).

Remit

The remit of the committee was discussed and the following clauses proposed:

1. To promote the existence of the Community Benefit Fund to parishioners in Bradford & Cookbury Parish and the northern fringe of Ashwater Parish adjacent to Dunsland Cross Wind Farm (parish boundaries being as defined in May 2018).
2. To formulate and adopt, with ongoing revisions as necessary, criteria to be used for the identification of projects which can be supported by the fund.
3. To consider applications for project support payments from interested parties.
4. To recommend to Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council which applications should receive grants and which should be refused, with supporting reasons for each.
5. To produce interim and annual reports for the Chair of BCPC to send to TREF No.1 Ltd, the owners and operators of the Dunsland Cross Wind Farm, the source of the community benefit funding.

The Purpose of the Community Benefit Fund

The purpose of the fund is to support community groups and not-for-profit organisations in our area to assist rural regeneration and the sustainability of our community.

Criteria for Award of Grants to Qualifying Projects

Mindful of the 2014 DECC document "Community Benefits from Onshore Wind Developments: Best Practice Guidance for England" and taking a lead from two established funding committees in north Devon (Batsworthy Cross, a £90,000 per annum fund and Fullabrook, a £100,000 per annum fund which was kick-started with £1 million in its first year), the committee set out to establish its own criteria for supporting local projects. The following were proposed:

The fund will support projects that:

- Improve digital and mobile connectivity in the local area
- Provide, maintain or improve community buildings
- Provide support for locally-based transport schemes
- Increase access to activities or services for the local community
- Encourage skills, employment and improve rural business opportunities and social enterprise
- Offer sport, recreation and improved health and wellbeing

Examples of such projects are:

- Community transport schemes
- Services that would otherwise not be able to continue in our rural area
- Community projects such as: Memory cafés, luncheon clubs, sports clubs, befriending schemes
- Capital projects (community building projects, feasibility studies)
- Activities that develop life skills and experiences, e.g. money advice, cooking
- Start-up costs for new groups
- Work preparation or training
- Projects that bring people of all ages and ethnicities together
- Community events
- Extra-curricular school activities
- Community food and farming projects

Exclusions:

- Previously-funded projects which have run over-budget
- Large projects where a small grant would make little or no difference

The following cannot be funded:

- Organisations which are regional or national charities (unless locally led and run in our area)
- Organisations which have substantial unrestricted funds
- Grant-making organisations
- Organisations which are run for the personal profit of an adult or which are commercial
- Projects which require retrospective funding (activities which have already taken place or repayment of money which has already been spent or committed)
- Projects promoting political or religious beliefs
- Overseas travel
- Fundraising events
- Projects which replace statutory responsibilities (e.g. school curriculum activities, road repairs etc.)
- Ongoing core costs of projects (e.g. running costs or staff salaries)

General:

Applicants for funding are expected to have a constitution (a governing document or set of rules) and a bank account in the name of the organisation. The only exception to this will be for very small grants given as seed funding to help new groups and projects get started.

Grants should generally be regarded as one-off payments and there should be no expectation of repeat funding.

Only rarely will 100% of any project's costs be offered. It will depend on the level of funding requested. It is expected that applicants will also make a contribution to the costs of the project, either from their own reserves, by fundraising or by using other grants from other sources. Match-funding might be required for larger, more expensive projects.

It was agreed that the secretary would produce an example of an application form (with guidance included) for use by individuals, groups and organisations seeking funding. In addition, a specimen poster for local noticeboards, drawing attention to the existence of the fund, would be circulated to committee members by email at least 3 days before the next meeting, so that all relevant paperwork, including all proposed statements contained in these minutes, can be amended or approved at that meeting. An agenda for the meeting will be included. After the meeting a progress report will be sent to the BCPC clerk in time for the next full parish council meeting.

Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 11th June, 2018, at 7.30 pm in Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall Committee Room.