**Minutes**

**Gargunnock Trust**

**Gargunnock Windfarm Fund Panel**

**1st October 2018, 7.30pm, Gargunnock Community Centre**

**Present:**

Interim Chair - Geoff Peart

Panel Members – Mark Evans, Stuart Ogg, Kimberley Hay, Charles Fitches

Administrator - Carol MacGregor

Applications on the agenda

**Continued Applications:**

GWF 6/18: Forth Valley Orienteers

GWF 1/17: Outdoor Learning Zone Update

GWF 5/18: Footbridge Maintenance Supplementary Estimate

**New Applications:**

GWF 9/18: WIDA Worlds – Jackie Campbell - £500

GWF 10/18: Glebe Land Improvements – Jeremy Wilkinson - £10,266

GWF 11/18: Wind Farm Administration Costs – Douglas Johnston - £1,290

Invited attendees

Jackie Campbell – WIDA Worlds

Jeremy Wilkinson – Glebe Land Improvements

Douglas Johnston – Wind Farm Administration

1. **Apologies**

Kirsty Baird, Julie Cole

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Orienteering map, sound system applications and OLZ update referred to – this is reported in continued applications.

**Continued Applications**

GWF 6/18: Forth Valley Orienteers

Jason Inman was invited to attend the meeting, but no communication was received from him. However, since the meeting was held, an email from Jon Cross who resides at Meiklewood Cottage and is a member of the Orienteers was received and he is continuing with the application and will attend the next meeting in February 2019.

**Recommendation**

Defer the application to the meeting on 4th February 2019.

GWF 1/17: Outdoor Learning Zone Update

Final works including placing the prefabricated in place is timetabled for the October school break as Stirling Council would not allow this to happen during term time. A panel member queried how the wind farm panel would approach applications in the future which potentially run over budget as this could be viewed as diluting the value for money assessment of the wind farm grant.

GWF 5/18: Footbridge Maintenance Supplementary Estimate

The applicant has indicated that the cost is now £500 due to the need for extra materials. In this instance, the extra funds can be allocated retrospectively as Panel approval was given prior to the project commencing.

**Recommendation**

The panel approve the grant increase up to a maximum of £500.

1. **New Applications**

GWF 9/18: WIDA Worlds

[Mark Evans declared an interest]

6 local girls are taking part in the World Irish Dance competition in Eindhoven next year with British Championships in London this year. £650 has already been raised by the group (14 girls in total, 6 from the village). Other fundraising, they are carrying out include: a Christmas Show raffle, possibly a bag pack at Morrisons and a Central Scotland Feis which has been organised for April next year. Girls are aged 12-14. The applicant is looking for a maximum contribution of £500 towards the cost of the costumes and additional lessons.

**Recommendation**

The panel approve the application for the full amount of £500.

GWF 10/18: Glebe Land Improvements

[Geoff Peart and Stuart Ogg declared an interest]

The Community Trust is looking for a grant of £10, 266 to upgrade the Glebe Land area. The proposal is based on the preferences of those villagers who responded to a survey year which last year indicated that the preferred uses were: 45% garden/woodland, 36% recreation and 19% housing.

The project proposes a woodland area split into 4 project areas, including one which could be made available to the Primary School to plant wild flowers. Volunteer help will be sought to do the works. Trees are being donated free of charge by the Woodland Trust. The grant requested would be for furniture and materials which account for 55% of the total cost of the project [the remainder is the cost of volunteer labour]. The applicant hoped that final costs may be lower if further discounts and donations are secured and VAT reclaimed. This will improve a well-used open space while maintaining the natural habitat of the area. The Panel commended the thoroughness of the application.

The applicant considered that the park area, once completed, would not require any maintenance. The plan is to leave it as a natural area. Also, it would not stop a larger project from taking place for the land in the future should the community wish this.

Concern raised over how large the trees may grow and the applicant indicated that this has been taken into consideration and the trees would be planted away from the houses. A further query was whether the expenditure on tree supports etc. was justifiable as one Panel member felt in effect the project was enhancing an existing woodland area. The Panel also considered the fact that there were other areas in the village requiring improvement such as The Beeches and the Memorial Garden.

In relation to the project timescale – the commitment to the Woodland Trust meant the project’s trees (saplings) would be provided at the end of November.

**Recommendation**

The Panel recommended approval of the full amount, subject to resident concerns being considered and cost reductions being pursued wherever possible.

GWF 11/18: Wind Farm Administration Costs

[Geoff Peart and Stuart Ogg declared an interest]

The application is for wind farm administration costs for an 18-month period. The analysis of timesheets indicated that the annual cost is £920. The Panel awarded a grant of £550 for the first 6 months of the Fund so the application is for a further £370 for year one and £920 forthe current year, giving £1,290 in total. The agreement with Foundation Scotland and Falck indicates that annual costs of between 2.5% and 5% can be legitimately claimed. The applicant indicated that the grant application was for just over 4%.

There was a query whether Foundation Scotland can be asked to do the administration, and this be paid for by FALCK.

The panel concluded that it was not helpful to have this application coming before the Panel on a regular basis as it proved divisive. In future the Trust should top slice the 4% off the annual grant total.

Recommendations

 [1] Approval of the sum requested. [2] Chair to contact Foundation Scotland to ascertain whether a free service would be available [3] In the event that [2] is not available – the Trust to top slice 4% from the annual grant ward subject to review after 3 years.

1. **Other Business**

[1] It was agreed that the geotechnical survey of the Glebe land should be made available on the village website.

[2 The need to ensure Monitoring Forms are completed timeously was stressed. Several are still outstanding, and the Administrator was authorised to pursue applicants for these.

[3] Concerns were expressed that more applications were not forthcoming, especially from groups that have so far not expressed any interest. It was agreed to advertise the fact that £22K funds are currently available for local applications.

[4] Concerns were expressed that the Panel meeting was just quorate. This raised 2 issues. First there was a need to fill the vacant panel member position, but it was pointed out that now was not a good time and February/Easter would be better. Second, the need for 5 Panel members for the meeting to be quorate was considered onerous and this needs to be amended in the MoU. Finally, it was also pointed out that there is a need to plan for the retirement of members in a year’s time and a retirement of no more than a third at any one time needs to be agreed.

1. **Election of Chair**

Current chair needs to stand down as per the initial agreement, so a new rotating chair is required who is not a Trust member. There were no volunteers at the meeting, although the suggestion was that the next chair should come from the Community Council. Current chair will carry on in the interim but seek to get the agreement of a Community Council nominee before February.

1. **Date of next meeting**

Proposed Dates for 2019 Meetings – 4th February 2019, 1st April 2019. 3rd June 2019, 7th October 2019 were provisionally agreed.