

Hill of Fiddes Community Fund AGM–17th August 2021

The meeting was called to order by Susan Watt at 1900 hrs via Microsoft Teams meeting. This meeting was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore a face to face meeting was not possible.



PRESENT:

Susan Watt (Chair), Nicola Strachan (Secretary), Adrian Tuckwell, Eric Buchan, Calum Davidson, Willie Grant, Janet Jones, Colin Duncan

APOLOGIES: Laura MacArthur, Judith McKenzie, Jon Priddy (Ventiont)

MINUTES OF 12th May 2021:

Review previous meeting minutes – Agreed as correct.

MATTERS ARISING:

Susan Watt Welcomed everyone to the meeting. In particular, she welcomed Colin Duncan, Secretary of Udney Community Council who will be attending following George Bruce's retirement from the committee. Susan Watt thanked George for his commitment to the group and it was agreed that HOFC would email George, thanking him for his contribution over the years to the committee.

Action: Susan Watt to send an email to George Bruce

Update on Foveran Hall Application – N Strachan updated the committee re the application from Foveran Hall. The hall committee are in the process of obtaining a second quote as required. Provided this confirms their need for £2500 of funding from the Hill of Fiddes it was agreed to support this (unanimous).

VENTIENT ENERGY UPDATE

He has been in communication via email with the Secretary. Jon was unable to attend this meeting however he wanted to thank the committee for their efforts in distributing the funding requests so efficiently. Ventiont Energy now require updates on the projects provided to be submitted every 3/6 months. This should include feedback from the relevant groups and any photos so all committee members should promote this. No further update was available. Nicky Strachan was thanked for undertaking this.

APPLICATIONS:

Susan Watt highlighted to the committee the need to ensure that all declarations of interest are declared prior to any bid being discussed.

No formal applications were received for this meeting, possibly as a result of the proximity of the meeting to the school holidays. A bid had been received from Ellon Wheel Park for £2685 as a contribution towards a Wheel Park Feasibility Study in Ellon. This bid was withdrawn prior to the meeting however it was discussed in principle. It was decided that the concept of creating a wheel park in Ellon is a good project however as the funding requested is for a feasibility study and not a capital project, then this type of application could not be approved. This is in accordance with the requirements of clause 1.2 of the constitution and the guidance document that defines capital expenditure as *Buildings, equipment, furnishings, signs, picnic tables*. It was agreed that the group should be encouraged to attend to discuss funding opportunities when they had obtained planning permission for their project.

Action: N Strachan to contact Ellon Wheel Park to discuss funding opportunities once planning permission obtained.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT (S Watt)

Susan Watt thanked everyone for attending via Teams and for their efforts in supporting the committee during the past year.

Susan Watt provided an update of her and Nicky Strachan's attendance at Foveran Community Council meeting on 23rd June 2021. During this meeting an update was provided on the fund and the criteria for approval of applications. Foveran Community Council agreed that Hill of Fiddes Community Fund complied with their constitution as published.

TREASURERS REPORT and Adoption of Accounts:

Susan Watt presented the audited accounts to the committee (attached). The committee was urged to encourage community groups that they were aware of or in contact with to apply for funding.

The accounts have been audited by L McKenzie and have been approved as accurate. No questions were raised, and the accounts were adopted. Mrs McKenzie is happy to be the Independent Financial Examiner for the next financial year.

Willie Grant asked how the funding amounts were arrived at as the amount seemed to be down on previous payments. Adrian Tuckwell agreed to retrieve his old paperwork to identify the formula, which was index linked, to determine funding

Action: Susan Watt to contact Jon Priddy to confirm payments calculation.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All existing committee members agreed to remain on the committee and this was unanimously approved.

The following roles were agreed:

Chairperson: Susan Watt

Treasurer: Calum Davidson

Secretary: Nicky Strachan

AOCB

Susan Watt lead a discussion on the proposal to increase the lower funding level above £500. This was thoroughly discussed and as this amount is in line with other similar funds it was agreed to continue with the current limits. It was highlighted that matched funding does not need to be 50% of the amount applied for and that numerous applications are welcomed from each group so this should not be a significant restriction to provision of funds to local groups.

Susan Watt discussed rescheduling the AGM to May to coincide with AGM dates for the community councils. It was agreed that this would be problematic with the Independent Auditor as this was very close to the end of the financial year and accounts may not be prepared in time. The AGM date in August is to remain however the dates will be reviewed and if possible held after the school holidays to allow groups sufficient time to submit applications.

Susan Watt raised the temporary introduction of a tighter timescale between the submission date and HOFS meeting. It was agreed to increase the timescale between the two dates to allow sufficient correspondence required.

MEETING CLOSE

All members of the committee were to encourage local groups to apply for funding for projects based within the community or that provide facilities that benefit members of the community.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 1900 hrs via Teams– applications to be submitted by 7th November 2021

Applications Submission

Sunday 30th January 2022

Sunday 1st May 2022

Tuesday 23rd August 2022

Sunday 30th October 2022

HOFS Meeting Date

Wednesday 9th February 2022

Wednesday 11th May 2022

Wednesday 31st August 2022

Wednesday 9th November 2022