

Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

Trustees' Annual Report 2015-16

This report meets the requirements of *Section 11 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005*, and provides information on how the Charity aims to meet the public benefit test in line with *Section 4 Charities Act 2006*.

Background

The Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (aka "The Wind Farm Trust") was created on 31st March 2014 and is a community benefit delivery vehicle for the four parishes (Chelveston-cum-Caldecott, Dean and Shelton, Hargrave, and Melchbourne and Yelden) adjacent to the Chelveston Renewable Energy (CRE) Wind Farm. It is funded annually by CRE under two legally binding S106 agreements (one for each Local Planning Authority) and its purpose is to distribute grants to organisations within the four parishes that meet the Trust's criteria.

The four parishes each provide two Trustees who, once the Founding Trustees have completed their shorter terms, will all serve a 4 year term, with half the Trustees standing down every two years.

Activities undertaken in 2015-16.

As stated in the 2014-15 report, the first four Founding Trustees had stood down in 2015 and the first four Ordinary Trustees appointed by their parishes. At the last meeting of the reporting year, one of the remaining Founding Trustees resigned and a replacement Trustee was been appointed by his parish to serve the remainder of the term to 2017.

The Trustees have revised the Managing Document, Grants Policy and grant applications forms over the year as the Trust is "fine-tuned" to handle applications in an efficient and fair manner.

A total of 15 grant applications were received, of which 10 were granted in full and 2 were granted in part (some with conditions), and three were withdrawn. Additionally there was a successful application to create a restricted reserve for a future application.

The Trustees are required to consider the submitted applications against the charitable objectives of the trust, being

- *The conservation, protection and improvement of the built and natural environment within the four parishes.*
- *The provision of facilities for recreation, entertainment, arts, sporting activities, or other leisure time for the residents of the four parishes or the public at large.*
- *The advancement of the education of the residents of the four parishes or the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the built and natural environment and heritage awareness of same.*
- *The advancement of the education of the residents of the four parishes or the public about all aspects of renewable energy generation and sustainability.*
- *The promotion of sustainable development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources.*
- *The promotion of rural regeneration in the areas served by the four Parish Councils by the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities and/or the preservation of buildings or sites of historical or architectural importance.*

The two most common objectives used were –

- *The provision of facilities for recreation, entertainment, arts, sporting activities, or other leisure time for the residents of the four parishes or the public at large, and*
- *The promotion of rural regeneration in the areas served by the four Parish Councils by the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities and/or the preservation of buildings or sites of historical or architectural importance.*

The Trustees also had to ensure that each parish received a nominal 25% share of the funds distributed, but this is over a five year period, not in every year.

Applications received ranged from the creation, repairs and improvements of or to community facilities (including village halls, churches and play areas), to providing a Nexus tablet for a playgroup.

However, the Trustees were also mindful that any grant applications needed to be sound in respect of the benefits that would be gained through the award of the Trust's funds. To this end a number of awards were made subject to conditions (e.g. the gaining of planning permission) and others required additional information to support the original applications.

The amount awarded in year was £18,318.26 and was split amongst the four parishes as follows –

Parish:	Grants awarded:	Share of grants in year	Share of grants all years
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott	£0.00	0.00%	13.81%
Dean & Shelton	£5,297.00	16.30%	30.78%
Hargrave	£2,500.00	7.69%	10.37%
Melchbourne & Yelden	£9,421.28	28.99%	21.59%

In addition to the grants awarded above, a £15,000 restricted reserve was created for Chelveston-cum-Caldecott parish, to provide funds for an anticipated large grant application in 2016-17. This accounts for the percentages above not totalling 100%.

Whilst the allocation to one parish was greater than the 25% share (in year), the Trustees are content that this has brought that parish closer to the nominal 25% (all years).

Whilst the allocation to one parish was greater than the 25% share (all years), the Trustees note this has reduced from 41.01% last year and is therefore on track to reach nominal 25% target in the next 3 years (i.e. the 5 year average).

Accounts for 2015-16.

Summary :

Income	Expenditure
£28,300.61 B/F	£8,503.08 Prior year spend
£27,637.88 Capital	£17,218.28 Grants
£26.00 Income	£45.05 Admin
	£15.00 Governance
	£25,781.41
	Excess income over expenditure
	£30,219.08
£56,000.49	£56,000.49

Income:

The Expendable Capital (i.e. capital receipts that can be spent) consisted of the S106 payment from Oct 15, which enjoyed an RPI uplift in accordance with the S106 agreements.

The only earned income was the £26.00 bank interest, which reflects the low rates currently available.

Expenditure:

The bulk of the expenditure was the grants, as would be expected. The largest administration item was for ICO data registration at £35.00. Governance is the room hire charges for the Trustee meetings (where charged).

Excess Income:

Excess income represented by	
£14,000.00	Carry over to H1 next FY
£15,000.00	Chelveston restricted reserve
£273.07	Unused grants
£298.26	Additional Capital (uplift)
£621.75	Unused Admin & Governance
£26.00	Income
£30,219.08	

The excess income includes an annual carry over amount, currently set at £14,000, to fund the Trust for the first 6 months of the next FY, until the next Expendable Grant payment is received in October.

The Admin & Governance underspend was partly due to the Trustees deciding not to proceed with insurance cover and partly to a number of the meeting venues being provided free to the Trust.

Any excess income is carried over to the next year to form the budget.

Audit:

The accounts were audited by Kathy Ayre Book Keeping of Wymington, Beds, who is independent of the Trust.

The audited accounts and the Trustees Annual Report (this document) were adopted by the Trustees at the Annual Meeting held on 18th April 2016.

Mark Hunter
Clerk to the Trustees
18th April 2016.