

Boyton Parish Council – Annual Meeting - 2nd March 2016

Boyton Solar and Wind Farm Community Fund

Renewable Energy Developers are encouraged to make an annual contribution to the local communities in which they have built renewable energy projects. Boyton Parish Council received its first grant of £2,500 from Kronos Solar, developer of Grange Farm solar park, in July 2013. This was followed by £2,500 from the developers of North Beer solar park in August 2013. To date we have received a total of £18,299.71 which includes index-linking and interest earned.

In February 2014, the Cornwall Community Foundation was appointed by Boyton Parish Council to administer the BSWF Community Fund for a reduced fee of 2.5%. This had to be increased to their standard charge of 10% in January 2016 to reflect increased responsibilities devolved to them. CCF have a wealth of experience in managing funds and assessing and awarding grants to small local organisations. The CCF also report on completed projects to the developers on our behalf.

The BSWFCF Grant-Giving Panel was set up in 2014. It is a committee of representatives from Boyton including two councillors. Its purpose is to ratify the grant policies, procedures and grant recommendations presented by The Cornwall Community Foundation, and to establish and review the grants process with respect to administration, publicity, grant-making and monitoring for the Fund. The Grant-giving Panel meets twice a year.

In June 2014 we gave a grant of £717 to the Kingfisher Nursery for some play equipment and £1,100 to the Boyton Skittle Club for a new bowling alley. In the autumn we gave £884 to the Methodist Chapel School Room for a projector for whole village use and £1885 to the Church Hall Committee to purchase new chairs.

2015 brought us as additional £3,000 pa from the Murex Bennacot Wind Turbine developers. In June we considered three applications for grants: the newly formed Computer Club were awarded £300 for a printer/scanner; Boyton Sports Club requested £1000 to buy a bouncy castle for Sports Day and the Friends of Boyton School were given £5000 towards the installation of an outdoor multi-purpose stage. Unfortunately the Computer Club and the Sports Club were not able to fulfil the conditions of the grant which lapsed. They will be encouraged to apply again. £5000 was given to the Friends of Boyton School but there has been a delay in starting the project and the funds will be forfeit if it is not completed within a calendar year.

The BSWFCF met in February 2016 and considered one application. It was decided to award Kingfisher Nursery an exceptional grant of £5599 for insurance and some payroll costs to tide the nursery over a particularly difficult spell with a lower number of children. More are expected to join in the autumn term.

At our recent meeting I was elected Chairman for the forthcoming year. It will be an honour to serve the community in this capacity. Our next meeting will be on Monday 10th October. Applications for Grants should be submitted to CCF by Monday 12th September. Application forms and Guidance are available from Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk or CCF.

Cllr Jenny Smith