

# Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Trust

## Trustees' Annual Report 2020-21

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 Trust (aka "The Wind Farm Trust") was created on 31<sup>st</sup> 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 all serve a 4 year term, with half the Trustees standing down every two years.

### Activities undertaken in 2020-21.

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown meant that the Trust did not meet in the first half of 2020. The Trust held its first virtual meeting in September 2020, using the guidance provided by the Charity Commission. All other meetings were also held virtually. One Trustee resigned and the parish concerned appointed a replacement to serve the remainder of his term until 2021.

A total of 14 enquires were received, resulting in 10 grant applications, of which 8 were granted in full, one was declined and one reserve was created.

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

*The object of the charity is the promotion of any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the civil parishes of Chelveston-cum-Caldecott in the county of Northamptonshire, Dean and Shelton in unitary district of Bedford Borough, Hargrave in the county of Northamptonshire, and Melchbourne and Yelden in the unitary district of Bedford Borough as the Trustees see fit*

The most commonly used charitable purposes used were –

*The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom they are intended, and public works and services and the provision of public amenities.*

The Trustees have to ensure that each parish receives 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 repairs to / improvements of community facilities (including village halls and churches), to providing LED street lighting in two parishes, and restoring a war memorial on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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.

The amount awarded in year was £34,110.00. The largest single grant (both in-year and to-date) was £16,650.00, as part funding the replacement of 60 street lights with more energy efficient LED units in Chelveston-cum-Caldecott parish, resulting in a 78% energy saving.

The grants were split amongst the four parishes as follows –

Parish:	Grants awarded in year:	Share of grants in year	Share of grants all years
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott	£19,533.00	48.83%	29.02%
Dean & Shelton	£4,498.00	11.25%	19.64%
Hargrave	£940.00	2.35%	11.95%
Melchbourne & Yelden	£9,139.00	22.85%	36.35%

One parish received significantly more funding in year than the others, though the parish notified the other three parishes of the large application in advance, and received their support. The Trustees are mindful that grants can only be made in accordance with the Trust's criteria and that any unspent allocations are carried over to the next year. This accounts for the percentages above not totalling 100%.

One parish continues to lag the others (share all years), but the Trustees are mindful that this parish has accumulated a significant reserve for a future amenity land purchase.

## Accounts for 2020-21.

### Summary:

Income	Expenditure
£54,243.51 B/F	£34,110.00 Grants
£31,242.29 Capital	£112.00 Admin
£14.11 Interest	£18.00 Governance
	<u>£34,240.00</u>
	Excess Receipts over
	<u>£51,259.91</u> Payments
<b>£85,499.91</b>	<b>£85,449.91</b>

### Income:

The Expendable Capital (i.e. capital receipts that can be spent) consisted of the S106 payment from Oct 20, which enjoyed an RPI uplift in accordance with the S106 agreements.

The only earned income was the £14.11 bank interest, which reflects the low rates currently available.

### Expenditure:

The bulk of the expenditure was the grants, as would be expected. Administration consisted of bank charges (£72.00) and the ICO fee (£40.00). Governance was the auditor's fee only (no meeting room hire fees this year due to virtual meetings).

<b>Excess Receipts represented by</b>	
£14,000.00	Carry over to H1 next FY
£17,418.00	Hargrave PC restricted reserve
£10,000.00	St Mary Magdalene PCC reserve
£9,525.49	Environmental project restricted reserve
£316.42	Unused
<b>£51,259.91</b>	

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, i.e. until the next Expendable Capital S106 payment from CRE Ltd is received in October, and three restricted reserves totalling £36,943.49.

Any unused income is carried over to the next year.

**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, which was held later than normal due to Covid-19, on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Mark Hunter  
Clerk to the Trustees  
11<sup>th</sup> August 2021