

## Meeting notes from an extra PACT Board meeting on Zoom 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

### **Present:**

James Robson (Chair)  
Pip Chandler  
Keith Dickson  
James Dobie  
Victoria Dobie (Secretary)  
Ian Repsch  
Limor Wolfe

### **Apologies:** Dianne Repsch (Treasurer)

**JR** introduced the purpose of the meeting, to discuss the Preston Village Hall refurbishment project, and asked for everyone's views.

**JD** talked over costings, explained the project is in two parts, refurbishment of interior with added facilities inside and outside, and resilience work.

- If we are successful in accessing the CARES grant, this will cover 80% of the costs of the PV panels, batteries and insulation, but does not cover labour or generator.
- The condition of the CARES grant adds time pressure – application should be in before August and work completed before February 2025.
- No costs are provided for a generator in the quotes, this could be part of the project later if funds available.
- Costs include a generous contingency, as unexpected complications may arise, for example asbestos within building.
- The standard set will be generally high spec, good quality materials and equipment, for longevity.
- Next step will be to go out for tender for the trades, this will provide more precise costs.

**JR** suggested further approval from Board will be required when the precise costs are given.

**PC** noted that PV costs were noted with 'extras', **JD** explained the extras are the batteries. In the winter these can be topped up with cheaper electricity at night.

**IR** noted that Quantity Surveyor estimates seem high, more detail on costs will be forthcoming. He is broadly in agreement with project. Discussion of figures given in estimates. **JD** explained that sheet "Prob Costs Construction Element" corrects the QS costs.

**IR** suggested that timing of payments from CARES grant should be clarified as this may impact on our PACT finances.

**KD** agreed that the project should now move to next stage. He suggested that the funds available from PACT should be capped, and if the costs are going to exceed cap, that the scope should be adjusted. Prioritisation of more essential aspects of project is required. A discussion of the Air to Air heat source pump followed, with explanation from **JD** that advice from Geowarmth and experience from other similar village hall suggested this is the best option for fast effective warmth. A further (free) assessment of the heating plan has been requested from *..Business Scotland..*

**LW** noted that she is in favour of the project, consultation has indicated this is what the community wants.

**VD** asked if the process of approaching the windfarm funders could be started now. Applications for funding will be shared with Board before submission.

**JR** summed up:

The Board is in favour of the hall refurbishment project. Questions remain regarding the renewables element and the generator and more precise costs will follow.

The Board agreed that PACT funding on the project should be capped at £275,000.

The Geowarmth quote was accepted, and approval given for JD to apply to CARES for funding for this element.

V.Dobie  
4.6.24