**Bradenstoke Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund.**

**Annual General Meeting**

**20th October 2021 – 6:00pm**

**Chairman’s report**

Chair’s Report October 2021

Welcome to our 2021 AGM, the second since the administration of the fund was taken over by Community First, and we are grateful to Mary Hardwidge for handling swiftly and effectively all grant requests, and particularly for chasing us all up to get responses in a timely manner.

The newest member of the Grants Panel is Viliamu (Bill) Tiko from MoD Lyneham. He has settled in very well to the grants process and we are pleased to welcome him.

It goes without saying that this has been another challenging year. Many of our communities put their projects on hold due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In 2020, the BSPCBF offered £1500 grants to the community spaces in our catchment area. With the pandemic continuing, a further £1000 was given to each facility in 2021, together with grants to the Lyneham Scouts and Guides to help them cover their subscriptions. Whilst not the sort of grants we had in mind when the fund was first set up, it certainly made a huge difference to our communities and was well received.

<https://www.bradenstokesolarfund.org/covid-19-support-2021>

A full list of the grants approved this year form part of the overall AGM papers.

Details of all grants awarded are on our website (www.bradenstokesolarfund.org).

Two pieces of information regarding the Solar Farm:-

* There is a new owner of the Solar Farm - BLUEFIELD SIF INVESTMENTS LTD
* A planning application has been lodged – PL/2021/06375 – to extend the lifetime of the installation from 30 to 40 years. It is unclear as to whether or not this will have any implication on the sum to be paid to the Benefit Fund

Looking forwards, it would be good to use more of the money from the fund to help with the climate change/ carbon neutral agenda. Is it time to allocate some of the fund for wider environmental projects?

I look forward to another year of investing in our communities.

Allison Bucknell

Chair of the BSPCBF