

Yorkley Court Solar Farm Community Fund Committee Meeting

13th January 2026

Present – Cllr T Saunders (LTC), Cllr C Harris (LTC), Cllr S Francis (WDPC), Cllr A Grant (WDPC) & Mr B Pearman (CIC)

Clerk – J Miles

1. Apologies – H Long (FODDC)

2. Welcome and Introductions – Brian welcomed everyone to the meeting

3. Current balance of funds – The balance had been confirmed as £30,805.98, however Brian added that this did not include the latest payment into the fund of £9,000. This would bring the balance to **£39,805.98**.

4. Applications to consider and decide

Forest Read Easy Deal – FRED – Requesting £500. This was discussed within the meeting, and it was acknowledged that it was a good service, but the meeting decision was **not to award funding**, this was based on the following reasons: the application did not fit the funding criteria as it didn't state the designated area for the funding (it said everywhere), also the breakdown of expenditure for the project included staff costs. The meeting suggested that FRED be invited to reapply in September following the criteria.

Lydney Youth Duke of Edinburgh Club – Requesting £2,000. Cllr Saunders declared an interest in this group as her son had previously participated in this group, however, was no longer involved. The grant application was discussed and the meeting agreed to **award** them the funds requested.

Yorkley Star Cricket Club – Requesting £2,000. Cllr Saunders declared an interest in this group as her son had played for the club but was no longer a member. The grant application was discussed and the meeting agreed to **award** them the funds requested, however a receipted invoice is to be obtained.

Lydney Town Band – Requesting £1,300. The meeting discussed this application, and it was felt that the band had done really well over the last year (in competitions) and it was really important how they also had younger musicians in the band. The meeting unanimously agreed to **award** the funds requested.

Canopy – Requesting £1,300. This application was discussed in some detail by the meeting due to the lack of financial transparency (no accounts submitted with the grant application) and expenditure costs for their project included Artist Fees (which are treated as wages). The meeting voted **not to award** the funding.

FVAF (Forest Compass) – Requesting £2,000. The application was discussed by the meeting, and it was agreed that the **award would not be given** due to the organisation being financially sound.

Parkend Memorial Hall – Requesting £2,000. This was discussed in some detail by the meeting due to the stages of the project. The meeting agreed that the **award would not be given** but they were generally supportive but not confident with the information at this stage.

Yorkley Youth Club – Requesting £500. The meeting agreed that this application was exactly what the fund was intended to support and unanimously agreed the funding be **awarded** and a receipted invoice will be requested.

Forest of Dean Brass – Requesting £2,000. Cllr Grant declared an interest as the treasurer is known to him. The meeting agreed to **award** the funds requested with a receipted invoice to be obtained.

Lydney Community Centre – Requesting £2,000. The application was discussed in detail and the meeting agreed to **award** the funds requested. However, the funds will be released on completion of the keyless automatic opening front door. It was agreed that West Dean Parish Council will hold onto these funds until they are required.

Total Funding Awarded = £9,800

5. **To discuss levels of grants and decide if any changes would be appropriate –** The meeting discussed the level of grant awarded.
Brian informed the meeting that after discussing this query with a senior advisor, the levels of grant were to stay the same and that the monies will only be spent on projects identified by Bee Green CIC Ltd.
6. **To discuss the promotion / advertising of the fund –** The meeting discussed the cost of advertising in the local paper and the way that it would cut into the grant money available. It was suggested that Councillors should promote the fund within their wards.
7. **Next Steps**

- Contact Hannah Long to draw down Section 106 monies for the awards
- Write letters to all applicants to advise of outcome of application
- Prepare documents for 2026 funding round which will open on 1st September 2026

DRAFT