**MINUTES**

**Meeting of Scottish Land Fund Committee**

**22nd September 2021**

**Video conference**

**Members:**

Cara Gillespie Chair of Scottish Land Fund Committee

Tom Black Scottish Land Fund Committee Member

Malcolm Combe Scottish Land Fund Committee Member

Alan Hobbett Scottish Land Fund Committee Member

Bobby Macaulay Scottish Land Fund Committee Member

Pauline Megson Scottish Land Fund Committee Member

Janet Miles Vice-Chair of Scottish Land Fund Committee

**Staff:**

Tony Crosbie Operations Manager, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Sandra Holmes Community Assets Sector Lead, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Rebekah Dundas Funding Manager, National Lottery Community Fund

Fiona Grant Business Support Officer, Governance, National Lottery

Community Fund (minutes)

David Knight Funding Officer, National Lottery Community Fund

Elyn Zhang Funding Officer, National Lottery Community Fund

**Observing:**

Dave Thomson Head of Community Land Team, Scottish Government

Janet Mountford-Smith Policy Officer, Community Land Team, Scottish Government

Malcolm Cowie Asset Transfer Policy Manager, Scottish Government

Kathleen Glazik Community Empowerment Team Leader, Scottish Government

Funding Officers, National Lottery Community Fund

Highlands and Islands Enterprise SLF Case Officers

1. **OPENING REMARKS**
   1. The Chair welcomed Committee Members and staff to this Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
   1. There were no apologies for absence.
   2. The following declaration was received:

Cara Gillespie declared an interest in the application from The Old Forge Community Benefit Society, Knoydart

* 1. This member left the meeting for the discussion and was not involved in the decision making for this case. Janet Miles chaired the meeting for the discussion of this application.

1. **MINUTES FROM SLF MEETING HELD ON 14TH JULY 2021**
   1. The minutes of the Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting held 14th July 2021 were approved as an accurate record.
2. **OVERVIEW PAPER** 
   1. Rebekah informed Members about the budget for this meeting. She also highlighted the full list of applications received, and decisions made by the Management Group will be provided to members shortly after each meeting of the Management Group has taken place.
   2. The press embargo for this meeting is 9th October.
3. **PIPELINE REPORT**
   1. Tony provided an overview of the pipeline. Members noted that we are continuing to get new enquiries, but the rate of enquiries is slightly down to compared to the last couple of years. The team are talking about how best to tackle cold spots.
   2. The Chair thanked Tony for his report and noted that it was helpful to see the highlights of the report in the slides.

**6. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS (CAT)**

6.1 Malcolm and Kathleen gave an overview of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) legislation that was introduced 4 years ago and the work of the Scottish Government to support this.

6.2 Members noted that CAT activity has increased year on year and the Scottish Government has been working with Relevant Authorities to encourage good practice and processes. The Scottish Government commissioned an independent evaluation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 by researchers at Glasgow Caledonian University.

6.3 It would be helpful to circulate the evaluation carried out by Strathclyde University to members.

**ACTION, Rebekah**

6.4 The Chair thanked Malcolm and Kathleen for their helpful input.

**7. SLF POLICY ON CATs**

7.1 Rebekah highlighted that a SLF policy on Community Asset Transfers (CATs) was developed last year. The team have been engaging in conversations with Relevant Authorities and groups working up applications to the SLF. The guidance is available for applicants on our website.

**8. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS**

8.1 6 applications were considered for decision making.

8.2 4 applications were awarded funding.

8.3 2 applications were deferred for further information.

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| **Name of Applicant** | **Project** | **Award** |
| Easter Breich Wood Community Group SCIO | Easter Breich Wood Community Purchase | £128,637  Capital - £113,850  Revenue - £14,787 |
| Isle of Canna Development Trust | Isle of Canna Community-led Housing | £89,700  Capital - £82,200  Revenue - £7,500 |
| Port Bannatyne Development Trust | Port Bannatyne Community Hub @ The Anchor | £150,190  Capital - £122,494  Revenue - £27,696 |
| The Old Forge Community Benefit Society, Knoydart | Acquistion of Knoydart Old Forge Inn | £508,000  Capital - £451,000  Revenue - £57,000 |
| Total Awarded |  | **£876,527**  **Capital - £769,544**  **Revenue - £106,983** |

**10. AOB**

10.1 Janet Mountford-Smith informed the meeting that Community Land Week is taking place from 9th – 17th October with events planned across the country showcasing what community groups are doing with their land acquisitions. The Minister will launch Community Land Week with the announcement of the SLF awards made at this meeting.

**11. FINISH**

11.1 The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and effort.

11.2 There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.55.