

MINUTES

Meeting of Scottish Land Fund Committee 15th November 2023 by MS Teams

Members:

Cara Gillespie	Chair of Scottish Land Fund Committee
Tom Black	Scottish Land Fund Committee Member
Malcolm Combe	Scottish Land Fund Committee Member (items 9-11)
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 (items 1-8)

Staff:

Tony Crosbie	Operations Manager, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Rebekah Dundas	Funding Manager, the National Lottery Community Fund
Fiona Grant	Business Support Officer (Governance), The National Lottery Fund Community Fund (minutes)
Sandra Holmes	Community Assets Sector Lead, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Observing:

Dave Thomson	Head of Community Land Team, Scottish Government
	Funding Officers, National Lottery Community Fund
	Highlands and Islands Enterprise SLF Case Officers

Guests:

Felix Spittal	COF/DTAS (item 9)
Davie Newton	The Old Forge Community Benefit Society Limited (item 9)

1. OPENING REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and staff to this Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting.

2. APOLOGIES & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were apologies from Malcolm Combe. He will join the meeting for the afternoon session. Janet Miles will leave the meeting after decision making.
- 2.2 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES FROM SLF MEETING HELD ON 23 AUGUST 2023

- 3.1 The minutes of the Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting held 23rd August 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

4. PIPELINE REPORT

- 4.1 Tony provided an overview of the pipeline report. Members noted that the pipeline is healthy moving into the last quarter of the year. There are potentially several

large land acquisition projects coming forward for 2024/25 and there are a few outreach events planned for early 2024.

- 4.2 The Chair thanked Tony for his helpful update and noted that it was encouraging to see the trends in applications.

5. OVERVIEW PAPER

- 5.1 Rebekah informed Members about the budget for this meeting, financial planning for the remainder of the year, decision making by Management Group and grants in management at stage one and two.
- 5.2 An update about the budget for 2024/25 will be given at the next meeting once the contract has been received from the Scottish Government.
- 5.3 The press embargo for this meeting is 14th December 2023. The Chair thanked the team for the press coverage and commented that it was great to see a lot of press activity going on.
- 5.4 The Chair highlighted that Members should start to keep an eye on the pipeline applications in terms of potential declarations of interest.

6. ACCOMMODATION POLICY - EARLY DISCUSSIONS

- 6.1 Sandra Holmes gave a presentation on the early work that has been undertaken in developing an accommodation policy which the Committee noted.
- 6.2 The Committee commented that it was very helpful to see the work and approach that is being undertaken by the SLF team. There is a lot for the Committee and the SLF Team to learn in this area.

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Eight applications were awarded funding.

Name of Applicant	Project	Award
North Yell Development Council	North Yell Community Shop	£142,600 Capital - £112,000 Revenue - £30,600
Gargunnock Community Shop LTD	Gargunnock Community Shop	£154,759 Capital - £122,599 Revenue - £32,160
Shapinsay Development Trust	Shapinsay Social & Affordable Housing Project - Phase 4	£155,098 Capital - £148,078 Revenue - £7,020
The Crafhub (SCIO)	Crafthub @ the Space (Community Venue)	£286,788 Capital - £274,108 Revenue - £12,680
Friends of Broadway Prestwick	The Broadway Cinema	£328,060 Capital - £267,900 Revenue - £60,160

Strathdearn Community Developments	Hazelbank Community Wood, Tomatin	£356,934 Capital - £324,594 Revenue - £32,340
Islay Development Initiative	Sgiba Community Forest	£619,122 Capital - £573,000 Revenue - £46,122
Harris Development Trust	Accommodating Key Workers in Harris	£147,790 Capital - £79,790 Revenue - £68,000
Total Awarded		Total - £2,191,151 Capital - £1,902,069 Revenue - £289,082

8. ISLE OF CANNA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST VARIATION

- 8.1 The Committee noted the variation report and the various burdens and a pre-emption right imposed by the seller, National Trust for Scotland (NTS).
- 8.2 The Committee agreed to accept the rationale from NTS and approved the acquisition as an exception.

9 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND (COF)

9.1 Felix Spittal, Development Trusts Association (DTAS) and Davie Newton, The Old Forge Community Benefit Society Limited joined the meeting at 13.00 and delivered presentations on their work with COF. Committee Members engaged with Felix and Davie in a broad ranging discussion about the COF funding and the experience of the Old Forge, Knoydart working with both the SLF and COF teams.

9.2 The Chair thanked Felix and Davie for joining the meeting.

10. AOCB

10.1 The meeting dates for 2024/25 will be circulated after the meeting. Further details on locations and speakers for these meetings will be provided once they have been confirmed.

10.2 The Committee noted that the next SLF Committee meetings will be held on:

6th March 2024 Inverness and by Teams.

11. FINISH

11.1 The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work and for attending the meeting.

11.2 There being no further business the meeting closed at 14.30