



An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund

Panel Meeting

Brander Lodge Hotel, Bridge of Awe

Wednesday 20th November 2019, 3pm - 5pm

Minutes

Present: Agnes Fleming (Dalavich Improvement Group), Andrea Henderson (Furnace community), Ruth Tott (Furnace Community Council), Catriona O'Keeffe (Glenorchy & Inishail Community Council), Alan Kettle-White (Eredine community), Hazel Gray (Inveraray community).

In attendance: Tom Black (Foundation Scotland)

Apologies: Irene McClounnan (Dalavich community), Alastair Rodden (Inveraray Community Council).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alan Kettle-White agreed to chair, Tom Black to take minutes.

Ruth Tott and Hazel Gray were welcomed to the Panel. Both had attended induction with Tom Black immediately prior to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

While the drive to recruit a new member for Inveraray Community Council had initially been successful, the nominee had gone on to secure new employment which meant that he was no longer able to attend the Panel.

Action: Tom Black to contact ICC to request a new representative for the Panel.

3. Panel register of interests

The annual update was due.



Action: Tom Black to circulate existing Panel Register of Interests

Action: All Panel Members to review and provide any update to their interests.

4. Fund business

a) Fund statement

A Fund balance of £52,973.23 was available for distribution.

Panel noted that the annual donation from Innogy Renewables had increased significantly since inception of the Fund, from £28,500 in 2011 to £36,124.12 in 2019, in line with the Retail Price Index. It was agreed that the time was right to raise the maximum award limit, to £9,000.

Action: Tom Black to revise all fund material/website with new maximum award.

b) Endowment opportunity – Meet Your Match

Tom Black introduced Foundation Scotland's endowment service for communities. The Foundation manages c. £50 Million in such endowments. Tom explained that the Foundation is not FCA regulated and therefore does not provide investment advice. An anonymous donor had provided significant funds to the Foundation. In line with its charitable mission, the Foundation had decided to use some of these to encourage and enable the creation of new endowed funds for communities.

The Foundation was prioritising communities it has an existing relationship with and who are able to commit capital themselves. While there was no set ratio of match funding, many had invested on a 2:1 basis (community funds to Foundation match).

Panel agreed that the opportunity was interesting and could enable community benefit funding to grow / be sustained into the future. Panel wished to discuss this further once award making decisions had been made, and the remaining balance was known. See item 7 below (AOCB).

c) Inveraray Tums, Tots and Toddlers (grant ref. A456758)

A grant of £1,600 had been awarded to this group in 2017. Awardees normally get 12 months to draw down their grant. The grant was conditional on some changes to the group's constitution, and Foundation Scotland had provided sample wording to assist. However the condition had not been fulfilled and the contact at Inveraray Tums, Tots and Toddlers had changed repeatedly. Foundation Scotland was not in receipt of a current contact so the group could not be reached.



Panel decided to withdraw the grant as the group had not been in contact and seemed unlikely to be in the near future. Panel felt that, given the group's low capacity, they should instead be directed to the Inveraray micro-grant scheme operated by the Community Council. However this wasn't straightforward as no contact details were known.

Action: Foundation Scotland to withdraw the grant and send a letter notifying Inveraray CC of this, and asking that, should they have contact with Inveraray Tums, Tots and Toddlers, the group be directed to the Micro-grant scheme.

5. Grant-making

a) Declarations of interest

Panel discussed the conflict of interest policy. Foundation Scotland is now recommending that Panel members leave the meeting where they have a direct interest, though may stay in the room if Panel wish to answer any questions prior to that. This was so as to not inhibit Panel members being honest when offering their views and making recommendations. Panel agreed to adopt this practice.

Action: Tom Black to update Conflict of Interest Policy and circulate.

The following members declared an interest in the applications before the Panel:

- Agnes Fleming: A526869 Dalavich Social & Recreational Club (Family member is a Committee Member and the applicant)
- Ruth Tott: A526976 Furnace Community SCIO (Board Member)
- Andrea Henderson: A526976 Furnace Community SCIO (Member of sub-group, indirect interest).

b) Ineligible application – Glenorchy Shinty Club

An application had been received from Glenorchy Shinty Club, for £7,000.00, to contribute to the purchase of goals and a pitch liner. Panel agreed that the application was ineligible as it does not sufficiently benefit those living in the Fund area. Based in Dalmally, the Club has just two members living in the area (out of a total of 31).

The applicant had been passed information on other potential sources of funding, including Foundation Scotland funds and others (e.g. Greenpower Carraig Gheal).

c) Assessment reports & decisions

Five assessment reports were reviewed and award decisions made as follows.



Applicant Name	Grant Appl. No.	Amount awarded	Purpose of Grant	Further conditions of grant and feedback
Inveraray Shinty Club	A519102	£5,500.00	To purchase an additional storage container for the Club's merchandise and as a changing room for the girls' team, and to purchase a pop-up gazebo for use as a spectator shelter.	<p>Further conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a copy of the Club's most recent accounts, independently inspected and signed as such, is supplied. • That written confirmation from the landowner is supplied stating that the Club has permission for the siting of the container.
Dalavich Social and Recreational Club	A526869	£0.00	To upgrade the community centre toilet facilities and improve access to the existing disabled toilet.	<p>Feedback:</p> <p>Panel recognise the need for refurbishment of the toilets at the community centre. However, unfortunately it was unable to offer a grant to Dalavich Social & Recreational Club as the organisation is not strictly charitable in nature. In particular, the constitution does not contain a charitable dissolution clause that ensures net assets on winding up are used solely for charitable purposes.</p> <p>Instead, the Panel is offering a grant of £7,000.00 to Dalavich Improvement Group towards the works. DIG more clearly meets the Fund eligibility criteria for receiving a grant and, as the property owner, is well placed to oversee the use of the grant.</p> <p>The Panel also wish to feedback that they would</p>



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				encourage increased opening hours of the toilets for use by the public, should that be possible.
Kilchrenan, Inverinan & Dalavich Coastal Rowing Club	A526928	£2,405.00	To purchase equipment including a skiff launch trolley, shelter and life jacket thigh straps so as to improve safety and comfort for members.	None.
Cairndow Community Childcare Ltd	A526967	£4,000.00	To purchase white goods that will support the provision of a new soft play facility and cafe, including a washing machine, dishwasher, cooker, microwave, fridge, freezer, and coffee machine.	Further condition: That Cairndow Community Childcare provide a satisfactory completion report for grant ref. A419827 (£4,667, paid in December 2016, to contribute to salary costs).
Dalavich Improvement Group	TBC	£7,000.00	To upgrade the community centre toilet facilities and improve access to the existing disabled toilet.	See entry for grant application no. A526869. Further conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a copy of Dalavich Improvement Group's latest accounts, independently inspected and signed as such, be provided; • That a full and final quotation be provided from the preferred supplier, inclusive of all VAT and labour costs. Feedback: The Panel would encourage an increase to the opening hours of the toilets for use by the public, should that be possible.
Furnace Community SCIO	A526976	£7,000.00	To install outdoor gym equipment in an open, accessible space near the centre of the village.	Further conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That evidence of consultation with user groups over the exact choice of equipment is provided, along with details of the final equipment selection.



				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That full and final costings for purchase and installation are provided, supported by quotations from the chosen supplier. The grant award may be adjusted in light of this information.• That the final selection of site, and information on its suitability (area, access, safety, visibility, etc.), is confirmed.• That evidence of a suitable agreement with the landowner is provided, granting permission for the installation of, and ongoing access to, the equipment and providing clarity of responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the equipment.• That evidence of planning consent for the installation is provided.• That a maintenance plan for the equipment and the site is provided.• That evidence is provided (following the grant payment) that suitable insurance cover is in place for both the equipment and related public liability.
Total		£25,905.00		



A balance of £27,068.23 was carried forward.

d) Micro grants

Micro-grant instalments had been paid out in 2019/20 as follows:

- Dalavich Improvement Group: 4 April 2019
- Glenorchy & Innishail CC: 23 May 2019
- Inveraray CC: 20 November 2019

Furnace CC had not claimed any instalment in 2019; the most recent payment was made 26 Sept 2018. Furnace CC was therefore welcome to submit a completion report for 2019/20, should funds be depleted, within the financial year.

Otherwise, 2019/20 instalments would be paid out on receipt of completion reports, due April 2020.

Action: Community Council and DIG representatives to ensure micro-grant completion reports are submitted to FS as soon as possible after 31st March 2020.

Action: Tom Black to send blank completion report to DIG contact.

6. Planning for 2020

a) Fund promotion

Action: Tom Black to circulate 2020 promotional poster to Panel members in April.

Action: Tom Black to ensure a press release covering awards made and 2020 application deadlines is circulated to local press (Argyll Advertiser, Oban Times and Press & Journal).

b) Key dates

Application deadline to be Monday 5th October, Panel meeting Wednesday 18th November.

After some discussion over suitability, Panel decided to keep meetings to 3-5pm.

Action: Tom Black to update Fund webpage.

7. AOCB



Panel explored further the potential for a community endowment with remaining funds. Members were mindful of the need to allow for sufficient funds for the coming year's micro-grants awards.

The Foundation vets investment managers who are FCA regulated, with smaller funds being invested via Newton Investment Management. There were two options available: Newton's Charities Growth Fund or Social Responsibility Index Fund. The former was higher risk but traditionally experienced higher growth, though in recent years the gap had narrowed significantly. Tom explained that any investment should be seen as a long term one – as the value will go down as well as up over the years. Panel asked whether funds could be withdrawn for grant making if required, and whether further investments could be made in future years. Tom explained that these were both possible.

Panel agreed to invest £20,000 from An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund in Newton's Social Responsibility Index, and Tom stated that this would attract £10,000 in matched funds from Foundation Scotland.

Action: Tom Black to circulate information on the Social Responsibility Index Fund including recent performance and top 10 holdings. Also an agreement with Foundation Scotland regarding the donation of funds for investment on behalf of the four communities, with information on the Foundation's Investment Policy and related fees.

Panel agreed to delegate authority to Alan Kettle-White for signature of the endowment agreement on behalf of the Panel.

Action: Tom Black and Alan Kettle White to arrange for signature of endowment agreement.