

Ventient Energy Gordonstown Wind Farm Community Fund (Fyvie & Rothienorman)



Years 1-7, 30 March 2013 to 29 March 2020



Overview

- Gordonstown Wind Farm Community Fund is provided by Ventient Energy, the owner of the Gordonstown Hill Wind Farm in Aberdeenshire. The Fund benefits people living in the Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Council area, plus Fyvie and Rothienorman within the Fyvie, Rothienorman and Monquhitter Community Council area.
- Starting on 30th March 2013, a donation of £25,000 per year (index linked) will be made by Ventient Energy for the operating life of the wind farm, expected to be 25 years. By 2020, the annual donation was £37,547.
- The Fund supports charitable activity that will sustain and develop the life of the communities and ensure that the area is an attractive and vibrant place to live, work and visit. It makes grants to not-for-profit groups and organisations working to benefit people in the communities.
- The Fund is managed as two sub-funds: one supporting activity that benefits those living in the Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Council area, and another supporting activity that benefits those in Fyvie and Rothienorman.
- The Fund is administered by independent charity Foundation Scotland under contract to Ventient Energy. Decisions on grant awards from each fund are made by a

Panel of local representatives drawn from the respective area.

- This report details activity under the Fyvie and Rothienorman sub-fund, from the start of the Fund up to 29 March 2020.

Fund Set Up and Structure

Fyvie, Rothienorman and Monquhitter Community Council has appointed a Sub-Group with delegated powers to make decisions on grant applications. It has also decided that the Fund will only support projects benefitting the Fyvie or Rothienorman sub-division of the Community Council area, and not the Monquhitter sub-division. This decision was based on perceived impact of Gordonstown Hill Wind Farm. The Sub-Group therefore comprises three Community Councillors from Fyvie and three from Rothienorman.

Donations to the Gordonstown Wind Farm Community Fund during the first five years were split at 80% available to Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford and 20% to Fyvie and Rothienorman. In April 2019, Ventient Energy made some additional funding available. The two community councils then agreed to a revised split for the subsequent five years until March 2024, at 64% for Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford and 36% for Fyvie and Rothienorman.

Grants of over £250 are available under this Fund, with no maximum award size – again however applicants are asked to bear in mind the value of the annual donation to the Fund.

There are normally two rounds of grant making each year, with application deadlines

in May and September. Sub-group meetings are then held in June and October.

Applications to the Fund are expected to demonstrate how they contribute to the objectives set out in either the Fyvie or Rothienorman Place Standard reports and [Community Action Plans](#) produced in 2017. However, it is not essential that the activity is reflected in the Place Standards reports.

During Years 1 to 7, grant administration was carried out by the Community Council Sub-Group, supported by Foundation Scotland. The Sub-Group received all applications, notified applicants of award decisions, and paid out awards to successful applicants. The arrangement was a response to the relatively low annual sums coming into the Fund over the first five years coupled with the Community Council's wish to see all grant applications. Nonetheless, s for over £1,000 were assessed independently by Foundation Scotland and a report on each provided to the Sub-Group to support their decision making.

However, from October 2020, all grant making will be carried out directly by Foundation Scotland. This was agreed by the Community Council and Foundation Scotland and reflects the increased size of the annual donation from Ventient Energy and thus risk to charitable funds. It is also aimed at reducing the burden on local volunteers while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of grant making and impact reporting.

The Fund also provides for a micro-grant facility whereby the Community Council can award grants of up to £250 directly to individuals or groups seeking to carry out charitable activities of benefit to the communities. The Community Council reports back to Foundation Scotland on these annually.

Financial Statement

30 March 2013 to 29 March 2020

Income	
Donations (Ventient Energy)	£60,937.53
Interest	£28.43
Expenditure	
Grant released	£43,945.20
Grants to be released	£0.00
Funds Available	£17,020.76

Summary of Awards

Awards made during the reporting period are shown in the tables below, listed by Fund Year (30th March to 29 March). Note that donations from Ventient Energy for Years 1 and 2 were received in 2015, and grant making began in September of that year.

Fyvie & Rothienorman Community Fund Sub-Group met regularly from 2016 onwards, with a large number of awards made over the years, and towards a wide range of activities and project costs. Awards to 29 March 2020 totalled £43,945.20.

Appendix A provides a case study outlining the award to Rothienorman Community Association towards purchase of a tractor, snow plough, and gritter hopper.

2016-2017

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
Woodhead & Windyhill Conservation Trust	Replacement of an information plaque	£250.00
Friends of Guiding Fyvie & Rothienorman	Purchase of a tent	£500.00
Rothienorman Toddlers Group	Purchase of wooden toys and sensory equipment	£500.00
1st Rothienorman Cubs & Scouts	Purchase of new tents to enable group to attend the Scouts 100-year anniversary event.	£400.00
Fyvie Over 60 Club	Costs of coach hire to take walkers to planned routes	£390.00
Turriff & Upper Ythan Walking Club	Coats of coach hire for the Club's summer outing	£540.00
Fyvie Royal British Legion	Purchase of chairs and curtains for community use	£5,000.00
Rothienorman Flood Prevention	Purchase of sand etc for sandbags in support of the local Flood Response Plan	£500.00
Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter Community Council	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community	£769.40
Rothienorman Pre-School	To purchase outdoor equipment and a storage container for the equipment at a new outdoor space	£2,000.00

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
GRAPE (Rothienorman Wetland Walk)	To purchase wooden carvings to be placed around the path at the Rothienorman Wetland Walk	£500.00
Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter Community Council	To pay for administration costs in relation to the Community Fund	£200.00

2017-2018

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter Community Council	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community	£266.89
Rothienorman Friendship Group	Costs of coach hire for an outing	£350.00
Rothienorman Community Association	Towards the cost of a public access defibrillator	£1,104.00
Rothie Rovers Amateur Football Club	Purchase a set of moveable football goals for children	£250.00
Fyvie Women's Institute	Costs of coach hire for an outing	£290.00
Kinbroom House Residents Association	Purchase of raised-bench style garden planters	£330.00
Fyvie Indoor Bowling Club	Purchase of two bowling carpets plus delivery costs	£3,600.00
Turriff & Upper Ythan Walking Group	Costs of coach hire and a leader training course for volunteers	£740.00
Royal British Legion Scotland Fyvie	To purchase and install a public access defibrillator	£786.57
Rothienorman Pre-School	To purchase indoor sensory equipment.	£700.00

2018 – 2019

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter Community Council	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community	£277.44

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
Fyvie Football Club	Towards the costs of refurbishing the changing rooms and showers at the football pitch in Fyvie	£1,500.00
Preston House Social Fund	Coach hire costs for a summer outing	£300.00
Rothienorman Hall Committee	To install a free-standing changing unit for children aged up to 4 years	£539.94
1st Fyvie Scout Group	To purchase storage cupboards	£500.00
Rothienorman Friendship Club	Costs of coach hire for an outing	£300.00
Fyvie Women's Institute	Costs of coach hire for an outing to V&A Museum, Dundee	£200.00
Rothienorman Toddlers	To purchase play and sensory equipment	£263.68
Rothie Brownies	Costs of coach hire for the annual camp	£200.00
Rothie Football Club	Towards the costs of installing a grandstand for spectators	£1,500.00

2019 – 2020

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
1st Fyvie Brownies	To purchase a box trailer	£500.00
Millbrex Hall	To purchase a weatherproof sign and noticeboard	£500.00
Rothienorman Bowling Club	To purchase a new mower	£1,000.00
Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter Community Council	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community	£1,057.30
GRAPE (Rothienorman Wetland Walk)	To purchase a hedge trimmer	£300.00
Rothienorman Toddlers Group	To purchase toys and equipment	£200.00
Rothienorman Brownies	To purchase a gas-fired water boiler	£239.98
2nd Rothienorman Rainbows	To purchase craft materials	£200.00
Rothienorman Community Association	Towards the purchase of a tractor, snow plough, and gritter hopper	£14,400.00

Appendix A: Case Study

Rothienorman Community Association: purchase of a small tractor for access and maintaining public spaces

Rothienorman Community Association (RCA) applied to the Ventient Energy Gordonstown Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund and in November 2019 were awarded £14,400 to contribute towards the cost of purchasing a small compact tractor (known as the "Rothienorman Community Tractor") with a snowplough and gritter hopper. The aim of the purchase was to help maintain the public footpaths during the winter period, clearing snow and ice from pavements around the village and the local sheltered housing.

In June 2020, the Fund awarded an additional £1,800 to help buy a flail verge/finishing mower for the tractor. This will be used to help keep the verges and other green spaces around the Village presentable during the summer months.

RCA is an unincorporated voluntary association, with membership open to representatives from the various constituted groups in Rothienorman and any interested individual members of the local community. The aim of RCA is to promote the well-being of residents, improve the amenity of Rothienorman and the surrounding area, and manage and maintain the Community Playing Field, as well as access and the green spaces within the community (including cutting grass and watering planters). RCA have a Resilience Team that focuses on flood prevention and "winterisation" (snow and ice clearance from paths and pavements carried out by volunteer snow wardens, under a scheme promoted by Aberdeenshire Council).

Previous grants received by RCA from the Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund include support towards the cost of a public access defibrillator and to support the implementation of a flood response plan including, for example, purchase of sand for sandbags.

The tractor and associated equipment have been well received and enable the RCA volunteers to help cut the public grassed areas and water the flower planters in Rothienorman during the summer months, as well as helping to keep the pavements clear of snow and ice during the winter months.



In small communities such as Rothienorman, the local authority has reduced the regularity and extent of grass cutting of public areas and the amount of pavement clearing in winter. Therefore, RCA has stepped up to help to keep the village safe and attractive all year round. The tractor and associated equipment are available for use by local groups who are affiliated members of RCA.