

Ventient Energy Gordonstown Community Fund



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



Overview

- Gordonstown Community Fund is provided by Ventient Energy, the owner of the Gordonstown Hill Wind Farm in Aberdeenshire. The Fund benefits people living in the area served by Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Council, plus Fyvie and Rothienorman.
- Starting on 30th March 2013, an annual fund of £25,000 per year (index linked) will be available for the operating life of the wind farm, expected to be 25 years.
- Donations for the first five years were split, with 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.

- The Fund supports a range of charitable activity that will sustain and develop the life of the community and ensure that the area is an attractive and vibrant place to live, work and visit. It does this by making grants to not-for-profit groups and organisations working to benefit people in the communities.
- The Fund is managed by independent charity Foundation Scotland under contract to Ventient Energy. Decisions on grant awards are made by representatives of the communities, as set out below.

Fund Set Up and Structure

Auchterless, Inverkeithney & Fisherford Community Fund

In 2015, Auchterless, Inverkeithney & Fisherford Community Council commissioned consultants to conduct a Planning for Real community engagement exercise in the area, which produced a [Community Action Plan](#). This work then informed the strategy for the Fund - grant applicants must demonstrate how their proposed project contributes to the priorities set out in the Plan. However, there is discretion to fund other activity where there is sufficient evidence of need for this.

Foundation Scotland worked with the Community Council to establish and train a Community Panel that makes decisions on grant awards from the Fund. Panel membership is drawn from the Community Council and the wider community. The Panel operates to terms of reference, developed by Foundation Scotland and the Community Council, and reviewed from time to time.

In order for the Fund to deliver a legacy, the Panel has decided it would prefer to see awards made for the purchase of capital items or for contributing towards the cost of capital projects, rather than being spent on revenue items, such as travel costs or the subsidising of activities.

Grants of over £500 are available under this Fund, with no maximum award size - however applicants are asked to bear in mind the value of the annual donation to the Fund.

Applications for grants can be made at any time. Panel meetings are held around 5 to 7 weeks after an application is submitted. The Panel are re-examining this approach in December 2020, as having set deadlines may help drive up numbers of applications.

A micro-grant facility is also available to the Community Council, whereby it can award grants of up to £500 directly to individuals or groups and reports back to Foundation Scotland on these annually.

Fyvie & Rothienorman Community Fund

Applications to this 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.

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.

During Years 1 to 7, grant administration under this Fund 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, applications for over £1,000 were assessed independently by Foundation Scotland and a report provide 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.

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.

A micro-grant facility is also available to the Community Council, whereby it can award grants of up to £250 directly to individuals or groups and reports back to Foundation Scotland on these annually.

There are normally two rounds of grant making each year, with application deadlines in May and September. Panel meetings are then held in June and October.

Financial Statements

Ventient Gordonstown Community Fund

Statement Period: 30 March 2013 to 29 March 2020

Income

Year 1 - Infinis Energy Ltd	10/07/2015	£25,000.00
Year 2 - Infinis Energy Ltd	10/07/2015	£25,804.18
Interest Receipt	31/12/2015	£25.41
Infinis Energy Ltd	01/01/2016	£5,080.40
Year 3 - Infinis Energy Ltd	22/04/2016	£26,135.91
Infinis Energy Ltd	29/07/2016	£3,136.31
Interest Receipt	31/12/2016	£63.12
Infinis Energy Ltd	19/05/2017	£3,202.00
Year 4 - Infinis Energy Ltd	30/06/2017	£26,688.78
Year 5 - Ventient Energy Ltd	28/02/2018	£27,744.27
Ventient Energy Ltd	31/03/2018	£3,202.00
Year 5 - Ventient Energy Ltd (additional payment)	15/05/2018	£8,940.34
Year 6 - Ventient Energy Ltd	26/03/2019	£36,565.19
Year 7 - Ventient Energy Ltd	25/02/2020	£37,547.15
	Sub Total	£229,135.06

Expenditure

Years 1 & 2 - Foundation Scotland	01/01/2016	£5,080.40
Year 3 - Foundation Scotland	29/07/2016	£3,136.31
Year 4 - Foundation Scotland	19/05/2017	£3,202.00
Year 5 - Foundation Scotland	31/03/2018	£3,202.00
Year 5 - Foundation Scotland (balance)	15/05/2018	£957.89
	Sub Total	£15,578.60

Fund Transfers

Year 1 - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	10/07/2015	£20,000.00
Year 2 - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	10/07/2015	£20,643.34

Interest receipt - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	31/12/2015	£20.32
Year 3 - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	22/04/2016	£20,908.73
Interest receipt - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	31/12/2016	£50.50
Year 4 - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	30/06/2017	£21,351.02
Year 5 - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	28/02/2018	£22,195.42
Year 5 - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund (additional donation)	15/05/2018	£6,385.96
Year 6 - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	26/03/2019	£29,252.15
Year 7 - Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund	25/02/2020	£24,030.17
Year 1 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	10/07/2015	£5,000.00
Year 2 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	10/07/2015	£5,160.84
Interest receipt - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	31/12/2015	£5.09
Year 3 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	22/04/2016	£5,227.18
Interets receipt - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	31/12/2016	£12.62
Year 4 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	30/06/2017	£5,337.76
Year 5 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	28/02/2018	£5,548.85
Year 5 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund (additional payment)	15/05/2018	£1,596.49
Year 6 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	26/03/2019	£7,313.04
Year 7 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	25/02/2020	£13,516.98
	Sub Total	£213,556.46

Total funds available as at 29/03/2020

£0.00

Auchterless, Inverkeithney & Fisherford Community Fund

Statement Period: 30 March 2013 to 29 March 2020

Opening Balance		£0.00
Income		
Infinis Energy Ltd - Year 1 Donation	10/07/2015	£20,000.00
Infinis Energy Ltd - Year 2 Donation	10/07/2015	£20,643.34
Interest to 31.12.2015	31/12/2015	£20.32
Infinis Energy Ltd - Year 3 Donation	22/04/2016	£20,908.73
Interest to 31.12.2016	31/12/2016	£50.50
Infinis Energy Ltd - Year 4 Donation	30/06/2017	£21,351.02
Interest to 31.12.2017	31/12/2017	£74.41
Ventient Energy Ltd - Year 5 Donation	28/02/2018	£22,195.42
Ventient Energy Ltd – Year 5 Additional Donation	15/05/2018	£6,385.96
Interest to 31.12.2018	19/02/2019	£101.78
Ventient Energy Ltd - Year 6 Donation	26/03/2019	£29,252.15
Ventient Energy Ltd – Year 7 Donation	25/02/2020	£24,030.17
	Sub Total	£165,013.80
Expenditure		
Grants released in period		£23,325.96
Grants to be released ⁽¹⁾		£20,000.00
	Sub Total	£43,325.96
Fund Transfers		
Year 5 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	03/06/2019	£6,385.96
Year 6 - Fyvie and Rothienorman Community Fund	03/06/2019	£5,850.43
	Sub Total	£12,236.39
Total funds available as at 29/03/2020		£109,451.45

Note 1: includes grants awarded but not yet released as a condition of grant has not yet been fulfilled.

Fyvie & Rothienorman Community Fund

Statement Period: 30 March 2013 to 29 March 2020

Opening Balance		£0.00
 Income		
Infinis Energy Ltd – Year 1 Donation	10/07/2015	£5,000.00
Infinis Energy Ltd – Year 2 Donation	10/07/2015	£5,160.84
Interest to 31.12.15	31/12/2015	£5.09
Infinis Energy Ltd – Year 3 Donation	22/04/2016	£5,227.18
Interest to 31.12.16	31/12/2016	£12.62
Infinis Energy Ltd – Year 4 Donation	30/06/2017	£5,337.76
Interest to 31.12.17	31/12/2017	£6.01
Ventient Energy Ltd – Year 5 Donation	28/02/2018	£5,548.85
Ventient Energy Ltd – Year 5 Additional Donation	15/05/2018	£1,596.49
Interest to 31.12.18	19/02/2019	£4.71
Ventient Energy Ltd – Year 6 Donation	26/03/2019	£7,313.04
Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund – Additional Percentage from Year 5 Donation	03/06/2019	£6,385.96
Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund – Additional Donation, Year 6	03/06/2019	£5,850.43
Ventient Energy Ltd – Year 7 Donation	25/02/2020	£13,516.98
	Sub Total	£60,965.96
 Expenditure		
Grants released in period		£43,945.20
Grants to be released		£0.00
	Sub Total	£43,945.20
 Total funds available as at 29/03/2020		 £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

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 under this Fund 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 & Monquitter 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 & Monquitter 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 & Monquitter 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

Auchterless, Inverkeithney & Fisherford Community Fund

Auchterless, Inverkeithney & Fisherford Community Fund Panel accepts application on a rolling basis. The number of awards made under this Fund has been low, and funds distributed to 29 March 2020 totalled £43,325.96. No awards were made during 2016-2017.

At its October 2017 meeting, the Panel decided that £30,000 would be ear-marked for a proposed new car park for the village. However, it is now unclear whether that project will go ahead. Foundation Scotland is meeting with the Panel in December 2020 to explore ways of increasing fund distribution and impact, for example the potential for commissioning services that are needed locally, education and training bursaries, and the introduction of regular application deadlines that are widely advertised in advance. An endowment fund is also an option to be explored.

2015-2016

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
Fisherford Community Association	To re-establish the Fisherford Leisure and Activity Group (FLAG), which will provide organised excursions and activities for the community	£215.00
Fisherford Community Association	To host up to four fun day events over the course of the year, including advertising costs, insurance, and maintaining the website	£456.00
Fisherford Community Association	To erect a shelter with a barbecue stand and lockup in Fisherford play park for use at community gatherings	£1,463.00
Fisherford Community Association	To replace the village noticeboard and erect play park signage	£874.80
Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford Community Council (Microgrant)	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community	£2,032.17

2017-2018

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
Auchterless Residents Association	To adapt a number of street lighting columns in the centre of the village to enable a festive lighting display	£1,672.00
Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford Community Council (Microgrant)	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community	£2,112.99

2018-19

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
Auchterless School Parent Council	To purchase equipment to develop the school playground	£10,000.00
Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford Community Council	To purchase land to provide a playpark for residents of Auchterless	£20,000.00
Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers	To contribute to the control and eradication of giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed along the river	£2,000.00

2019 – 2020

Applicant Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded
1st Fyvie Brownies	Towards the purchase of a trailer to transport the group's camping equipment	£2,500.00

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 local 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.