



**Barr Community Fund
Panel Meeting
Wednesday 16th June 2021
Zoom Video Call
MINUTES**

1. Welcome and apologies

Panel Members present

Hamish Denham (Chair)	Laura Warrender	Isabel Kay
John Logan	Jackie Logan	Maggie Bunnett
Tom Walker	Alexander Tait	Wendy Gillon
Dee Laver	Karin Nicholls	

In Attendance

Clare Graham	Foundation Scotland
Suzy Mercer	Foundation Scotland

Apologies

Dave Brown	Gareth Shields - SSE
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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that Hamish may have to leave the meeting early and it was agreed that a Vice-chair would be appointed for this meeting. John Logan agreed to be Vice-Chair, if required.

As this was the first Panel meeting for Dee Laver and Karin Nicholls, they were introduced to the Panel members. FS confirmed that both Panel members had completed an Induction session. One other Panel member had also been appointed since the last Panel meeting, Dave Brown, again FS confirmed that an Induction session had been completed.

2. Panel Updates

Minutes of last meeting

Approval

The minutes of the Barr Community Fund Panel meeting held on 24th March 2021 were approved as an accurate representative of the meeting. Proposed by John Logan; seconded by Alex Tait.

Matters arising not on agenda

None

Outstanding Actions

All the actions were noted as completed.

Policy Updates

None

Foundation Scotland Update

The Panel was advised that Foundation Scotland had launched an e-mail newsletter which includes updates on available funding and other news items. It was agreed that FS would distribute the link for Panel members who wish to sign up for the email newsletter.

ACTION: FS to distribute link for Panel members who wish to sign up for the FS email newsletter.

3. Fund Updates

Fund Statement

The Fund statements had been circulated prior to the meeting and confirmation of sums available for distribution as at 30th April 2021, were noted:

Falck Assel Valley Barr -	£111,203.57
Hadyard Hill Barr -	£48,378.32

There were no other fund updates.

4. Grant Applications

Applicant	Purpose of Request	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Girvan Community Sports Hub	To contribute to the costs of the Barr Community Sport project.	£2,451	£2,451

Feedback to the applicant:

The Barr Community Fund Panel is very supportive of the work undertaken by Girvan Community Sports Hub. It has been requested that the activities are widely promoted in the community and that contact is made with Barr Primary School to further promote the events. Additionally, the Panel has requested that consultation is undertaken to investigate if any further activities would be welcome by the community. The Panel would consider further applications if evidence was presented of the need for such activities.

Pre-payment:

That the applicant has confirmed the project can commence in line with Scottish Government COVID-19 guidelines.

Post payment:

That the applicant, with support from Foundation Scotland look to improve the organisations accounting format.

That the completion report contains details of numbers of people attending the events.

Barr Community Shop and Store	To assist in the purchase of the shop build	£24,000	Nil
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Maggie Bunnnett and Karin Nicholls declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

Feedback to the applicant:

The Barr Community Fund Panel recognises the importance of and positive work undertaken by Barr Community Shop and Store but took the view that a number of considerations need to be addressed before it could support an application to purchase the property.

The Panel was of the view that insufficient pre purchase work had been undertaken by the applicant to offset any risks relating to the purchase and future redevelopment. As a minimum, the Panel would have liked to have seen a structural survey having been carried out ahead of purchase, so that the applicant was aware of any liabilities that might come with the building.

The Panel also noted that the design stage has now gone out to tender but that the applicant did not yet have an up to date picture of the costs of redeveloping the property, which in the current climate, are likely to have increased. They were therefore concerned that proper consideration had not gone into the funding strategy for purchase and redevelopment of the building, and where the Barr Community Fund could best sit in the bigger picture of both purchase and redevelopment, given that there is not unlimited amount of resource available via the Community Fund.

The Panel was also concerned that it was not clear how the applicant intends to finance the design costs that are currently being tendered and would like to feedback that an application to the fund to support these pre purchase costs would be considered by the Panel ahead of any further applications to buy the building.

It was also noted that other buildings being taken into community ownership in the area have commonly sought support from the Scottish Land Fund, which can provide not only significant financial support with purchase costs and emergency repairs, but also practical advice on developing a project, from consultation with the community right through to business planning, which was felt to be a valuable resource available to community organisations looking at taking on assets. The Panel was of the view that it would have been helpful to understand why an application was not being made to the Scottish Land Fund and a clear rationale as to why.

Finally, the Panel recognised that the project is a significant undertaking for the current three Directors and the Panel wishes to provide feedback that the small number of Directors was identified as a risk to the both the organisation and the project, and would like to see the Board undertake a recruitment drive to increase the number of Directors to mitigate this risk.

For the avoidance of doubt, the applicant is not prevented from reapplying for support to purchase the building, however before another application for purchase could be considered the Panel would like the applicant to have in place:

- Evidence of the full cost of purchase and redevelopment, and the funding strategy to implement that
- Evidence that an approach has been made to the SLF and a rationale as to how the SLF and the Community Fund sit within the bigger funding strategy
- Evidence that the Stores have undertaken a recruitment drive, possibly as part of engaging the wider community with the plan to own and redevelop the Stores.

The Panel would like to reinforce that they would be happy to consider an application to support the costs of the design team tender, with a breakdown of costs for this stage of project development to accompany any application, however it would remind the applicant that it cannot support retrospective costs.	
Barr Community SCIO	To amend the purpose of three grant awards: A520379 (Falck AV Barr) – Grant award £10,000 A521455 (Hadyard Hill Barr) – Grant award £5,000 A553034 (Barr Community Fund) – Grant award £6,563
Purpose	The grants had been awarded to support the costs of a Development Officer.
Dee Laver, Alex Tait and Wendy Gillon declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.	
<p>Background</p> <p>Barr Community SCIO has been in negotiation with South Ayrshire Council (SAC) for a period of time to discuss a potential asset transfer of the Community Hall from SAC to Barr Community SCIO, however the project has now been put on hold. Over the past two years, the SCIO has been awarded three grants to support the costs of a Development Officer at 28 hours per week.</p> <p>Due to the change in circumstances, the SCIO has recognised that a Development Officer is not required for 28 hours per week and wishes to reduce the hours of the Development Officer to 11 hours per week. The 11 hours per week will be flexible (some weeks more hours may be worked, other weeks, less hours maybe worked), with Creetown Initiative invoicing the SCIO at the end of each month for actual hours worked. The Development Officer will be looking to progress the following projects:</p> <p>Outcome</p> <p>With regards to grant reference A520379 and A521455, the Panel agreed that the hours worked by the Development Officer could be reduced to 11 hours per week and therefore the contract may be extended to mid-February 2021.</p> <p>With regards to grant reference A553034, the Panel recognised that the role of the Development Officer has changed due to the plans of the asset transfer of the Community Hall being put on hold and that there are now other potential projects that can be progressed by the Development Officer. As a clearer picture of the needs of the SCIO will be better known towards the end of the year, the Panel agreed that the full grant award of £6,563 is returned to the Fund. If appropriate, an application may be submitted to future funding rounds.</p> <p>ACTION: FS to advise Barr SCIO of the Panel decision on the changes to grant reference A520379 and A521455 and ask that grant reference A553034 be returned to the Fund.</p>	

5. Education and Training Grant Update.

At the Barr Community Fund Panel meeting on 24th March 2021, it was agreed that a survey would be distributed to the Barr Community Fund Panel members to gather their views on establishing an Education and Training Fund for Barr. The results of the survey were presented to the Panel and it was agreed that an E&T Fund would be established and that FS would present a draft E&T Framework to the Panel. It was agreed that this would be a

rolling fund and a sub-committee would be established as the decision making body/Panel on applications to the E&T Fund. Wendy, Laura, Karin, John and Maggie agreed to be on the sub-committee.

ACTION: FS to draft an E&T Fund Framework, which would be further discussed with the Panel.

6. Terms of Reference

FS confirmed that the revised Terms of Reference (as agreed at the March Panel meeting) had been approved and signed by the Barr Community Council.

7. Any other Business

Barr Community Council distribute Small Grants and there was a concern that due to the current number of Community Councillors, it may be difficult to approve and distribute small grants. It was discussed and agreed, that there was no imminent problem with distribution of such grants and that if the situation changed FS would be contacted to support the community.

As Scottish Government restrictions on **face to face meetings** are still in a state of flux, FS were unable to advise the Panel as to when face to face Panel meetings would recommence. FS advised that any updates would be communicated.

Summary of actions:

Who	What	By when
FS	FS to distribute link for Panel members who wish to sign up for the FS email newsletter.	ASAP
FS	FS to advise Barr SCIO of the Panel decision on the changes to grant reference A520379 and A521455 and ask that grant reference A553034 be returned to the Fund.	ASAP
FS	FS to draft an E&T Fund Framework to the Panel for comments/approval.	ASAP

Date and venue of next Panel meeting
Wednesday 22nd September 2021
Venue - TBC