**MINUTES**

**Meeting of Scottish Land Fund Committee**

**16 November 2022**

**Longman House, Inverness & By Teams**

**Members:**

Cara Gillespie Chair of Scottish Land Fund Committee

Tom Black Scottish Land Fund Committee Member

Malcolm Combe Scottish Land Fund Committee Member

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

**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

1. **OPENING REMARKS**
   1. The Chair welcomed Committee Members and staff to this Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
   1. There were no apologies for absence.
   2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. **MINUTES FROM SLF MEETING HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2022**
   1. The minutes of the Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting held 24th August 2022 were approved as an accurate record.
4. **PIPELINE REPORT**
   1. Tony provided an overview of the pipeline report. Following the discussion at the last SLF Committee meeting the report is in a slightly different format and includes more analysis. The Committee noted that the pipeline remains healthy. Delays in community assets transfers and challenges with negotiated private sales are key trends that are causing projects to stall.
   2. The Committee commented that the extra analysis included in the report was helpful and it was interesting to see the number of commercial projects in the pipeline.
   3. Sandra highlighted that SLF are taking a blended approach to funding with the UK Government’s Community Ownership Fund (COF) which will provide funding for groups post acquisition. Pipeline summary information will be shared with COF to add value to the work of the SLF.
   4. Sandra also highlighted that HIE are commissioning research to look at larger land acquisitions. This work will start in the new year.
5. **OVERVIEW PAPER** 
   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.
   2. The press embargo for this meeting is 8th December.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS**

6.1 Six applications were considered for decision making.

6.2 Five applications were awarded funding.

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| **Name of Applicant** | **Project** | **Award** |
| Dunbar Community Bakery Limited | DCB Shop and Bakehouse Purchase | £124,560  Capital - £112,060  Revenue - £12,500 |
| Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association | Blairbeg Community Woods – Drumnadrochit | £135,936  Capital - £135,936 |
| Nith Valley LEAF Trust | Closeburn Community Shop/Café | £210,900  Capital - £210,900 |
| North Arran Community Benefit Society | North Arran Community Benefit Society | £483,643  Capital - £446,643  Revenue - £37,000 |
| Shapinsay Development Trust | Shapinsay affordable housing project | £190,881  Capital - £171,081  Revenue - £19,800 |
| Total Awarded |  | **£1,145,920**  **Capital -£1,076,620**  **Revenue -£69,300** |

1. **DISCUSSION WITH CROWN ESTATES SCOTLAND**
   1. Ailsa Raeburn, who is a Member of the Crown Estates Scotland (CES) Board joined the meeting and provided a detailed overview of the work of the CES including the proposed Community Land Acquisition Accelerator programme.
   2. Members and staff took the opportunity to discuss the proposals with Ailsa and ask her questions about the work of the CES.
   3. The Chair thanked Ailsa for joining the meeting.

**8. AOB**

8.1 The Committee noted that the next SLF Committee meeting will be held on 1st March 2023. Members discussed holding the meeting in the South of Scotland with further details on location and speakers to be provided.

8.2 The Chair informed the Committee that she has had a meeting with Dave Thomson to talk about the Committee review process and discuss feedback. It was a good productive conversation. It is important that the Committee keeps learning and monitoring and reflecting on their performance.

**9. FINISH**

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

9.2 There being no further business the meeting closed at 14.30.