# SCBF Directors Meeting

# 9th April 2025 at 1800

# Training Room Market House

**Present**: Chris Bunyan, John Dally, Alistair Christie-Henry, John Parry, Aileen Brown, Graham Booth, Mairi Thomson, David Cooper and Jamie MacBeath (joined 1840).

**In Attendance**: Eleanor Gear, Fund Manager and Michael Hannah, Burra and Trondra Nomination for director.

**1. Apologies**

Colin Clark, Jim Anderson, Alistair Laurenson, James Garrick and Jimmy Smith

**2. New declarations of interests**

None

**3. New Directors/Observers**

Chris Bunyan proposed Michael Hannah as the new director for Burra and Trondra, seconded by John Dally. Michael was elected unanimously.

**4. Minutes 12th February 2025**

Proposed by John Parry, seconded by John Dally. Agreed.

**Matters arising and not covered by Agenda**

None

**5. Audit and Governance Group**

CB advised directors that Harper Macleod (the legal firm used by SCBF) have sent directors a secure email link requesting information to carry out AML governance checks. SCBF administration emailed all directors ahead of Harper Macleod sending the secure link to confirm legitimacy of their contact, however, there were some concerns raised as not all directors had not seen the information sent by SCBF administration.

Aileen Brown raised that the make-up of each of the SCBF sub-groups should be considered before they are reformed following the AGM in June to ensure there are no conflicts for directors sitting on multiple SCBF sub-committees.

**6. Administration**

The Director’s Handbook has been reviewed and updated and was circulated to directors ahead of the meeting. The main changes were to sections 2.1.1 through to 2.2 which is the background to SCBF and the community benefit funds they manage. The new version will be added to the documents section on the SCBF website.

**7. Financial Report**

**(a)** **Report on 2024-25 income and expenditure**

Report noted.

**(b) Annual Interest**

A paper was circulated discussing different options for future distribution of the annual interest received by SCBF across their savings accounts and Gilt Bonds. Directors were asked to email SCBF administration ahead of the next meeting in June with any ideas they have for community focused initiatives for distribution of these funds in 2025/26 and beyond.

**8. Legal and Accountancy Advice**

Nothing new to report

**9. Viking Energy**

Nothing new to report

**10. Fund Management Group**

**(a) Fund Managers Report**

The Viking Community Fund has now awarded over £1,000,0000 which is a significant milestone in the first 7 months. A press release is being drafted and will be issued soon.

As requested by directors during the February meeting, the circulated report contained two tables with a breakdown of bursary awards by vocation for round 1.

The Housing Consultancy contract was awarded to Rural Housing Solutions Ltd and L&L Fraser Ltd who Eleanor met with on the 1st of April to discuss how the 25 days of consultancy support will be offered to community groups looking at community-led housing initiatives. It is anticipated that both Eleanor and the consultants will be joining an online call with local development companies soon to share details of the support available.

A recent training opportunity for an online workshop regarding roles and responsibilities of directors and trustees was circulated to directors in March and Eleanor asked if anyone was able to attend. Unfortunately, due to the lateness of the notification of the event, no one could attend and report back. Future opportunities will be investigated.

Report noted

**11. CGS & Strategic Funding**

**(a) CGS T1 and T2 Application Summery report**

Report noted.

**(b) CGS T3 and Strategic Funding decisions report**

Four applications were received to the Strategic Reactive Fund which closed on the 28th of February. They were,

The Brae Rural Energy Hub CIC - £114,349 towards salary costs of FTE1.6 from November 2025 to October 2029. The level of financial support reduces each year with 78% in year 1 down to 31.5% in year 4. South Nesting Boating Club - £79,800 for an Environmental Impact Assessment to progress their marina project, a local company are offering in-kind workboat support to the project. Scalloway Community Development Company - £60,000 towards a district heating feasibility study with the other £60,000 being sought from another funder(s). The Fair Isle Marine Research Organisation - £17,273 to carry out a sand eel survey and associated analysis of the data.

The applications exceeded the available funding for round 2 but as all four met the strategic priorities of the fund, the Fund Management Group agreed to reallocate funding from the ‘Proactive’ pot to support them all.

Shetland Renovations Ltd have been awarded £13,680 from the Strategic Proactive fund to deliver energy efficiency training (insulation installation training) to three staff members. There is a shortage of qualified installers in Shetland as we move towards the PAS 2030 standard for energy efficiency measures.

Report noted

**12 Shetland Aerogenerators Community Benefit Fund**

Nothing new to report.

**13 Other Commercial Renewable Energy Schemes**

**(a) Scottish Government consultation on community benefits – SCBF summary response**

A small working group of CB, Jamie MacBeath and Eleanor met and drafted an SCBF response to the Scottish Government consultation on community benefits. The SCBF response stresses the importance of communities being involved, SCBF itself being an excellent example of an organisation delivering community benefit funds, good governance of the delivering body, keeping decision-making local, developers offering capacity building to community groups looking at securing community benefit agreements (there is significant work involved in the process) and a strong disagreement with the notion of a ‘National Wealth Fund’.

**14 Any other business**

None

Meeting closed at 1900 hours

Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 11th June 2025 following the AGM at 6pm.