# SCBF Directors Meeting

# 13th August 2025 at 1800

# Conference Room

# Market House

**Present**: Chris Bunyan (Chair), Alistair Christie-Henry, David Cooper, Graham Booth, John Parry, Jeemie Smith, Jim Anderson, Michael Hannah, Sheilagh Smith, Colin Clark and Mark MacBeath

**In Attendance**: Eleanor Gear, Fund Manager and Emma McKay, Senior Administration Officer.

**1. Apologies**

Aileen Brown, John Dally, Mairi Thomson, Lawson Bisset and Alistair Laurenson

**2. New declarations of interests**

None.

**3. New Directors/Observers**

Chris Bunyan proposed Mark MacBeath as the new director for Yell, this was seconded by Alistair Christie-Henry. Mark was elected unanimously.

**4. Minutes 11th June 2025**

Colin Clark apologised for the oversight in not nominating John Parry to the Fund Management Group at the previous meeting. Jim Anderson proposed to nominate John to the Fund Management Group, and this was seconded by Graham Booth.

June minutes were proposed by Jeemie Smith, seconded by Graham Booth. Agreed.

**Matters arising and not covered by Agenda**

None

**5. Audit and Governance Group**

**(a) Application Appeal**

The Audit and Governance group reviewed an appeal following an application to the Strategic Fund which had been declined by staff for not meeting the fund’s criteria. The group reviewed the application and supporting documents and unanimously agreed that the application did not meet the fund’s criteria. The appeal was lost and the applicant notified.

**(b) Directors Board Training**

Board training for Director’s will be provided by Voluntary Action Shetland on the 8th of October. Eleanor to confirm a start time of 5pm with VAS and the next board meeting will follow on from the training.

**6. Administration**

SCBF officers have conducted annual staff reviews with the Fund Manager and Administration Officer.

**7. Financial Report**

**(a)** **Report on 2025-26 income and expenditure**

Report noted.

**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 Fund Management Group met on the 23rd of June to allocate funding to businesses who applied to the Apprenticeship Support Fund for Small Business. The fund was significantly oversubscribed and to support additional businesses, the panel agreed to move funding allocations within the ‘Young People’ priority to increase the budget available. 10 businesses have been awarded funding with the first payments to be made at the beginning of September.

The Bursary Fund closed on the 31st of July receiving 84 applications, applications have been reviewed and funding will be allocated at the next Fund Management Group meeting on the 21st of August.

The Accredited Training Fund has currently supported three applications. Eleanor is actively reviewing the fund to enhance its visibility and accessibility.

The first year of the main Viking Community Fund has been very successful, 63 projects have been supported from Unst to Fair Isle. SCBF staff invited Applicants, Community Councillors and Community Council Clerks to participate in an online survey to share their feedback on the application process, guidelines, and communication with the organisation. The results were very positive, and minor updates to the Strategic Fund and CGS have been implemented to enhance the funding processes.

Report noted

**11. CGS & Strategic Funding**

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

Report noted.

**(b) Strategic Funding**

One application was received to the third round of the Strategic Fund which closed on 30th of June.

Shetland Youth Voice were awarded £23,850 to deliver 6 Shetland Youth Voice summits which are youth-led engagements events, enabling young people to shape decisions and influence policy across Shetland.

One proactive application from the Fair Isle Electricity Company were awarded £86,487 to support a critical technical upgrade to Fair Isle’s microgrid. This will enhance resilience, reduce diesel reliance, and meet growing demand. The grant amount represents 25% of an overall funding package for a project expected to cost £344,1150.

**(c) VCF Annual Review**

As part of the annual fund review surveys were sent out to CGS & Strategic applicants, community councils and community clerks. Feedback from applicants were very positive, with many highlighting the clearness of the process and ease of communication. SCBF received a disappointing response from community councils and clerks.

Overall, feedback received shows a positive start to the first year of the fund with staff completing small changes to the application form, guidelines and website. They are also working on promotional material for community councils which will be sent out soon along with an invite to a Zoom session in September where community councillors and clerks can ask questions about the fund.

At the recent Fund Group Meeting it was decided to no longer have ‘Proactive’ and ‘Reactive’ elements of the Strategic Fund as it can be confusing for applicants and administratively. The fund will be simply referred to as the ‘Strategic Fund’ and all applications will be made through the online application form. It will be open 4 times per year with the first application deadline being the 31st of October 2025.

**12 Shetland Aerogenerators Community Benefit Fund**

The annual fund payment for 2025-26 has been received and is committed to the 2025 Shetland Science Fair.

**13 Other Commercial Renewable Energy Schemes**

Nothing new to report.

**14 Any other business**

**(a) UK Government consultation on community benefit and shared ownership**

Eleanor drafted and submitted a response to the UK Government consultation on community benefit and shared ownership. The SCBF response addressed the questions in the consultation which were relevant to SCBF.

**(b) Cross Sectoral Statement**

A paper was circulated on the cross-sectoral statement drafted in response to the UK Government’s community benefits working paper. It encourages to UK Government to look at the leading example created by Scotland. SCBF have been added as a signatory to the statement.

Meeting closed at 1910 hours

Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 8th October 2025.