

Sunart Community Benefit Fund

Panel Meeting Wednesday 12th April 2025

7.30pm, Zoom

Present: Eilidh-Ann Philips (Chair), John Jones (SC council Rep), Denise Anderson, Rebecca Drinkwater (Admin). Heather Pykett, Alex Pykett, Sandra Lawton, Alison Gainsford (SC Company Rep)

Apologies: Michelle Rundle, Dugald MacIntyre, Bryan Gregg, Catriona Hunter, Laura Wilson

1) Meeting Minutes for April 2025 Approved

2) SCBF Review Document

- Discussion – Panel members all agreed with the review summary and comments. See separate document.
- Panel Composition

Age Group	Total number that should be in each group
16-25	2 - Dugald MacIntyre (currently abroad) 1 vacancy Actions: - Denise and Laura to follow up potential candidates - John to check possible contact - Becky to approach Pauline Disher at DYW - Eilidh-Ann to speak with Dugald regarding ongoing involvement
26-44	3 – Laura Wilson, Alex Pykett, Heather Pykett
45-64	3 – Michelle Rundle, 2 Vacancies Chair Position Eilidh-Ann confirmed she would like to step down as Chair and from the panel when a suitable replacement is found. - The panel thanked Eilidh-Ann for her dedication and support since the fund began. - She is happy to support transition and attend the April 2026 meeting if needed. It was also suggested that the panel may wish to revisit a retiral/rotation policy. Actions: - Eilidh-Ann to seek a replacement - Becky to review terms and bring back to next meeting
65+	3 – Denise Anderson Sandra Lawton Alison Gainsford SCCouncil/S CCompany reps: – john

and Catriona	
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2) Current Funding Available

£84,946

Current Reserves

Note – SCBF Panel thanks Sunart Community Renewables for their generous donation of £20,000 this year.

This Rounds Applications

a) Declarations of interest

Application	Interests Declared
1. Playgroup	Alex, Heather, Laura
2. Scouts	

3) Discussion of each application and award amount

Application	Award Amount	Discussion
Strontian under 5s	£2000.00	Increased from £1,000. Strong community benefit, supports local families and helps stabilise group longer-term.
Scouts	£700.00	Approved in principle. Further detail required on additional costs before final confirmation, panel willing to cover full costs of trip rather than a portion
Total Awarded	£2,700.00	

The panel noted how positive it is to have strong funds available and recorded thanks to the hydro scheme.

Actions:

- Becky to follow up with Jamie/Matt (Scouts) for cost clarification

4) Investment & Financial Update

- £50,000 invested to date in endowment fund (now approx. £57,000)
- Investments are ethical and performing well

Alison suggested exploring further investment opportunities.

Sunart Rainforest Project

- £22,150 spent (June–August)
- £20,260 reclaimed
- £1,890 shortfall due to early project costs not eligible

Panel agreed to:

- Continue the current process of paying upfront and reclaiming
- Cover the £1,890 shortfall as a contribution to the project

(John and Alison declared interests)

Actions:

- Alison to provide updated financial breakdown
- Alison to explore further investment options

John thanked the panel on behalf of the company.

5) Feedback from Applicants

Agree that we need to gather feedback and make sure funds are spent as agreed.

6) Remaining funds going into Spring 2026.

7) Next meeting

£ 82,246

Un allocated
funds remaining

A round will be held in March/ April, Date TBC,
7.30pm, via zoom

8) Any Other Business (AOB)

- Additional round proposed for March/April (date TBC)
- Denise confirmed new email address (old no longer in use)
- Becky to promote panel vacancies and encourage applications

9. Closing

The panel recorded formal thanks to Eilidh-Ann Philips for her leadership and contribution.

Key Actions Summary

- Follow up panel vacancies (Denise, Laura, John, Becky, Eilidh-Ann)
- Becky to review panel terms and bring to next meeting
- Becky to contact Scouts for cost clarification
- Alison to provide financial update and explore investment options
- Becky to promote funding opportunities and panel vacancies

NB: Scouts (Follow-up):

Following the meeting, the panel agreed via email to increase the award to £1,000 in total, to fully cover the costs of the trip.

Current fund balance: £81,946