

RURAL PANEL

Minutes of meeting in the Ayrshire LEADER Local Action Group offices, Ayr
on 26th March 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Ann Galbraith (Chair), Andy Campbell, Bill Grant, William J. Grant, Helen Moonie and Alec Oattes.

Attending: C. Monaghan, Head of Communities; J. MacMillan, Manager (Community Learning and Development Initiatives); S. Baird, Programme Co-ordinator (Ayrshire LEADER Local Action Group); G. Hunter, Senior Accountant; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

1. Introductory Remarks.

The Chair welcomed those present to this Panel meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 13th November 2014 ([link attached](#)) was submitted and approved.

4. Rural Communities Fund Budgetary Control 2014/15 – Position Statement at 28th February 2015.

There was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 16th March 2015 by the Head of Finance and ICT advising of the performance of the Rural Communities Fund's expenditure against its budget for the period to 28th February 2015 (Period 11).

Decided:

(1) to note that although this Panel had previously approved grant funding of £2,405 to Ailsa Horizons Ltd. subject to other funding being in place, this grant would no longer be given as match funding had not materialised, thus now leaving uncommitted resources of £6,027; and

(2) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

5. Variation in Order of Business.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 13(2), the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

6. Application for Financial Support.

There was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 19th March 2015 by the Head of Communities advising that rural grant application had been submitted as undernoted.

Concern was expressed regarding consultation and who would be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment.

Decided: to award grant as follows:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Summary of Application</u>	<u>Panel Decision</u>
Dunure Community Council - Community Pride in Dunure – Improvement of Play Park.	To seek funding towards the creation of a locally available, safe and modern play facility for children to engage socially with each other in a healthy pastime.	Approve an award £4,950 subject to (1) the Community Council being advised that future revenue funding would be the responsibility of themselves; (2) appropriate insurance being in place; (3) the relevant Portfolio-holder being in agreement with the proposed grant award; and (4) the Council advising them of options for external funding in the future.

7. Ayrshire LEADER 2015-2020.

There was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 16th March 2015 by the Head of Communities providing an update on the new LEADER programme.

The Project Officer (Ayrshire LEADER Local Action Group) gave a presentation on the background to the LEADER programme and confirmed that an indicative allocation of funds for the new Ayrshire wide LEADER programme was imminent with the official launch of Scotland LEADER programme taking place in June 2015.

The Panel discussed a number of issues relating to the LEADER programme including rural poverty, the bureaucratic nature of the application forms, the need to award the funds wisely and local transport.

Decided: to note progress in the formation of the next Ayrshire wide LEADER programme.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.