



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust held in Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck on Wednesday 29 November 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present	Peter Faye, Zoe Iliffe, Frank Ellam, Ken Sinclair, Stewart MacPherson, Sharon Ferguson, Hugh Nicol, Garry Page, Julie Murphy
Chair	Zoe Iliffe
In Attendance	Laura Walker-Knowles (Trust Administrator) and Steven Watson (Trust Project Co-ordinator)
Apologies	None
Members	39
Non-members	15

1. WELCOME

The Chair informed the meeting that 39 members were present and the meeting was therefore quorate and **declared** the meeting formally **open**.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair referred to the letter and notice of meeting which had been produced and circulated to members as required. The content was agreed by the meeting with no objections from anyone present.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair presented her Annual Report giving an overview of the actions of the Trust over the year and advised that this could be viewed on the Trust's website.

The Report included a summary of the grants dealt with during the year. During the period the Trust had dealt with 57 grant applications, awarded 44 and had 11 pending decision. The Chair highlighted the importance of good governance and the grants process citing the Good Governance Policy the Trust had published, included with the Chair's Report. The Chair explained the new Medical Adaptations Grant and the new Large Group Grant Application process.

The Chair updated on the various projects being undertaken by the Trust including the Riverside Field Project, Foyers Bay Project, Foyers Bay Units to aid the expansion of Boleskine Community Care and the rollout of phase one of the Community Broadband Project.

To round off the year the Trust has arranged a Community Ceilidh at the Hall on 22 December 2017.

Looking to 2018 the Chair explained she would be stepping down and a new Chair elected. The Chair thanked the Board of Directors, the Community, the Community Council and Morven Smith and Marianne Townsley from SSE. The Chair advised there would be an opportunity for questions later in the evening.

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE DIRECTORS' REPORT

Frank Ellam, Finance Director introduced himself and presented the Finance Director's Financial Year End Report and Annual Accounts for year ending 30 June 2017. Frank explained the statutory requirements for accounts for a company limited by guarantee and talked through the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet. Frank also explained that since last year a new Accounting Standard had increased the statutory accounts in size but also given the Trust the option of a less detailed accounts layout, as the Trust may be classed as a micro-entity, which allows the accounts to run to only 7 pages, rather than 19. Given the brevity of the 7-page accounts Frank ran through the detail of the Management Accounts to 30 June 2017, with comparisons and explanations against the previous year's figures.

The Report and Accounts of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust for the year ended 30 June 2017 were considered and noted by the Members. Frank called for questions from the floor, but no questions were raised.

4. AMENDMENT TO TRUST'S ARTICLES

The Chair explained that, on the advice of Highlands and Island's Enterprise, the provisions of the Trust's Articles of Association needed to be changed by the deletion of one article relating to the power of the Board to refuse membership of any resident. The Chair duly requested the members present to vote yes or no to the amendment on the ballot papers handed out. The Members duly voted, and the ballot papers were collected in a ballot box and taken aside and independently counted and verified by Dr James Cameron.

Of the 39 members present 37 voted in favour of the Article change, 1 voted against and 1 did not cast a vote.

It was therefore RESOLVED that the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Trust be altered by:

1. In Article 16 the deletion of the numerals and words *"20, 22 and 23"* and replaced with *"20 and 23"*.
2. In Article 17 the deletion of the numerals and words *"[20, 22 and 23]"* and replaced with *"20 and 23"*.
3. In Article 18 the deletion of the numerals and words *"[21, 22 and 23]"* and replaced with *"21 and 23"*.

In Article 22 the deletion of the words *“The directors may, at their discretion, refuse to admit any person to membership where they have reasonable grounds to believe that he/she might, if admitted to membership, act in a manner which would damage the reputation of the company, undermine the efficiency of its operations and/or disrupt the proper conduct of its meetings.”* and replaced with *“Not used”*.

5. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Chair explained that, in accordance with the Articles of Association, three Directors had to step down each year from the Board and, together with a vacancy that occurred earlier in the year, that there were therefore four vacancies on the Board. Four completed Member Director Nomination Forms had been received from Peter John Faye, Stewart MacPherson, Zoe Iliffe and Caroline Mortimore. As there had been the same number of nominations as vacancies, the Chair advised the meeting that there was therefore no requirement for an election.

The Chair therefore **declared** that Zoe Iliffe, Peter Faye, Stewart MacPherson and Caroline Mortimore were duly elected Member Directors to the Board.

The Chair advised that that concluded the formal elements of the AGM and opened the meeting to questions from the floor.

OPEN QUESTIONS

1. A local resident asked the Board when he should expect broadband to be available to him under the Trust's rollout project. Sharon Ferguson, the Director leading the project, explained that phase 2 was underway however, it was not as straightforward to get the infrastructure flowing. Sharon explained to those present that any local help with viewpoints from housing would be very much welcome. Zoe Iliffe briefly explained how the Trust's Project Broadband system worked.
2. A member voiced that it would be helpful for visitors and new residents of Stratherrick and Foyers to understand the history of the area. Explaining that communities are made up of two things: population and land and that good employment opportunities are key to keeping a population in an area and that the separation of people from the land is a factor in depopulation. It is important for the retention of communities to have such things as crofts or other small enterprises connected to the land. The member put a plea to the Trust to look at crofting, forestry products or better access to nature conversation. The Board acknowledged the suggestion and commented, in relation to retention of employment in the area, that the broadband scheme was going some way to retaining / giving the opportunity to those who could work from home, along with breakfast and after school clubs at both the local schools.

Catriona Fraser on behalf of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council expressed her gratitude to the Trust Directors for managing and distributing the funds and wished the new Board of Directors all the best. Catriona thanked Dr Jim Cameron as he takes up the post of the new Liaison Director and thanked Zoe as Chair whose shoes would be hard to fill.

Hugh Nicol, Trust Director, gave thanks to Zoe on behalf of the Board for her three years hard work as Chair.

The Chair **declared** the meeting **closed** at 8.32 p.m.

Signed by Chair

Date
