



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST HELD VIA ZOOM AT 7.00 pm ON WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY 2021

Present Frank Ellam (FE), Russell Bain (RB), Jillian Barclay (JB), Kirsty Balfour (KB), Lorraine Lewis (LL), Gareth Jones (GJ), Chris Finlay (CF), Catriona Fraser (CNF), Chris Gehrke (CG)

Apologies Martin Donnelly (MD)

Chair Kirsty Balfour (KB)

In Attendance Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)

Declarations of interest: KB declared an interest in *Kirsty Balfour - Student Grant Application*.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES 13 JANUARY 2021

Chris Gehrke **PROPOSED** and Frank Ellam **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Meeting held on 13 January 2021 were **AGREED** as a correct record without any further amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Project Planning

Carried forward to next meeting.

Community Council Liaison

KB has been in touch with Patrick to discuss a future CC Liaison Director but KB or GJ will attend CC meetings as an informal liaison in the meantime.

Director Teams

Action: LWK update send to KB to check.

Project Plan/Reporting

Project planning and reporting is continuing with training for individual project teams. The Board noted the new reporting format will allow the information to be easily transferrable for use by the comms team.

Winter Wonderland

Calum is pencilled in for the weekend of 10/11 December 2021.

Broadband Agreement

The agreement is with CG who is collating Director responses.

Timeline Update

Carried forward.

Action: Update timeline – KB/LWK

Wildside – Vaccination Centre

The Board noted CNF has written to the medical centre.

3. FINANCE REPORT

The Board noted the circulated Finance Report. FE updated the report with receipts and payments post the date of the report. FE took the Board through the Management Accounts for the six months to the end of December 2020. The Board noted the profit and loss account, balance sheet figures and the comparatives for the same period 2019.

The Board discussed the legacy fund investments. The Board discussed drawing down funds in advance of the expected schedule of receipts from SSE.

The Board discussed possible new future benefit payments and their effect on early drawdown and the Legacy Fund.

4. GRANT APPLICATION

Student Grant Applications

Applicants: **Ruaraidh MacDonald, Hannah-Kelly Tay, Kirsty Balfour and Millie Ferguson**

Amount applied for: £500

Purpose of grant: Student/Course Expenses.

The Board **APPROVED** the grants in the sum of **£500**.

Fund: Glendoe

Applicants: **Alannah Graydon and Gill Gray**

Amount applied for: £500

Purpose of grant: Course expenses.

The Board **RATIFIED** the earlier approval of the grant in the sum of **£500**.

Fund: Aberchalder

Large Grant Application

Applicant: **Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council**

Purpose of grant: **Replacement toilet block.**

The Board discussed and **RATIFIED** earlier approval of the grant up to the sum of **£58,000**.

5. QUARTERLY UPDATES

(a) Energy, Renewables and Transport

The Board noted there was no formal update.

(b) Foyers Bay

RB updated on a recent meeting with Mike Lawson, the Trust Architect. Mike and RB had visited the site and drawn up an outline of the plan. The Board noted that Mike is putting together a fee proposal for an application and once received an updated report will be circulated.

(c) Liaison Director

KB attended the Community Council meeting last week and the Board noted two new councillors had been co-opted, Craig Lightbody and Jim Cameron. There are now six councillors and a relatively new Chair, however, before they fill a liaison role with the Trust they need to fill the Community Council Vice Chair and Treasurer roles. KB and GJ will informally fill the Trust liaison role in the interim. At the Community Council Meeting KB took the CC through the Trust's current projects and the Community Action Plan. The CC are keen to meet Tony Foster, the Trust Manager when he starts.

6. COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

GJ updated on the first meeting of the recently formed steering group. The group had been put together from a list compiled geographically, by age and interest. The Board noted around 22 people were in attendance and Nick and his team walked them through the CAP and what was required from the group. The Board discussed there remained a need to represent the self-employed and the young. The group will meet once a month and the next step is to consult with the community and Nick is pulling together a plan. CNF was in attendance and commented the meeting was good, as was Nick. CNF has spoken to a self-employed worker in the area who is happy to be put forward to join the steering group. The Board discussed the self-employed and suggested further names to approach.

Action: Further names for the list – RB

7. BROLLY GROUP/COVID RESPONSE

GJ and KB updated the Board on the current Brolly Group set up. The group currently meet every two weeks and JB is happy to continue for a short period, but beyond that continuation of Trust representation is essential, to guide the group on what can and cannot be funded.

The Board noted a deeper analysis of the questionnaire results is underway. KB is tasked to restart the community larders and there are discussions on food boxes restarting. HIE funding for both the larders and food boxes is available. The mental health and wellbeing elements of the questionnaire are also being analysed and initiatives for the area are underway.

Sharon Ferguson is going to produce a Brolly Group monthly newsletter to include updates in relation to support, funding, general information and contacts.

The Board discussed support for fuel poverty. GJ confirmed the Trust are in open discussions with SSE as to how their funds can be used to support the community through the impacts of Covid. The Board noted that GJ has stepped down as Chair of the Brolly Group. The Board discussed different approaches of involvement of the Trust and the speed of decisions required, which would not work with the scheduled monthly Trust Board meetings. The Board discussed and decided on attendance at the Brolly Group meetings on a rotational basis.

The Board noted the Trust's Covid group remains and are reviewing initiatives.

CG suggested looking to existing systems that could be utilised for certain areas of hardship.

Knockie Trust

The Board discussed the increase of the amount of funding to the Knockie Trust per year. KB had received a request to the Trust to increase the funding from £3,000 to £5,000 per year.

CNF and RB declared an interest.

FE confirmed the funding could be increased from £3,000 to £5,000. The Board noted that assistance cannot be a payment of cash but a cost that relieves hardship for the applicant. The grant also cannot be used for payment of debts or bills. SSE will not allow the Trust to fund fuel payments.

Action: Discussions re food and fuel/Knockie Trust – KB/GJ

The Board **AGREED** to increase the annual payment to the Knockie Trust to £5,000 and for the Knockie Trust to be a conduit for disbursing additional funds for fuel poverty if SSE agree.

The Board discussed additional details required from applicants and also the exclusions means testing may create.

03/02/2021

The Board discussed better advertisement and promotion of the Knockie Trust within wider community.

Action: Ask Fiona/Ian to draft a communication for the website – JB

Action: Write to Fiona with increase information - LWK

8. LAPTOPS/SOFTWARE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

CF will contact ITP with the list of training requests from the Board. The Board noted the e mails had not yet been transferred over to the new system from Calico.

Action: Contact ITP re e mail system and training - CF

9. MEMBER APPLICATIONS

The Board noted member applications from Julie Harvey and Mark Hindley.

10. AOCB

Monthly Newsletter

The Board **AGREED** to print and send to current postal mailing list.

Projects

The Board noted that CF will be stepping down from the Broadband project and CG will be taking the Lead. CF will be a point of contact for operations in his role as a CFWN employee. The Board noted the clear separation of the roles. The Board discussed the quote submitted at the last meeting for the extension of the current wireless system.

Action: Proposal for Wildside cabinet/wireless extension – KB/CG

Errogie Church

Meeting tomorrow 7.30 p.m. via Zoom, all Directors welcome.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.00 p.m. Wednesday, 3 March 2021 via Zoom

The Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Signed by Chair (KB) _____

Date _____