

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS
COMMUNITY TRUST HELD VIA ZOOM AT 7.00 pm ON WEDNESDAY
2 FEBRUARY 2022**

Present Gareth Jones (GJ), Catriona Fraser (CNF), Kirsty Balfour (KB),
Ken Sinclair (KS), Lorraine Lewis (LL), Mark Sutherland (MS)

Apologies Maureen McGuire (MG), Chris Gehrke (CG)

Non-attendance Maire Brown (MB)

Chair Kirsty Balfour (KB)

In Attendance Tony Foster (TF), Carlene Vincent (CV), Caroline Tucker (CT),
Douglas Westwater (DW) (Community Enterprise)

Minutes Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)

Declarations of interest: KS declared an interest in Wade Bridge Grant Application.

A. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Douglas Westwater from Community Enterprise joined the meeting at 7 p.m.

STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE SESSION – COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

TF introduced Douglas Westwater. DW explained the purpose of his involvement with the Trust and his review of the Trust's systems and governance. The Board and staff took part in a detailed discussion.

DW left the meeting at 8 p.m.

B. MINUTES 12 JANUARY 2022

GJ **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Meeting held on 12 January 2022 were **AGREED** as a correct record without any further amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Statement of Financial Principles

Action - carried forward action for Directors to sign.

Laptops

These have been distributed to new Directors.

Trust SharePoint

Action - arrange a tour through SharePoint/MS Teams – LWK/TF.

Communications

A report in relation to events for 2022.

Action for next meeting - CT.

Steve Mobile

In relation to Steve's mobile, the Board noted this has been changed by Steve for the role and he will see how it goes. TF continues to be the point of contact for any urgent issues.

Broadband

The CFWN actions are completed.

Grant Notice

Grant notices to noticeboard – *carried forward action for KB.*

Grant notice to website – *carried forward action for LWK.*

Hall Report

An update on repairs for the next News.

Action – update on repairs, speak to Hugh - KB/CT

C. FINANCE REPORT

The Board noted CV's circulated finance report.

CV highlighted the need for new Trustee signatures from the Board moving forward. The Board noted the Legacy Committee comprises GJ, KS and MM and they would be appropriate candidates.

CV asked the Board for feedback on the level of detail discussed at meetings. The Board requested any exceptions be highlighted. CV confirmed there were no exceptions at this time. CV highlighted the status of the main projects.

TF updated the Board that the monthly finance meetings were now in place with the first attended last month by LWK, TF and CV.

D. GRANT APPLICATIONS

(a) **Student Grant Applications**

(i) **Applicant:** Chris Finlay

Amount applied for: £500

Purpose of grant: Student Expenses

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

Fund: Glendoe

(ii) **Applicant:** Michael Bloodworth

Amount applied for: £100

Purpose of grant: Course Expenses

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£100**.

Fund: Glendoe

(iii) **Applicant:** Scott Simpson

Amount applied for: £500

Purpose of grant: Student Expenses

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

Fund: Glendoe

(b) **Constituted Group Grant Application**

(i) **Applicant:** Wade Bridge

Amount applied for: £6,500

Total Cost: £13,000

Purpose of grant: To carry out critical repairs to the north corner of the west abutment which has been eroded by flood river flow.

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£8,500** (contingency included).

Fund: TBC

E. QUARTERLY REPORTS

(a) **Foyers Bay**

The Board noted there had not been a Steering Group since December.

LL updated there is concern in relation to the depth of water at end of the slip and the cost implications of different depths are significant.

The project team met with the designer from Fairhurst on site and discussed where the measurements were generated from.

At the end of the slip, the most affordable option is 1.8m depth, as the water stands, at the end. The team are happy with this, as the lowest level recorded is 0.8m, which is less than the current level. This would suit a boat draft of 0.5m.

The Board noted a further steering group would not be held until the final costs are available, including architectural fees and planning fees.

The Board noted it would be preferable to install at a point when water is at its lowest, as this would be easier and more affordable. The pontoons will form phase 2. The information so far is to site them off the slip, but this may not

work, even if the land is excavated to allow them to float, as water is so shallow. The base of loch moves quite substantially and will eventually back fill. There is potential further round from the slip at the site of a dilapidated breakwater as there is potentially more depth, this will be discussed further at the next steering group meeting. Phase three would involve plans for suitable buildings.

The Board were happy for the team to press on with the recommendations.

(b) Community Council Update

At the recent CC meeting, TF presented the Trust's report and updated on current activities, there were no questions of note. The Board noted KB had also been in attendance.

Action: Pothole information - TF

F. MONTHLY REPORTS

(a) SSE Meeting Update

The Board noted in relation to one of the SSE funds the RPI was being capped at 3%, no matter how high the RPI goes and this is not in the contracts.

CV has written to Marianne at SSE. The Board noted it is not a lot of money but it is the principle it was capped. The Trust will highlight the 3% cap with any future funds that come from SSE.

The Board noted a requirement to show evidence of spend and decisions. The Trust had recently received a request and it was a concern to be asked for information with two days' notice.

SSE have noted the Trust procedures follow good practice and that these processes are being followed with implementation of the CAP.

Action: Contact Strathnairn - TF

(b) Trust Manager

The Board noted TF's circulated report. Three applications had been received for the Fundraising post with interviews being held tomorrow.

The Board discussed the role of fund negotiator. The Board noted that Sharon Ferguson and Paula Page from the CC liaise with wind farm owners and work with companies such as SSE. TF highlighted the Trust are behind the curve in relation to negotiating funds and are more reactionary rather than proactively going and finding out exactly what is available. On that basis, TF suggested employing a person to do this work for the Trust, on a flexible part time basis with an initial budgeted salary of £4,050 per year. This would facilitate an average of ten hours per week to pull the requisite information together. This information would be shared with the CC, keeping both groups up to date on wind turbine extension/s and new developments.

The Board noted in the past a Trust Director negotiated as part of their role, along with a CC Director.

The Board discussed if there was capacity already in the existing staff resource at the Trust to perform this role.

TF will return with further information.

The Board noted the CAP outcomes and follow-ons, and the starting paper for the Board to review. TF took the Board through the paper and the traffic light system showing where the Trust are, work in progress and those ideas for the future. The Board will initially look at an idea for a project and then look at individual areas in the community where it could be implemented, giving consideration, amongst other things to space and then incorporating a relatively wider view of the community.

G. WINTER WONDERLAND EVENT UPDATE

The Board noted the circulated report. Unfortunately, there was less community involvement due to covid. Positives included the community market and Santa which were very successful and had good volunteer back up. It was a big loss that both schools could not be involved, again due to Covid.

The summer event preparation will now get underway.

CF thanked CT on the work put into the Winter Wonderland and what a fantastic event it was.

H. AOCB

(a) Errogie Church Community Consultation – call out for volunteers

The Board noted the consultation will be held on Thursday 10th and Saturday 12th February. GJ made a call for Directors attend one or both to help with the facilitation of the sessions, so the team can get a good feel for feedback from the community.

I. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.00 p.m. Wednesday, 2nd March 2022 at Wildside Centre/Hybrid

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed by Chair (KB) _____

Date _____