

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE AND MS TEAMS AT 7.00 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2022

Present	Chris Gehrke (CG), Kirsty Balfour (KB), Catriona Fraser (CNF), Maureen McGuire (MG), Gareth Jones (GJ), Mark Sutherland (MS), Ken Sinclair (KS)
Apologies	None
Chair	Kirsty Balfour (KB)
In Attendance	Tony Foster (TF), Marie Keenan (MK), Caroline Tucker (CT)
Non-attendance	-
Minutes	Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)
Declarations of interest:	None

A. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. TF introduced Marie Keenan the new Trust Finance Officer.

B. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – 1 JUNE 2022

CG **PROPOSED** and CF **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Meeting held on 6 June 2022 were **AGREED** as a correct record without any further amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

- The Minutes for May 2022 have been circulated to members and uploaded to the website.
- Following her resignation Lorraine Lewis has been removed from Companies House as a Director.
- Inverfarigaig has been discussed with CG and TF. Running costs and reserve reduction has moved on and will be covered under finance.
- Michael Bloodworth's grant has been finalised.

C. FINANCE

The Board noted the circulated finance report.

TF presented the updated budget for the new financial year 22/23. The Board noted the earlier error in the spreadsheet and the change in forecast on projects. The Board were pleased to note the available budget has increased to forecast a surplus, and TF ran through the impact on each heading.

In relation to staff costs, the Board considered the suggested annual increase in staff costs. The Board discussed increasing the recommended percentage to take account of the rising cost of living and applied to all staff employed with the Trust over three months. The Board discussed the cost of the increase to the Trust's figures.

A decision will be made separately once members of staff are not present.

Action: Discussion via e mail/meeting re cost of living increase – Directors

Action: Salary figures per person with both suggested percentage increase to compare - circulate to Directors – TF/MK

D. GRANTS

(a) Student Grants

(i) Applicant: Casey Burton

Purpose of grant: Student/Course Costs

Cost of course: £500

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

The Board discussed the student grant form and a need to highlight awards for study costs where transport is a cost issue in relation to study.

Action: Communications team to promote and encourage applicants.

(ii) Applicant: Hannah Kelly Tay

Purpose of grant: Student Costs

Amount applied for: £500

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

(iii) Applicant: Zak Barrett

Purpose of grant: Student Costs

Amount applied for: £500

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

(b) **Sporting Grant**

(iv) **Applicant:** Olivia Grant

Purpose of grant: Costs to attend the International Horse Show.

Amount applied for: £250

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£250**.

(c) **Constituted Grant Application**

(v) **Applicant:** Stratherrick Clay Target Club

Purpose of grant: Electricity connection, new traps and acoustic set.

Cost of Project: £23,043.36

Amount applied for: £13,043.36

The Board **RATIFIED** the earlier grant **APPROVAL** in the sum of **£13,043.36**.

E. TRUST MANAGER'S REPORT

The Board noted TF's circulated report.

Prior to receiving planning in principle the Trust will write infrastructure into the application. The architects have advised speaking to the stakeholders after completion of the work. By including an infrastructure design as a condition for planning in principle it will remove some of the twenty-six conditions out of the planning in principle.

KB is arranging a date to meet with some of the Lower Foyers' residents. The Board noted that TF would not be attending as he is on annual leave. Attendees at the meeting must have read the design/planning to ensure the meeting is effective. The Board discussed how to reach those who are intimidated to speak up.

As the project is moving on, a Lead Director is now required.

Action: Appoint Riverside Field Lead Director - Board

Foyers Bay is now in planning. There were some questions from the community and the architect has inputted this to the planning process. The Trust has funds of £70,000 from Scottish Canals, but the groundwork may be more and there is a funding application ready to go once we have the cost.

Action: Chase up architect for costing for the work - TF

The Errogie Church project has met with a small delay due to the bat survey with three species found. Phase one commences in September but may be

pushed forward with the first design drawings through for phase 2 currently being refreshed to fit the budget.

Action: Confirm building been declassified as a place of worship – CT/GJ

TF confirmed Margaret Davidson has been brought in to help with the biodiversity of the building. GJ updated that a group of residents with interest in the church are forming a team to work out how best the community can use the building as a centre for the area, but also to extend to other groups and museums in the area, and the rest of Scotland. In doing so it is hoped we can create a network for heritage, music, arts, crafts and biodiversity. Therefore, part of the funding will be drive for people to visit along with sophisticated technology for virtual meetings to allow wider connections. Directors queried if local groups had been involved and CT confirmed in relation to music, Alex Sutherland, Julie Harvey and Mark Hindley, for Arts and crafts, Ros Rowell and Margie Elgar-Bond and in relation to Heritage, Graeme and Fiona Ambrose.

The Board discussed the potential for multiple venues versus the need for housing.

The Board discussed the concept of twenty-minute communities.

There followed a discussion in relation to the need for clarity in the community describing the specific functions for each current and potential venue.

Action: Formal note to Lyn Woods/Spin and Chatter re Errogie Hall function/s – CT

Action: Errogie Phase 1 spending - agenda item for September 2022 meeting – LWK/GJ

Wildside Centre – Land Adjacent

The Trust are working with Scottish Land Fund to carry out the housing needs assessment and the feasibility work for the Wildside Centre. The Trust can apply for up to £30,000 in support.

Inverfarigaig Land

The Trust can apply for land funds and purchase the land following a soil survey. However, this has been paused while investigations into funding the work take place. There was a discussion at the steering group on the best way forward from the two options.

Communications

The Trust has been awarded £6,000 for one Communications Officer for one year.

Community Action Plan

An extension to CAP place planning meeting with Nick Wright will take place at the end of July with support from CAP group. It is hoped this, along with support from a community development officer, will take the emotion out of placement.

Action Groups

The community life action group met and included nursery and childcare discussions and there will be a meeting with those in attendance to discuss potential childcare. Paths and places steering group members are auditing the paths around the community with assessment from the perspective of various user groups. Our homes group will be carrying out the Wildside housing needs assessment and are meeting the Communities Housing Trust in relation to funding and the plans for Inverfarigaig.

Broadband

The mast is now erected at Dunmaglass along with a sub mast. The Lease with Dunmglass is signed.

The Board discussed the CFWN marketing activity.

The Board noted the compiled and circulated Directors' report and TF thanked the Directors for their input.

F. TRUST STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

The Board noted the circulated paper and the Directors on the Trust Investment Team recently met with Clarendon Investments.

The Board discussed Clarendon's suggestion to increase the current Trust investment percentage volatility ceiling of 5% to between 10 – 25%. The Board discussed the Trust's Environmental and Social Governance.

The Board noted the London Internet Bank Offered Rate was being removed from the portfolio and the Board **AGREED** to the Bank of England interest rate at 5%.

The Board noted the Trust's Investment Principles which set out what the Trust can invest in and the contract between Clarendon and the Trust that stipulates not to invest in anything that would bring the Trust into disrepute.

The team will bring the suggested new portfolio to a meeting later in the year if the Board are happy to explore new investments. The team will be meeting with Clarendon every six months.

Action: Request an amendment to the final sentence 'reasonable endeavours' in Clarendon's letter – KS

Action: Circulate signing documents for Clarendon - GJ

G. HIGHLAND GATHERING

CT updated on the summer event.

The Board noted there had been a lot of publicity and the July newsletter focuses on the event and is due for circulation next week.

The Board discussed the race and associated disclaimer, stewards and prizes. CT has been in touch with Run for It for prize vouchers.

The wind farm traffic not run for the day.

GJ is MC and Henry and Molly Fraser will be prize giving.

The Board discussed having a marshall at the Corriegarh turning.

All local bars have been contacted to provide a bar with no success. Sarah Byrne has obtained an occasional licence for the Trust overseeing that side of things and Geillons of Inverness will be doing a mobile bar. The Board noted that the Whitebridge Hotel were approached, and arrangements made but unfortunately, they pulled out citing lack of information. The Board discussed building good relationships with the Whitebridge Hotel.

The Trust will make a push to onboard volunteers and community resources prior to the event. The Board noted paid help may need to be sought if there were insufficient numbers of volunteers. The Trust will approach different local groups and add incentives.

Action: Inverness police volunteers/cadets for the race - MS

Action: Contact police for incident number for the day – CT

Action: Speak with Whitebridge Hotel – KS/CF

H. AOCB

May 2022 Minute

The Board clarified the meaning of the word 'host' in relation to the Jubilee Event, in the paragraph in the May 2022 Minutes, which read "*CF highlighted that the Jubilee Event, along with other events hosted by the Trust, were lacking in first aiders...*" The Jubilee Event was supported by the Trust rather than hosted.

CRM System

The Board **AGREED** to purchase two licences for Mailchimp for one year and thanked MM for her work on finding the best option.

Directors

The Board discussed getting on board new Directors.

Maire Brown

The Board noted that Maire Brown will be re-invited and hopefully co-opted to the Board.

Errogie Church Project Officer

A funding application is being submitted for a project officer for Errogie Church. This post would be fully funded from external sources. A job description needs to be put forward and GJ will send a draft to MS for review.

Chair

KB stepped down as Chair.

Kirsty Balfour **PROPOSED** Gareth Jones as Chair and MS **SECONDED** and Gareth Jones was duly elected as Chair.

Jubilee Event

The Board discussed the difficulty working on joint events with the community and the logistical difficulties. A paper will be put together of lessons learned ahead of any future events.

Action: Forward suggestions to TF by the end of tomorrow – All

Action: Contact Maire Brown – KB

Action: Forward Errogie JD to MS – GJ

Action: Lessons Learned Paper – CF/CT/GJ

I. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting 3 August 2022, 7 p.m. Hybrid.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the meeting

Signed
Chair (Kirsty Balfour)

Date