

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust held at Wildside and via Zoom on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Present	Kirsty Balfour (KB), Gareth Jones (GJ), Chris Gehrke (CG), Catriona Fraser (CF), Maire Brown (MB), Ken Sinclair (KS), Maureen McGuire (MM), Mark Sutherland (MS)
Chair	Gareth Jones (GJ)
In Attendance	Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK) (Trust Administrator), Caroline Tucker (CT) (Project Co-ordinator) Steven Watson (SW) (Community Liaison Officer), Marie Keenan (MK)
Apologies	Susan Greer (SG), Fiona Bateman, Frank Ellam, Anna Lowe, Mary Speight, Garry Page and Paula Page
Members	24
Non-members	2

1. WELCOME

The Chair informed the meeting that as 24 members were present, the meeting was therefore quorate and **declared** the meeting formally **open**.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Chris Ballance, Councillor.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair read out his report to the floor. The Chair took the floor through the activities of the Trust fiscal year from July 2021 to June 2022.

KB described the work in the Community Action Plan timeline including the vision and delivery.

The Chair highlighted the Trust now employ 5 full time equivalent staff.

CF summarised the social events that had taken place during the period, including the Winter Wonderland and the Highland Gathering. The Trust hope to repeat the successful events. All ideas for events large or small are encouraged and will be considered.

CG explained the steps that the Trust Broadband programme had taken during the period.

KS gave an update on the legacy fund investments and associated Trust aims.

GJ updated on the work of the fundraisers Sharon Ferguson and Sarah Byrne.

CF gave an update on the cost-of-living grants and available funding. The community ladders are starting up again and donated warm clothing will be available over the winter, such as heavy jackets to take away and use. Wildside is also available for working, with subsidised heat and broadband.

MB gave an update on grants and voluntary groups.

The Chair thanked the community, staff and Directors, including Lorraine Lewis, who stood down as a Director earlier in the year, for their dedication and hard work and special thanks to Kirsty Balfour for her time as Chair. Special thanks also to the Trust members and volunteers involved in all the projects and events.

TF ran through the results of the Pulse Survey, highlighting that overall, the results were improved on the previous year and thanked those who had completed the survey.

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE DIRECTORS' REPORT

Marie Keenan, Finance Officer, introduced herself and presented the Financial Year End Report and Annual Accounts for year ending 30 June 2022. MK explained the statutory requirements for accounts for a company limited by guarantee. The Trust qualifies as a micro-entity allowing the accounts to run to only 8 pages. The accounts are available on the website or from the administrator. MK took the floor through the profit and loss account and balance sheet. Questions had been received prior to the meeting and were answered.

Question from Peter Faye

Please can you tell me the budgeted expenditure for the current 2022/2023 financial year for Staff Costs and Salaries (and associated costs) and external consultants (as mentioned above), there are differences in payroll values and staffing costs in the management accounts and the annual accounts.

MK: The Management accounts are timed differently in terms of the management accounts but the Trust will look into the difference and return to Peter Faye. Peter also observed the pie chart figures did not match the figures in the accounts and again the Trust will investigate.

4. ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Chair explained the change to the membership requirements removing the requirement for Board approval. Qualification remains based on the criteria for membership but applicants will be automatically accepted. The Chair thanked Chris Ballance for attending as the independent verifier of the count.

24 voted yes, including 1 vote from an online Ordinary Member. The Chair declared the vote a majority yes, explaining a majority of 75% or more is required to pass the resolution. The Chair therefore **SIGNED** the Resolution to Amend the Articles of Association.

5. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Chair explained that, in accordance with the Articles of Association, a third of Directors had to step down each year. The existing Board comprised six Member Directors. Four Member Directors remained on the Board, Catriona Fraser, Gareth Jones, Ken Sinclair and Maureen McGuire. Kirsty Balfour and Chris Gehrke stood down along with Co-opted Directors Mark Sutherland and Maire Brown. The Articles allow for nine Member Directors. There were therefore five vacancies. Four Nomination Forms had been received and therefore there was no requirement for an election. The four Member Director Nomination Forms had been received from Kirsty Balfour, Chris Gehrke, Susan Greer and Maire Brown.

The Chair therefore **DECLARED** Kirsty Balfour, Chris Gehrke, Susan Greer and Maire Brown as Directors of the Trust.

The Chair congratulated the new Directors.

6. QUESTIONS

Question from Peter Faye

The Fundraisers employed by SFCT have a target of £4m over 4 years and commenced work in March 2022. Please can you tell me how much they have raised to date?

GJ: The Chair confirmed the fundraisers had to date raised £9,000 [check this]. Funds to cover increased costs of the new toilet have also been applied for and in total applications are in for up to £250,000 along with £2.4million for projects run by BCC and Trust projects Errogie, Slipway, Riverside and Childcare.

Question from Peter Faye

Has SFCT concluded the purchase of the land adjacent to Wildside, given that in April 2022 the Board agreed to an immediate Housing Needs Survey and that successful test pits and investigations were undertaken in September?

GJ: The Chair answered the purchase with the Council was not concluded, however the Trust are now able to progress. This is an extension of the Wildside site. The site

is now confirmed as suitable for housing; however a housing needs assessment is being carried out first to assess where the community would like to see housing.

Alex Sutherland highlighted there was a discussion in relation to land at Errogie. The Chair advised this had been noted in the Place Planning as a potential area to build.

Chris Balance added that material planning had been given consideration.

Question from Peter Faye

Exactly when does the Board intend to undertake any physical work on any of the projects currently discussed, and why does the Board apparently consider that the development of Errogie Church (budget currently £1.8m) is more important than the provision of housing for our Community when there is a demonstrable need for affordable accommodation across all age groups?

GJ: The Chair noted the frustration in the community that projects are not progressing fast enough. The Chair ran through the projects currently underway and there is a huge amount of work going on.

Question from Alex Sutherland

Is it time to reinstate the grants for whitegoods and energy saving and a community woodland scheme would be welcome.

The Chair said he would take all things mentioned and revisit them.

The Community Enterprise review, work and surveys along with examples of other community projects to help community members are being considered and cover ideas such as this.

In relation to events, AS suggested a Falls of Foyers celebration – Burns?

PJF – lease of land from the Trust perspective and discussions with BCC ongoing. Expires March 2023.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The Chair **declared** the meeting **closed** at 9.45 p.m.

Signed by Chair	_____
Date	_____