

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS  
COMMUNITY TRUST HELD VIA ZOOM AT 7.00 pm ON WEDNESDAY  
1 FEBRUARY 2023**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Present</b>        | Gareth Jones (GJ), Maire Brown (MB), Kirsty Balfour (KB),<br>Maureen McGuire (MG), Susan Greer (SG), Mark Sutherland<br>(MS) |
| <b>Apologies</b>      | Catriona Fraser (CF), Ken Sinclair (KS), Chris Gehrke (CG),<br>Malcolm Stewart (MMS)   |
| <b>Non-attendance</b> | -  |
| <b>Chair</b>          | Gareth Jones (GJ)  |
| <b>In Attendance</b>  | Tony Foster (TF), Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK), Heather Young,<br>A9 Accountancy   |
| <b>Minutes</b>        | Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)   |

**Declarations of interest:** KB declared an interest in Parent Council grant.

**(A) INTRODUCTION**

The Chair introduced Heather Young from A9 Accountancy, the Trust's Accountants.

Heather and the Board discussed the possibility of VAT registration and the options to tax individual buildings and land. It was noted that input VAT would be reclaimable on expenditure on a building with output VAT collected on rents and services related to any taxed building. The Board noted the costs associated with registration as a charity and the necessary applicable rules and regulations in relation to reporting and audit that the Trust would have to adhere to. Heather explained the need for a detailed reserves policy for any investment and cash held over and above three months running costs. Heather advised that charitable status could attract zero rated building supplies. The Board noted the Trust could run as a charity with a trading subsidiary. There are various options, including setting up a new charitable entity.

*Heather Young left the meeting at 7.50 p.m.*

The Board discussed putting a matrix together to cost the long-term plans and the additional costs involved in registering a new charity and the associated audits and work required.

*Action: Review OSCR site for pros and cons of different scenarios – MB/TF et al.*

*Action: Draft matrix - TF*

**(B) MINUTES 11 JANUARY 2023**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Directors requested additional time to review the minutes.

*Action: Circulate the 11 January 2023 Minutes to the Board for review and decision – LWK*

**Matters Arising**

Solicitor Fees

TF is checking the fees in advance.

Grant Training

The scheduled Grant training has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

Laptops

New Directors have been provided with laptops.

Transport

Discussion in relation to transport with Kit – carried forward action for TF.

Local Contractor Meeting

TF is meeting with the Quantity Surveyor and 15 potential contractors in the area through the Trust Business List.

Procurement Policy

LWK to circulate procurement policy to Directors.

Whitebridge

TF to follow up with KS on Whitebridge Bring and Buy event.

**(C) FINANCE REPORT**

The Board noted the circulated finance report and MK ran through the budget figures in relation to 2022/2023 income and expenditure to date.

The Chair thanked MK for all her hard work.

**(D) PROJECTS/TRUST MANAGER REPORT**

The Board noted TF's circulated report, including notes from recent action groups, pathways meetings and the path group.

In relation to the Polycrub tunnel application the Board discussed paying for the match funding element from the CAP funds and ideally it would go to a project

group who would have considered a similar project. The Board discussed the location of the tunnels and maintenance.

The Board **AGREED** in principle to the match funding of £10,000 to the project subject to a project management paper and costings.

The Board noted Steven Watson's paper in relation to cutting and storing wood and funds would be made available from the CAP funds. The Board discussed the idea and logistics.

The Board **APPROVED** £1,500 if there is demand and it can't be done for free.

*Action: On costs for polycrubs and project management details for next month's meeting – TF*

*Action: Check availability of the offer to chop wood for Trust – TF*

*Action: Quantify interest in wood fuel via e mail, website, Facebook and newsletter - TF*

## **(E) GRANT APPLICATIONS**

*KB left the meeting for the next item.*

### **Constituted Group Grants**

**Applicant:** Stratherrick Primary and Nursery Parent Council

**Reason:** Various activities including trips, sports and resources.

**Total Cost:** £10,230

**Amount applied/eligible for:** £9,230

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£9,230**.

### **Student Grants**

**Applicants:** Alannah Graydon

**Amount applied/eligible for:** £250

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

**Applicant:** Helen Sinclair

Amount applied/eligible for: £100

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

**Applicant:** Karen Ayland

Amount applied/eligible for: £500

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

**Cost of Living Grant**

**Applicant:** Gill Gray

**Purpose of grant:** Subsidised Yoga Classes.

The Board discussed the grant application and agreed the assessment process will be documented and the application re-assessed.

*Action: Commissioning community services agenda - LWK*

*Action: What has happened to SOSA - TF*

**(F) AOCB**

Playparks

KB requested the Board to look out for and consider a proposal which will be circulated between now and the next meeting with ratification of any decision made at the 1 March meeting.

Housing

The Board noted in TF's paper the properties for sale. A member of the housing group asked if the Board would consider allocating £300,000 for purchase. However, this proposal has yet to go through the housing group.

Foyers Bay Radio

The radio station has requested £192.00 for streaming of Foyers Bay Radio for 12 months.

*Action: Paper requesting funding to next meeting - TF/MS*

Foyers Shop

The Board discussed the purchase of the shop, in relation to suitable housing, noting four bedrooms, living room and excellent views.

*Action: Paper and agenda item next meeting – MS*

**(G) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.00 p.m. Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at Wildside Centre/MS Teams

*The Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.*

Signed by Chair (TF) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_