

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS  
COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT WILDSIDE WHITEBRIDGE AND VIA MS TEAMS  
AT 7.00 pm ON WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

**Declarations of interest:** None in relation to items on the agenda.

**(A) INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Pathways Group gave a presentation and the Directors thanked them for attending and for all the work they are doing.

**(B) MINUTES 2 AUGUST 2023**

KS **PROPOSED** and MM **SECONDED** and the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2023 were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

*KB left the meeting at 8.10 p.m.*

**(C) HOUSING AND TRANSPORT**

The Board noted the circulated papers.

Housing and Transport

In relation to transport, there is a proposal to investigate getting external funding and procuring a people carrier/minibus, the transport group will be presenting additional information to allow the Board to make a decision.

Due to numerous requests, transport is moving forward now. The group are in receipt of several quotes and leasing a bus over three years is likely a preferred option. A lease would also give the Trust confidence in the cost and the maintenance and running of the vehicle for a defined period. TF highlighted that

in the paper there are suggestions on recouping some of the spend along with external funding options.

In relation to housing, the group has reached an impasse in relation to which issue is preventing families moving to the area, is it housing or facilities.

The Trust are discussing with the Communities Housing Trust the purchase of plots and renting houses for social rent. The group are also looking at a business approach and there are affordable houses coming up on the market but unfortunately, they are being purchased quickly.

The Trust are continuing to model the costs and will bring to a future meeting. The Board discussed the potential for one bedroom flats which would be ideal for younger people in the area.

In relation to the impasse, the Directors discussed the housing needs survey carried out which gave clarity that housing was preferred by the community. TF clarified the impasse was in relation to discussions about attracting families to the area.

The Trust has also purchased the plot next to Wildside which is designated for housing. There are no immediate plans for the area and the Trust has indicated to local residents a general tidy up is needed. The Trust will undertake an independent risk assessment on the land and inform residents what needs to be done to improve the environment there.

*GJ attended the meeting at 8.30 p.m.*

*Action: Take forward the suggestions in the transport paper and circulate prior to next meeting – TF*

*Action: Draft paper with defined choices re housing for decision - TF*

## **(C) GRANT APPLICATIONS**

During a recent meeting with SSE, the Board noted they were emphatic that students must supply a completion report prior to receiving a further grant. TF confirmed if a completion report is not provided on application, where applicable, it is always a condition of a grant award, and a Trust grant is never paid without one.

### **Student Grants**

**Applicant:** Chatelle Lewis

**Amount applied/eligible for:** £500

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

**Applicants:** Karen Ayland and Charlotte Page

**Amount applied/eligible for: £500**

The Board **RATIFIED** the earlier e mail decision to approve each of the grants in the sum of **£500**.

### **Sporting Grants**

**Applicant:** Matilda Hepburn-Wright

**Amount applied/eligible for: £250**

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

*Action: Update grant recipients – LWK*

## **(D) TRUST MANAGER**

The Board noted the circulated reports and TF summarised the content.

### **Windfarm Investment**

TF has looked at windfarm investment and the Board noted the need for a wider discussion.

### **Afterschool Care**

The afterschool care action plan – a feasibility of how this will work is being carried out.

### **Playpark**

The consultation continues on the playpark with three designs commissioned for presentation.

### **Errogie Church**

The Errogie phase one is now complete and the Trust are working toward phase two.

### **Foyers Bay**

Planning has been received for Foyers Slip and tender for the work is due back soon.

### **Land at Inverfarigaig**

Land at Inverfarigaig has been purchased for residents and a memorandum of understanding is being finalised.

### **Community Asset Transfer**

Community Asset Transfer is in progress for the Forestry School at Inverfarigaig. The new lease with SSE is close to completion.

### **Riverside Field**

Planning in principle has been received for Riverside Field with the group scheduled to meet with the landscapers.

### Knockie Trust

The Concordat has been updated and also £18,500 of support will be provided for residents this winter for food and fuel.

### Community Drop-ins

The next drop in day is 23 September.

### Investments

Clarendon are attending in November.

### Project Funding Projections

The Board noted the project funding spreadsheet, and the figures will be worked into the cash flow.

## **(E) NEW GOVERNANCE APPROACH**

GJ summarised the recommendations.

The proposal is for six Board meetings a year rather than twelve with Directors continuing to support the Chair with governance and other issues. GJ will be stepping down as Chair and Catriona Fraser has volunteered to be Chair.

The Board discussed the recommendations. GJ emphasised the need for balance. The current commitment on Directors is large and the Trust must reduce the burden on Directors and attract future Director applicants.

The Board discussed project management and staff supporting the recommendations.

The Board discussed the idea of a statement of values and behaviour for Directors and Members.

GJ took the Board through a presentation on the recommendations.

The Board discussed clarification of Directors' roles and responsibilities and the need to harness passion for projects and ease volume and workload. Directors discussed focusing on particular projects/areas with the executive bearing the burden with Board direction and support.

The Board discussed executive and non-executive roles and Board meetings being informed for streamlined decision making.

The Board agreed governance meetings were essential as were community presentations.

The Board discussed governance meetings and possible open 'engagement' meetings with invitations to the community to attend.

The Board supported the idea in principle of bimonthly governance meetings.

*Action: Draft statement of values and behaviour for the Trust Directors, Stakeholders and Members – add to Action List – LWK*

*Action: MM and MB to arrange a discussion – MM/MB*

*Action: Clarification of roles and responsibilities – GJ/Directors*

*Action: Staff salary discussion via e mail - Directors*

**(F) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.00 p.m. Wednesday, 4 October at Wildside Centre/MS Teams

*The Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.*

Signed by Vice Chair (CF) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_