

**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 4 OCTOBER 2023**

**Present** Gareth Jones (GJ), Kirsty Balfour (KB), Catriona Fraser (CF), Ken Sinclair (KS), Chris Gehrke (CG), Mark Sutherland (MS), Susan Greer (SG), Maureen McGuire (MM), Maire Brown (MB)

**Apologies** Malcolm Stewart (MMS)

**Non-attendance** -

**Chair** Catriona Fraser (CF)

**In Attendance** Tony Foster (TF), Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK), Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

**Minutes** Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)

**Declarations of interest:** None.

**(A) INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**(B) MINUTES – 6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

CG **PROPOSED** and KB **SECONDED** and the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023 were **AGREED** as a correct record **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

**Matters Arising**

TF ran through the outstanding actions.

**Accelerate**

The Board noted the recommendation from Accelerate in relation to Charitable Status will be available early next week.

**Grant Training**

Grant training for staff and Board Members will be carried out following new Directors elected at the AGM.

**Housing**

The Communities Housing Trust (CHT) recently met with TF and a further meeting is scheduled in around seven days. The Board discussed why CHT could not carry forward a build and TF confirmed that FM and TF are modelling the costs.

### **Legacy Fund**

Clarendon, the Trust's investment company are attending the November meeting and the Trust investment group are looking at various options to recommend to release Trust funds for match funding.

## **(C) STRENGTHENING THE TRUST**

The Board noted the report.

The Board discussed the recommendation to reduce the number of meetings per year to six rather than 12. Alongside that reduction the Board discussed the idea of a creation of a new position of 'Board Liaison'. The Liaisons would be supported by the Trust's Community Action Plan Officer to take forward and report on a community project/s and report to the Board on progress and all other associated matters. The Board agreed if the number of formal meetings went to six per annum, should the 'Liaison' position idea be put in place, reporting requirements would need to be tailored to suit the new format with the 'Liaison' submitting a report four weeks before the bi-monthly meetings. If Directors decided, based on the report, there was a need for attendance by the Liaison or group at the next scheduled meeting, this could be incorporated at the start of the meeting or at an ad hoc meeting. The Board agreed that should six meetings a year be the new format, the Minutes of the meetings would be reviewed and agreed online, ensuring circulation within four weeks.

### **Office Bearers**

Gareth Jones is retiring as Chair and has recommended Catriona Fraser for office.

## **(D) FINANCE REPORT**

The Board noted the circulated report.

## **(E) GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **Student Grant Application**

**Applicants:** Hamish Bain, Casey Burton, Rowan Main, Annalise Beith, Olivia Grant and Sarah Flanagan.

**Application for:** Student Expenses

**Amount applied for:** £500

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

*Action: Chase assessors for parent council grant – LWK/KC*

## **Large Grant Application**

### **Hall Management Committee (Stratherrick)**

**Application for:** Operating Costs

**Amount Applied for:** £19,560

**Total Cost:** £19,560

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £14,060. Directors noted the grant application included costs for fuel and heating (£5,500) and as this cannot be covered under funding rules it had been removed from the award. An additional condition of a completion report for the previous grant was also included.

## **Large Grant Application**

### **Boleskine Community Care**

**Application for:** Operating Costs

**Amount Applied for:** £49,392

**Total Cost:** £49,392

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £40,000 which will be paid in two instalments:

- First payment of £20,000 to be paid on return of the signed grant acceptance.
- Second payment of £20,000 to be paid on receipt of a satisfactory interim report at six months into the grant period.

The Board noted the grant assessment and the recommendation to fund for one year with further funding after that requiring various conditions including a development plan.

*7.55 p.m. GJ attended the meeting.*

The Board were very sorry to note the passing of Neil Robertson, Treasurer of Boleskine Community Care.

*Action: Arrange card and condolences from the Trust - CF*

## **(E) TRUST MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Board noted the circulated report and supporting documents.

### **Inverfarigaig**

The Board agreed for the housing suggestions to be progressed.

### **Cleaner**

TF was pleased to confirm the Trust had secured a cleaner for six months.

### **Community Catch Up**

Directors were pleased to note it was a successful event with a positive atmosphere with good discussions.

### **Community Place Plan**

Directors noted the Place Plan had been verified by the Highland Council.

### **SSE Investment Review**

This is now available on the Trust website.

### **Events**

The Board discussed upcoming events and for private events it was suggested that users hire a licenced bar, rather than allowing 'bring your own'. The Board discussed the cost of staffing private events and the potential increase in cost to those hiring the venue.

The Board discussed streamlining access to Trust areas including security of keys/codes and applying a co-ordination plan.

*Action: Security plan Wildside (and transferable to other venue/s) for events – Matt/TF*

*Action: Consideration and proposal re licenced bar rule for private bookings – Matt/TF*

### **Housing and Land**

The Risk Assessment of the land next to Wildside confirms the presence of domestic rubbish but nothing hazardous.

### **Forestry Transfer**

The Heritage Group are interested in having a permanent display at the Forestry School at Inverfarigaig, however, on visiting the space it may not be big enough.

The Board noted there used to be a museum there.

### **Strengthening Communities**

The representatives from Strengthening Communities are attending the Trust on 18 October at 11 a.m. and Board Members are encouraged to attend if available.

### **Tenders for the Slip**

The tenders have come in under budget and work could start in March next year and there would be a twelve-week schedule.

### **After School Club**

The Board were pleased to note this was moving along and would be place for the academic year 24/25.

### **Transport**

The Trust has made an application for e-bikes.

### **Playpark Consultation**

There is a further consultation tomorrow. Directors commented the mood boards were very useful.

### **Pathways and Environmental Plans**

The Application is in for Wildside and Sarah Byrne, Trust Fundraiser has been in touch in relation to the environmental plans.

### **Riverside Field**

The Board noted there was a second meeting with residents for landscaping.

Residents made a request to ask planning about the extra parking and if this was removed from planning how that would affect the plans for the field; section 42 allows a change, and a formal request was made for the Trust to speak to planning in relation to s.42. The next Riverside meeting is on 14 November.

*Action: Circulate final acoustical report to residents – CF/TF*

*Action: Speak to architect re s.42 - TF*

## **(F) AOCB**

### **Health and Wellbeing**

The Board discussed the poor treatment of staff by some community members. The Board agreed to a zero aggression, no abuse policy, with the possibility of revocation of membership and eligibility for grants and the Board would like to see this publicised and highlighted at the upcoming trust AGM if not before.

### **Administrator**

The Board welcomed Kirsteen Campbell, the new Trust Administrator and thanked Laura Walker-Knowles for seven and a half years as the Trust Administrator.

### **AGM Paperwork**

The Board agreed the quote from Voluntary Action Lochaber for the AGM Mailout.

The Board noted the schedule of current Directors and those standing down and re-standing for election which will feed into the vacancies in the AGM invitation for nominations. Currently, there will be four Member vacancies with CG and GJ re-standing and MMS submitting a nomination for a Member Director.

*Action: Draft a statement of behaviour – TF*

*Action: Draft membership form 'rules' to include conduct and possible sanctions, ensure fits with Articles on Membership – TF*

*Action: Draft AGM Paperwork and confirm date of first mailing – LWK/KC*

**(G) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.00 p.m. Wednesday, 1 November 2023 at Wildside Centre/MS Teams  
7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 29 November 2023 AGM

*The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.*

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_