



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT WILDSIDE, WHITEBRIDGE AND VIA MS TEAMS AT 7.00 pm ON WEDNESDAY 7 February 2024

Present	Catriona Fraser (CF); Craig Lightbody (CL); Chris Gehrke (CG); Maureen McGuire (MM); Ken Sinclair (KS); Susan Greer (SG); Gareth Jones (GJ); Mark Sutherland (MS).
Apologies	-
Non-attendance	Maire Brown (MB); Malcolm Stewart (MMS)
Chair	Catriona Fraser (CF)
In Attendance	Tony Foster (TF) (Chief Executive Officer); Kirsteen Campbell (KC) (Trust Administrator); Tom Black (TB) (SSE Community Investment Manager for North of Scotland).
Minutes	Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

Declarations of interest: None

(A)INTRODUCTION

CF welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(B)MINUTES

CG **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 10 January 2024 and these were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

(C)TRUST MANAGERS REPORT

The Board acknowledged the circulated papers.

TF noted the following items to be addressed by the Board:

- 1) Wildside Playpark: The project has come in under budget and is ready to move forward. The Board agreed to the project proceeding.

Action: TF to confirm the Board's decision with Caroline Tucker.

- 2) Community Housing Trust agreements: These have been passed onto the Trust's solicitor. TF went on to notify the Board that there are amendments to the original quote from SSE resulting in CHT going back to the Scottish

Government to request additional funds of £70,000. A meeting with CHT on Monday 12 February is taking place to discuss this.

CG asked about the current plans which do not include the suggested sliding doors for the dining room and a revision of the roof colour to match the other houses in the area. TF responded by saying the roof colour is to be the same as the other houses and he will seek clarification on the sliding doors and come back to CG with an answer. CG also mentioned the proposed use of a trellis, or similar, to break up the visual mass on the East elevation. Finally, CG suggested that given the recent power cut in Inverfarigaig, would it be an option to install wood burning stoves in the properties, given that the likely source of heating will be from air source heating. The Board agreed that this was a good idea and TF agreed to ask the developers if this was a possibility at this stage of the project.

Action: TF to look into queries and will respond to the Board.

- 3) TF: Sharon Feguson (SFCT Fundraising Officer) had a meeting with the local authority which brought to light the opportunity to apply for a grant for 75% of £48,000 to purchase a vehicle. The deadline for this is end of March 2024. The Board discussed the options of continuing with the current arrangement, which is the lease of a vehicle for three years, or to apply for the grant to purchase a vehicle. The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of both options and agreed to allow the Transport Group to look at the best option, in consultation with the community, and refer back to the Board.

(D) ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

TF noted the following two actions from the previous Minutes:

- 1) Discuss the current Trust Action List at the next Business meeting. TF, CF and MM agreed they would go through the list and notify the Board of any items that have been actioned between Board meetings.
- 2) Riverside Playpark: TF has instructed the Trust's solicitor to begin proceeding on this, including maintenance of the park.

(E) FINANCE UPDATE

The Board acknowledged the circulated finance papers.

Clarendon Investments:

Fiona Mustarde, Finance Officer, circulated the Clarendon Investment Advice document to the Board to consider. The Board discussed this and agreed to go with the recommendations put forward by Clarendon.

(F) DIRECTORS TRAINING (FUNDING)

TF welcomed Tom Black (TB), SSE Community Investment Manager for North of Scotland, as part of Directors training for a question-and-answer session in relation to funding. Questions and answers can be found [here](#).

(G) DIRECTORS TRAINING (Roles and Responsibilities)

TF went through updated training for all new and existing Directors. He ran through the following PowerPoint presentations:

- Director's Training
- Role of the Director
- Governance & Management of Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust LTD

(H) GRANT APPLICATIONS

Student Grant applications and awards granted:

Lisa Stuart: £400 for course costs.

Angus Grant MacGruer: £500 for course costs.

The Board **APPROVED** both grants.

(I) AOCB

Grants

CF: Students grants require a review which takes into consideration courses run over varying timescales rather than a traditional academic year as per the current criteria. CF suggested MM, SG, MB and KC undertake this review. The Board agreed.

Action: KC to set-up a meeting with MM, SG & MB to review the student grant process.

Steven Watson

TF: Steven Watson, Community Liaison Officer for the Trust, is stepping down from his role at the end of March 2024. The Board commented on Steven's valued contribution to the Trust and the community during his time in the role and wished him well for his retirement.

Thain Road update

The Board discussed the ongoing issue of items belonging to Thain Road residents currently stored on the adjacent Trust land. CF advised a letter had been sent to the residents in early February 2024 advising them items must be removed. The board agreed that a further letter will be issued advising

residents that the Trust will arrange to remove the items by the end of February 2024 if they have not done so themselves.

Staffing/Work planning

CF: TF to devise a work plan outlining how he can be present in person more regularly. In conjunction with this, the Board will set out expectations on what they would like TF to do when he is here. All other staff members will have an appraisal during February and March 2024.

(J) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7pm, Wednesday 3 April 2024, Wildside Centre/MS Teams

Meeting closed at 21:37

Signed by Chair (CF): _____

Date: _____