



**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 2 OCTOBER 2024**

**Present** Catriona Fraser (CF); Gareth Jones (GJ); Malcolm Stewart (MMS); Ken Sinclair (KS); Mark Sutherland (MS); Maureen McGuire (MM); Craig Lightbody (CL); Maire Brown (MB).

**Apologies** Susan Greer; Chris Gehrke.

**Non-attendance**

**Chair** Catriona Fraser (CF)

**In Attendance** Kirsteen Campbell (KC); Fiona Mustarde (FM).

**Minutes** Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

**Declarations of interest:**

**INTRODUCTION**

CF welcomed the Board and staff members to the meeting at 19:11

**MINUTES**

MS **PROPOSED** and MMS **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board meeting held on 14 August 2024 and these were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

**FINANCE UPDATE**

FM presented her finance report which was circulated prior to the meeting. FM explained that the annual accounts required approval at this meeting in order for them to go forward at the AGM. The financial report to the AGM will be available to the members prior to the AGM.

KS **PROPOSED** and MS **SECONDED** approval of the final annual accounts from 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024 and the board **approved** unanimously.

The Board discussed cashflow and project costs including an itemised list provided by Caroline Tucker, Project Co-ordinator re Errogie Church. FM suggested that these are prioritised so that spend can be agreed. GJ stated the Errogie Steering Group will monitor this. FM stated that the notional budget of £20k had been agreed during the setting of the budget.

*FM and MM left the meeting.*

**Action: FM/CF Minutes of Board meetings and cashflow to made available to staff members.**

## **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- CF to discuss the frequency of the legacy fund payments further with Fiona Mustarde (FM) – Completed.
- Members of the Board to meet with BCC to discuss their ideas regarding the purchase of the shop – Completed:
  - CF and KS met with BCC and noted that the purchase of the shop did not come up at their recent AGM. The Board noted that SFCT has provided administrative help to BCC with a feasibility study into purchasing the shop. The Board **agreed** that the wider community should be made aware of the assistance SFCT has provided BCC in this matter. The Board also acknowledged a social media post in relation to the purchase of the shop and it was suggested that a response be publicised.
  - MB suggested this would be a good opportunity to engage with the community and offer administrative assistance to other local groups who may require it. The Board **agreed**.
- Tony Foster (TF), previous SFCT CEO, to produce a paper outlining discussions with Sports Scotland and Highlife Highland (to be shared with the Riverside Liaison Group at the next meeting) – Complete and CF notified the Board of the following:
  - Riverside Liaison Group meetings have been halted for the present time as SFCT are awaiting confirmation from Highland Council regarding the purchase of the playpark. The report provided by TF provided some useful ideas which CF will bring to the next meeting.
- Members of the Board to review the Community Action Plan and to develop a communication plan with the community to reaffirm priorities – This is ongoing.
- KC to provide MS Teams training for board members – On hold until new CEO/Board appointed.
- CF to seek a decision from SSE regarding investment in wind turbines – This is ongoing.
- CL to check with SFCC if this is the equivalent to £5000 per megawatt in terms of the community benefit that's being given – Aberarder equivalent – This is included in CLs report.
- MM to contact DTAS for further information on the purchase of property, and to review options as to how the Trust will finance purchasing the properties, i.e., mortgage or buy outright – This is ongoing
- TF to transfer contact details held by Santander to be CF prior to leaving the Trust – Complete.
- KC/Sharon Ferguson (SF) to investigate vocational/life skills grants – This is ongoing.

- KC/SF to request information regarding additional funds from SSE to cover the expansion of grants – This is ongoing.
- MM to investigate upgrading the current CRM – This is ongoing.
- Board Members to look into the structure of staff roles and responsibilities during the transitional phase – Ongoing with the following updates:
  - CF noted that applications for the CEO role have been received and there are 14 to be considered. Interviews will take place in October 2024. Interviewers, including those out-with SFCT, to be contacted.
  - CL mentioned that Mark Hindley, SFCC Chair, had mentioned at the previous SFCC meeting, there was no involvement from SFCC or the wider community in setting the criteria for the CEO role. The Board **agreed** that this was an oversight on SFCTs part, and that Mark Hindley would be contacted prior to the first round of interviews.
  - CF noted that the job advert was circulated to members of the SFCT, the wider community via the SFCT newsletter, and indeed, an international platform.
  - The Board **agreed** that any such issues arising should be brought to the attention of the SFCT Chair or via CL, and more effort must be put in two-way communication between the SFCT and SFCC.
- CL to consult with the SFCC and SSE to provide clarity on the role of CLD – In CLs report.

**Action: GJ will attend the next shop steering group meeting and will relay the info from the Board meeting to BCC.**

## **GRANTS**

KC brought up the driving lesson grants that had been approved at the previous Board meeting. The Board **agreed** that these will be put on hold until the next financial year when they can be budgeted for.

**The following Student Grants were agreed unanimously by the Board and approved by the Chair:**

Robbie Stuart - £500.00 for course costs

Hamish Bain - £500.00 for course costs

**The following Constituted Grant for Community Benefit was agreed unanimously by the Board and approved by the Chair:**

Stratherrick Clay Target Club - £1000.00 for installation of defibrillators at the club house.

A Constituted Grant for Community Benefit application was also received from Stratherrick Public Hall. The Board **agreed** that further information was required, and the submission of a completion report prior to this being approved. The Board **agreed** that once the application has been returned, it will be reviewed without delay.

A Large Group Grant application from the Loch Ness Heritage Group was also submitted to the Board for consideration. KC noted that this application was submitted long after the closing date and the Board **agreed** that it will be considered at the next Board meeting when all directors have had time to review it.

In light of late submissions, CL **PROPOSED** and CF **SECONDED** that KC has the authority to advise future applicants that if their application is late, they may have to wait until the following grant Board meeting for a decision. The Board **agreed**.

### **COMMUNITY LIAISON DIRECTOR REPORT**

CL emailed the Minutes from the previous Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council meeting, and these were circulated with the Board prior to the meeting.

The Community Liaison Director role was discussed by the Board. CL suggested that this should be the sharing of information between SFCT and SFCC rather than a full directorship as it currently is. KS suggested that the new CEO should review the role. CF noted that any alterations would require a change to the current Articles of Association.

In relation to the £5000.00 per megawatt in terms of the community benefit that's being given, CL confirmed that this is the case.

**Action: CL to contact Mark Hindley (SFCC) and CF to discuss CLD role.**

### **AOCB**

#### **Memberships:**

The Board were pleased to welcome one new ordinary member.

#### **Statement of Delegation:**

The above was signed and stored securely.

#### **Inverfarigaig Allocation Summary:**

CF and MM met with CHT and CF went through the allocation summary document. The key points included:

- 4 applicants to purchase.
- 44 applicants to rent.
- CF identified the need for the reformation of the Housing Committee who in turn will produce a robust housing needs document.
- CF also highlighted the need to communicate with other community councils who have been have experience of developing housing, such as Invergarry and Fort Augustus.

**Action: CF to request further information on postcodes from applicants to ascertain which area they currently reside.**

#### **Community Wood:**

CF mentioned that Neil Kirkland had contacted regarding wood he has sourced wood for the community. The Board discussed costings involved and suggested a Wood committee be formed to oversee this.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Due to the late finish of this meeting, the Board **agreed** to hold an additional SFCT Board meeting on Wednesday 6 November 2024 to discuss other agenda items. This will be held at the Wildside Centre/MS Teams.

SFCT AGM – Wednesday 27 November 2024, Wildside Centre.

*Meeting closed at 22.35*

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_