



**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 11th December 2024**

Present Malcolm Stewart (MMS); Chris Gehrke (CG); Ken Sinclair (KS); Maire Brown (MB); Mark Sutherland (MS); Maureen McGuire (MM); Peter Faye (PF); Stewart MacPherson; Michael White (MW); Craig Lightbody (CL).

Apologies

Non-attendance Susan Greer (SG).

Chair Maureen McGuire (interim)

In Attendance

Minutes Kirsteen Campbell (KC) SFCT Administrator.

Declarations of interest

None

INTRODUCTION

The meeting opened at 19:00 and new Board members were welcomed.

CO-OPTION OF DIRECTORS

The board **agreed** unanimously to the co-option of Mark Sutherland onto the Board of Directors.

The Board **agreed** unanimously to the co-option of Craig Lightbody as Community Liaison Director.

The Board discussed the co-option of two further individuals who have expressed an interest in joining the Board. The Board **agreed** unanimously that there would be no further co-options of Directors at this time. The expertise offered by both interested parties have been noted for future co-option should their expertise be required.

Action: MM or MB to contact both interested parties to explain the decision.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The board **agreed** unanimously that Maureen McGuire will remain as interim Chair and Maire Brown will act as interim Vice-Chair. This is to be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

MINUTES

CG **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 6th November 2024 and these were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

MW mentioned the staff vacancies noted in the previous Minutes and whether or not these had been advertised.

Action: Staffing to be discussed in the new year one the new CEO is in place.

ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

MB went through the list of actions from the previous minutes and the following actions are to be addressed:

Action: KC to check with previous Chair, Catriona Fraser re notifying relative councillors and SSE about the appointment of the new CEO, Jewels Lang.

Action: Chair or Vice-chair to contact former Director, Gareth Jones regarding BCC.

FINANCE UPDATE

Fiona Mustarde circulated the October cashflow and finance report with the Board for information.

PF requested that the management accounts be made available on the website and KC to follow-up with FM.

The Board discussed Clarendon and noted there happy with what they are providing.

GRANT AWARDS

Constituted Grants for Community Benefit

The following Constituted Grant for Community Benefit was **APPROVED** by the Board:

Stratherrick Primary Parent Council: £19500.00 with the following conditions:

- A tracker of full expenditure based on the current supplied budget, line by line, to be provided along with any future grant application.
- Any unspent funds to be returned next year.
- Parent council to liaise with SFCT Fundraisers to identify other funding sources.

Non-constituted Grants for Community Benefit

The following Non-Constituted Grant for Community Benefit was **APPROVED** by the Board:

Kilchuimen School Cluster: £789.89

Student Grants

The following Student Grants were **APPROVED** by the Board:

Olivia Grant: £500.00 for course costs.
Laud Le Seuer: £500.00 for course costs.
Neringa Matheson: £500.00 for course costs.
Ellie Mae Emmott: £500.00 for course costs.
Casey Barton: £500.00 for course costs.
Tyler Dunbar: £500.00 for course costs.

Large Group Grant

A stage one large group grant application has been received from Boleskine Community Care. The board **AGREED** that MM, MMS and MS will assess the application.

Action: KC to send grant letters to all recipients.

AOCB

Wildside improvements

Caroline Tucker (CT), SFCT Project Co-ordinator circulated a 'Priority Improvements' document outlining key health and safety requirements for the Wildside Centre. £20k has already been allocated from the Highland Council Regeneration Fund to upgrade the toilet facilities which is to be spent by 1st March 2025.

CG **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** that funds be allocated from either existing projects or the legacy fund contributions in the current year to meet the costs of installing heat and smoke detectors; upgrading the toilets; and replacing all fire doors at the Wildside Centre as a priority. The Board **AGREED** and PF to meet with CT in relation to quotations for work to be undertaken.

Forest School

The Board discussed the case for purchasing the Farigaig Forest School following the recent pause on the purchase. A provision of £60k had already been allocated which included the purchase price of £45k with the remaining funds to be used for maintenance costs. The full purchase price includes the land around Foresters Lodge cottage, carpark and paddock. The carpark is widely used by walkers and cyclists, and it was noted that local residents are frequently being asked about the closed toilets.

Forestry and Land Scotland have requested a decision by mid-January 2025 regarding SFCT proceeding with the purchase. If not, the building and associated land will go on the open market, with the possible loss of the car park. The Board discussed the pros and cons, including the use of land for housing; reinstating the public toilets; use of the building for local groups; monetising the carpark; and the potential for unknown costs to arise.

MMS **PROPOSED** and CL **SECONDED** that SFCT proceed with the purchase pending comprehensive surveys, including structural; bat; drainage; and toxic waste. The Board **agreed** and CG to liaise with Forestry and Land Scotland.

Action: To link documents relating to the Forest School to the SFCT website.

Action: To consult with the community regarding future plans for site.

EIO – The Gathering Place

The Board noted the EIO regarding a FOI request from the National Lottery in relation to The Gathering Place. This was addressed prior to the Board meeting and no further action is required.

Dodds Park

CG updated the Board with email correspondence received from the Community Housing Trust in relation to Dodds Park. Decisions from the Board were required in relation to setting the rent; the requirement for a deposit; and the Allocation Policy.

The Board **agreed** that the rent for the two properties at Dodds Park are set in accordance with the local housing allowance of £539.80 per month.

The Board **agreed** that a deposit of one month's rent be provided by new tenants.

Given the late hour of the meeting, the Board agreed that the Allocation Policy will be discussed out with the meeting via email correspondence with all Directors.

MEMBERS

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8th January 2025, Wildside Centre/MS Teams

Meeting closed at 21:58

Signed by Chair: _____

Date: _____