

**Minutes of the meeting of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust held at
The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge and via MS Teams.**

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at 7pm

Present	Peter Faye (PF); Lewis Fraser (LF); Ken Sinclair (KS); Chris Gehrke (CG); Graham Bain (GB); Neil Farnham (NF).
Apologies	Mark Sutherland (MS); Maire Brown (MB)
Non-attendance	
Chair	Peter Faye (PF)
In attendance	Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administration and HR Officer; Gary McGowan (GM) - SFCC Representative.
Minutes	Kirsteen Campbell (KC)
Declarations of interest	None

I) INTRODUCTION

GM entered the meeting at 19:00

- I) PF welcomed the Board and Staff members to the meeting which commenced at 19.05.

II) SFCC UPDATE

- I) GM gave an overview of the previous Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council (SFCC) meeting held on 26th May.
- II) In relation to the SFCC Dark Skies application, GB asked if the streetlights in Foyers could be turned off at midnight. GM suggested this would need to be surveyed.
- III) As per the question raised at the previous SFCT Board meeting, negotiations with energy companies re community benefit funds will remain joint between SFCC and SFCT.
- IV) An update on current and proposed energy schemes was provided by GM, and a discussion regarding the one-off payment for Aberarder Wind Farm and future community benefit negotiations was had.
- V) NF asked if SFCC had received any requests for Stratherrick Public Hall in Gorthleck to install car park lighting. GM reported that nothing on this matter has been discussed.

GM left the meeting at 20:00

III) DIRECTORS

- I) PF notified the Board that prior to the meeting, Stewart MacPherson (SM) offered his resignation with immediate effect. The Directors understood his decision and thanked him for his time on the Board.

IV) MINUTES

- I) In response to a query raised by a community member, a discussion at the May Board meeting regarding how Stratherrick Public Hall is funded is to be added to the May minutes. JL explained that any fundraising undertaken for the hall can be ringfenced by the committee rather than this being deducted as income in any grant application to SFCT, i.e., the fund are restricted reserves. The following is to be added to the May minutes:
 - i) It was confirmed that funds raised for specific projects by the committee of Stratherrick Public Hall would be considered as ringfenced by SFCT and would not be deducted from their grant application.
- II) With no further amendments, KS **PROPOSED** and LF **SECONDED** the minutes from the Board meeting held on 6th May 2026 and these were **AGREED** by all Board members present as a correct record and were **APPROVED** by the Chair.

Action: KC to update the Board meeting minutes from 6th May to include the discussion on funding for Stratherrick Public Hall.

V) ACTIONS

- I) PF and JL went through the SFCT Action List, and all items from previous minutes that remain open were discussed and updates provided. The following actions were marked as completed and are now closed:
 - LF to schedule a meeting to provide an overview of financial procedures and policies with new Directors.
- II) The compound at Corkscrew Road in Inverfarigaig was discussed and legal advice on how to proceed will be taken.
- III) JL updated the Board that Annelise Glew, SOSA representative, met with her today and an assurance was made that the remaining funds held by the group will be paid to Boleskine Community Care, as per their agreement when they disbanded in 2024.

Action: JL to liaise with SFCT solicitors to draft a letter requesting that the vehicles are removed.

VI) FINANCE REPORT

- I) LF went through the Finance report prepared Fiona Mustarde (FM), SFCT Finance Officer noting the forecasted year end cash balance is £686,136, including the main SSE Stronelairg grant of approximately £420k expected in early June.
- II) The current forecast cash deficit for 2025/26 is £51,672.00. In June the cash balance will be significant due to the Stronelairg funding.
- III) In relation to the legacy fund payments that had been postponed in December 2025 until this meeting, all Board members present **AGREED** that the missing payments, which amount to £50,370.00, should now be made, and **APPROVAL** was given for LF to instruct FM to make the payment.
- IV) The Board members present **AGREED** to continue with monthly payments into the legacy fund during the next financial year from July 2026.
- V) The Board members present **APPROVED** the Budget for 2026/27 prepared by FM and commended her on her hard work.

VII) TRANSPORT

- I) Community usage of the SFCT minibus is increasing, and JL will share a report in due course. A request for drivers has been posted on social media on both a paid and voluntary basis.

VIII) DODDS PARK

- I) In relation to the snagging list, it was brought to the attention of the Board that the contractor who had built the houses had gone into liquidation.

Action: JL to contact the Communities Housing Trust to ascertain if there has been a change in building contractor.

IX) ERROGIE CHURCH

- I) SFCT are awaiting the building warrant from the Highland Council (THC) now that all works are complete.
- II) A meeting is to be held with the Friends of Errogie Church constituted group to discuss use of the building and potential terms of occupation. An update will follow in due course.

X) FOYERS SCHOOL

- I) The current license to occupy the building will terminate on 7th July 2026. It is proposed that the South Loch Ness Heritage Group (SNLHG) will move to Inverfarigaig Forest School.

Action: JL to inform the Inverfarigaig Residents Group (IRG) that SNLHG intend to utilise the Forest School.

XI) PROJECT EVALUATION

- I) At the Board meeting held in May 2026, four directors (PF, KS, GB and NF) had been selected to evaluate concept papers for Board review. The project evaluation scores were presented to the Board and were ranked as follows:
 1. Housing at Thain Road
 2. Installation of a running/walking track and pump park at Riverside Field
 3. Temporary gym facilities at the Wildside centre
- II) The Board discussed the evaluation process and acknowledged that this is a useful framework for prioritising community needs. This is a new process and a robust discussion ensued that demonstrated and confirmed that the process is evolving and will improve but remains based upon the communities wishes.
- III) Discussion surrounding financial viability and how the projects should be implemented was also discussed and Board members would appreciate confirmation that alternative options have or will be considered prior to any final decisions being made.
- IV) The Board members present **AGREED** to JL initiating the cost of the surveys for Thain Road (£6015.00); Design for Riverside Field (£3938.40); and more information was requested regarding gym facilities, including potentially leasing equipment and ongoing running costs.

XII) SALARY BENCHMARKING

- I) JL notified the Board that Salary Benchmarking is being undertaken by WorkNest. Once complete, no decisions will be made until further discussion with the Board, and budgetary constraints have been considered.

XIII) AOCB

- I) The Board members present welcomed five new Ordinary members.

XIV) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- I) Wednesday 1st July 2026.

The meeting closed at 22:50