

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE AND MS TEAMS AT 7.00 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

Present	Chris Gehrke (CG), Kirsty Balfour (KB), Catriona Fraser (CNF), Maureen McGuire (MG), Mark Sutherland (MS), Ken Sinclair (KS), Maire Brown (MB)
Apologies	Kirsty Balfour (KB)
Chair	Gareth Jones (GJ)
In Attendance	Tony Foster (TF), Marie Keenan (MK), Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)
Non-attendance	-
Minutes	Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)
Declarations of interest:	MB declared an interest in student grant Maire Brown.

A. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Board were pleased to note that Catriona Fraser had accepted the position as Vice Chair.

B. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – 3 AUGUST 2022

KS **PROPOSED** and CNF **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Meeting held on 3 August 2022 were **AGREED** as a correct record, subject to amendment to item (N) which had been amended to include a post event and was removed and returned to the initial minute and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Knockie Trust

TF attended a meeting with SSE and they have agreed in principle to the distribution of a cost living grant; the points of principle requiring discussion will go to the Board and the application form will include a request for a referee. The Board discussed means testing and criteria.

Amendments to the application form: -

- Form of wording to seek further information if necessary.
- Phrase to describe assessors competence

Clarendon Investment

KS confirmed the Trust decision had been relayed to Clarendon.

Director Meeting

The Board discussed Director availability for a meeting on a Saturday in October.

C. FINANCE

The Board noted the circulated finance reports.

Budget

To facilitate funding of the cost-of-living grants it was suggested the invested legacy funds paid to Clarendon be frozen to last year's level freeing up additional funds and should the funds not be required, a lump sum payment would be made to the legacy fund at the end of the period. An additional £10,000 had been transferred from the apprenticeship budget. In terms of future funding there had been a suggestion funding could come from windfarm RPI and the legacy investments.

The Board **AGREED** in principle to freeze the value of the legacy payment.

Errogie Church

The Board noted that advice is awaited from A9 accountancy in relation to capitalising certain payments as development of the assets in relation to Errogie Church and other projects.

D. STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS

In terms of future Board strategic discussions, the following subjects were suggested: -

- The appeal process in the grants system.
- Measuring and prioritising projects.
- Roles - directorship versus staff management.
- Capability, knowledge and skills for the Trust.

The Board discussed staff attendance at Board Meetings and agreed that it was not mandatory for staff to join but they will be invited to attend and demonstrate their work for fifteen minutes at set intervals, with feedback to individuals via TF.

The staff handbook was last updated in 2015 and this will be shared with the Board for a review.

In relation to negative community relationships the Board discussed forums that are inclusive, and the Board are aware of.

E. GRANTS

(a) Student Grants

(i) Applicant: Hamish Bain

Purpose of grant: Student/Course Costs

Cost of course: £500

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£500**.

(ii) Applicant: Maire Brown

Purpose of grant: Student Costs

Amount applied for: £500

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£500**.

(iii) Applicant: Annalise Beith

Purpose of grant: Student Costs

Amount applied for: £500

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£500**.

(b) Constituted Grant Application

(iv) Applicant: Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council

Purpose of grant: Self-employed administrator costs, insurance, ICO membership, Christmas lights, remembrance wreath, playpark rental, defibs and Zoom licensing.

Cost of Project: £9,456.00

Amount applied for: £8,456.00

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£8,456.00**. Any outstanding money for specific projects from the previous grant that the Community Council are holding must be spent in the next six months or returned to the Trust. However, the Community Council should note that a further application can be made for these elements if not spent.

(c) Constituted Grant Application

(v) Applicant: Stratherrick Public Hall

Purpose of grant: Hall Running Costs and Strategic Reserve.

Cost of Project: £16,950.00

Amount applied for: £16,950.00

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £9,450.00.

Kilchuimen Academy

The Board **AGREED** the balance of £280.53 be retained, as requested, and used for sporting equipment/basic skiing equipment.

E. EVENTS

Winter Wonderland

The Board **AGREED** the budget of £5,000. Staff lead is Jillian Barclay.

Highland Gathering

The Board noted the date set for 22 July 2023. Staff lead is Caroline Tucker.

Fireworks

The Fireworks event is set for Saturday, 5 November 2022. Staff lead is Steven Watson.

F. TRUST MANAGER'S REPORT

The Board noted the Trust Manager's Report.

In relation to transparency of the work being undertaken by employees, TF updated work plans had been drafted and discussed with all employees in relation to the Community Action Plans. Trust employees have welcomed the work plans and can see where activities fit in.

Renewables and Community Benefit Negotiations Report

The funding, planning, in operation and to be determined were included and TF urged the board to look at the document which will go to the Community Council.

Funding

The Board noted the documentation of current windfarms and future as a starting paper to keep track of potential funding.

The Board noted and **AGREED** the Trust to continue with an application for CARES funding to decarbonise the Wildside building.

Boleskine Community Care

BCC's report from the Extraordinary General Meeting included information in relation to purchasing the Foyers Shop.

The Board discussed future funding for BCC should they purchase the shop.

The Board noted a school survey was being carried out to assess possible use of Wildside.

Housing Survey

A trial dig is being carried out and a housing survey will be distributed.

Riverside

The Riverside determination is delayed, and TF is chasing.

BCC Transport Scheme

This was funded by the Highland Council. SFCT will help promote the scheme to allow information on need to be gathered.

Pathways

An audit is underway and meeting with Highland Council.

Trust Employees

TF updated on the recent work plan discussions with employees. The Board discussed the appraisal process, content and intervals.

Communications Group

The Trust discussed opening Facebook up to comments. TF suggested consistent responses derived from Board consensus.

Action: FB agenda item next meeting – LWK/MM/TF

Mark Sutherland left the meeting at 9 p.m.

Evaluation Tool

This will be a strategic agenda item.

The Board noted Jillian Barclay, the new Communications Officer will be keeping a social media diary / local media strategy.

G. GOVERNANCE

A paper had been circulated in relation to amendment to the Articles and the cost of the AGM mailing. The AGM will take place on 23 November 2022.

Action: Agenda item October meeting - LWK

I. AOCB

Whitebridge Hotel

TF and CT have met with the Whitebridge, they are aware of the offer to run the bar for the next Highland Gathering.

Foyers Toilets

The project is under funded by £10,000. However, this funding is assured to the project from the SSE Stronelairst Panel. This funding is delayed, and the

07/09/2022

Board therefore AGREED to underwrite £10,000 now to allow the work to get underway.
J. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Next meeting, 5 October 2022, 7 p.m. Hybrid – Wildside/MS Teams.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the meeting	
Signed Chair (Gareth Jones)	Date