SFCT
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

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

Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 7pm

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

1) **INTRODUCTION**

a. PF welcomed the Board and Staff members to the meeting which commenced at 19:05. He also welcomed local community members Tracy McWilliams (TM) and Eileen Martin (EM).

b. The Board members present **AGREED** to appoint both EM and TM as Member Directors until the AGM in November, at which time they will be required to stand down and re-stand for election. The Directors sincerely thanked them for joining the Board and looked forward to their contributions.

2) **STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCNIL (SFCC) UPDATE**

a. In the absence of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council (SFCC) representative, Gary McGowan (GM) (NB The Board and Staff of SFCT sent their best wishes to Gary), JL gave an overview of the pertinent points from the SFCC meeting and AGM held on Tuesday 30th June 2026. JL noted that a very poor turnout of only two community members attended the SFCC AGM.

b. All Community Council members remained the same as the previous session, and details will be provided in the SFCC meeting minutes in due course.

c. In relation to how funds are managed by SFCC and SFCT, concerns were raised about SFCC Chair, Mark Hindley's (MH) suggestion that a portion of the funds from the Aberarder wind farm should go directly to SFCC rather than being managed under the terms of current formal Agreements with funders, by SFCT. Discussion occurred around the fact that a functioning documented arrangement between SFCT and SFCC already existed to support funding for SFCC Micro-grants. JL notified the Board that she had received correspondence from Carol Masheter (CM), SSE Community Fund Manager, regarding this suggestion prior to the Board meeting. Updates to follow.

d. The proposed increase of SFCC micro-grants from £500.00 to £750.00 raised the question of SFCT increasing the current Non-constituted Group/Individuals for Community Benefit grant from £1000.00 to £1500.00. JL will revert to CM and will provide an update at the August Board meeting.

3) MINUTES

a. NF **PROPOSED** and GB **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board meeting held on 3rd June 2026 and these were **APPROVED** by all Board members present as an accurate record.

4) ACTIONS

a. PF and JL went through the SFCT Action List, and all items from previous minutes that remain open were discussed. The following actions were marked as completed and are now closed:

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

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

   iii. JL to inform the Inverfarigaig Residents Group (IRG) that SNLHG intend to utilise the Forest school.

b. In relation to Errogie Church, a draft lease is currently being drawn up for the Friends of Errogie Church group to assume responsibility for the day to day running of the building. This will enable the group to apply for external funding if required. Details of the terms and conditions to follow.

c. In relation to the vehicles parked within the Corkscrew Road compound at Inverfarigaig, TM suggested displaying signage to alert users that the land is private and vehicles cannot be stored without prior consent from SFCT.

d. CG also noted that the compound is locked, meaning that members from the wider community cannot access the vehicle pit. This raised the question of safety, and all agreed that cautionary signage should be displayed for users of the vehicle pit.

Action: JL to arrange signage to be displayed at the Corkscrew Road compound including Private Land and Caution.

Action: JL to send a letter to residents of Inverfarigaig asking them to remove their vehicles from the Corkscrew Road compound.

5) **FINANCE REPORT**

a. LF went through the Finance papers that had been prepared by Fiona Mustarde (FM), SFCT Finance Officer. These were **APPROVED** by all Board members present.

b. LF notified the Board that the Stronelairg funding is expected in July.

c. Following discussions via email prior to the Board meeting regarding cash reserves, the Board members present **AGREED** that before a decision can be made, JL should contact SFCT Financial Advisor, Robert Butcher (RB), Perspective Financial Group, for his recommendations on how best to manage SFCT funds. This was **APPROVED** by the Board members present.

d. The Board members present **APPROVED** increasing the rate of mileage for use of private vehicles from 45p to 55p per mile, in line with government guidance.

e. The Board members present commended the hard work of FM and LF in managing the SFCT finances.

Action: JL to contact RB to obtain his recommendation for managing SFCT cash, and to ascertain costs involved.

6) SFCT GALA WEEKEND AND ACTIVITIES

a. The Board were notified that Sharon Ferguson (SF), SFCT Funding and Development Officer, has secured £10,000.00 from the National Lottery Community Fund – Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, which will be used to pay for a range of activities and events over the weekend of 14th August 2026.

7) COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

a. The closing date for reCAP survey submissions was the 30th June 2026 and a full report will follow shortly. The results are expected to be published in August and a series of community engagement sessions hosted by SFCT and SFCC will follow.

b. The results of the reCAP will be utilised by SFCT to form the basis of future strategic planning.

8) RIVERSIDE FIELD

a. Following the approval of £3938.40 at the June SFCT Board meeting for the design of Riverside Field, a further meeting between planner, Phil Thompson, and SFCT to discuss how to progress the plans is to be arranged. A community update will follow in due course.

b. A trip to Fort Augustus to view the upgraded path and facilities there has been arranged and community members with an interest in how Riverside Field is developed are encouraged to go. Further details will be published on the SFCT website and social media in the coming days.

Action: JL to arrange a meeting with Phil Thomson regarding the plans for Riverside Field.

9) **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE**

a. JL notified the Board that SF has secured funding for an EV charger at the Wildside Centre. Details to follow.

10) THAIN ROAD

a. JL notified the Board that any funds that may be sourced from the Rural and Islands Housing Fund (RIHF), in the current round of applications for housing must be spent by March 2028. This brought about a discussion on how best to progress the project and the Board member present **AGREED** that SFCT retained Architect, Mike Lawson (ML), should be consulted to manage and develop the project. The Board **APPROVED** and the project will be progressed pending results of RIHF application. In the interim, previously approved generic surveys of the land will be instigated.

Action: JL to liaise with ML regarding the development of Thain Road.

Action: JL to contact Sarah Byrne, Trust Manager of Kyle of Lochalsh Community Trust, to gather information on the proposed eco-housing and ancillary property development near Kyle of Lochalsh.

11) WILDSIDE FIRE DOORS

a. New fire doors are required at the Wildside Centre, and a local joiner will be contacted regarding their installation.

Action: PF to liaise with a local joiner to discuss installation of new fire doors and pass details to Project Co-Ordinator as soon as possible.

12) FINANCIAL DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY

a. A majority of Board members present **AGREED** to increase the delegation of responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer from £5000.00 to £10,000.00. The increase was **APPROVED** by the Board members present.

13) TEMPRORARY GYM AT WILDSIDE/GYM SUBSIDIES

a. A proposal to install temporary gym equipment at the Wildside centre and membership subsidies for gyms in Inverness/Fort Augustus had previously been provided to the Board for consideration. The following decisions were made:

   i. A majority of Board members present **AGREED** to subsidise a limited number of passes for community members to attend the High Life gym in Inverness. This was **APPROVED** by the Board members present.

   ii. Further investigation into subsidising membership at Bannatyne's Gym in Inverness and the gym in Fort Augustus will follow in due course.

   iii. A majority of Board members present **AGREED** to the installation of temporary gym equipment at the Wildside Centre for a trial period of twelve months. This was **APPROVED** by the Board members present.

Action: Sorin Bogdan (SB), SFCT Project Co-Ordinator to initiate the installation of gym equipment at the Wildside Centre.

Action: JL/KC to liaise with CG regarding the administration of gym membership subsidies.

14) SOCIAL MEDIA

a. Following recent posts made on social media regarding SFCT, the Board members present **AGREED** that a response will be provided to SFCT members shortly.

Action: JL to prepare a statement for SFCT members regarding social media posts.

15) MONTHLY SURGERIES

a. JL proposed that SFCT Directors host monthly surgeries where members of the community can speak openly in an informal session. Further details to follow.

16) AOCB

a. The Board members present welcomed two new Ordinary members.

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

a. SFCT Board Meeting – Wednesday 5th August 2026.

The meeting closed at 22.30