



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS
COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT GORTHLECK HALL AT 7.00pm ON
WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2017**

Present	Peter Faye, Stewart MacPherson, Sharon Ferguson, Ken Sinclair, Julie Murphy, Hugh Nicol, Garry Page & Gordon McAndie
Chair	Sharon Ferguson
In Attendance	None
Apologies	Frank Ellam, Zoe Iliffe, Steven Watson (Project Co-ordinator) and Laura Walker-Knowles (Administrator)

Declarations of interest

None

1. INTRODUCTION (Chair)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Peter Faye advised that Zoe Iliffe had received Terry McCarvill-Ellis' resignation as a Director today, effective immediately.

2. MINUTES

(a) AGM 30 NOVEMBER 2016

Julie Murphy **proposed** and Ken Sinclair **seconded**.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 30 November 2016 were thereafter **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

(b) POST-AGM MEETING 30 NOVEMBER 2016

Sharon Ferguson **proposed** and Hugh Nicol **seconded**.

The Minutes of the Post-AGM Board meeting held on 30 November 2016 were thereafter **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

(c) 7 DECEMBER 2016

Peter Faye **proposed** and Ken Sinclair **seconded**.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2016 were thereafter **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

3. FINANCE/INVOICES/EXPENSES

(a) Finance Report

As both Frank Ellam and Zoe Iliffe had given their apologies, Peter Faye read out a statement from Frank regarding the Finance Report and recent payments. The statement, Finance Report and supporting documentation were noted and accepted.

(b) The Administrator's expenses for December in the sum of £190.72 were approved.

(c) The Administrator's Timesheet for December together with 2 hours' overtime was approved.

(d) Book-keeper's Timesheet and Invoice for December in the sum of £262 were approved.

(e) Invoices – CEF invoices – It was noted that the last few CEF invoices had been paid as they were overdue.

(f) Finance Director's expenses for the period May 2016 to December 2016 in the sum of £66.63 was approved.

The Board **APPROVED** the above items (b) – (f) inclusive for payment.

4. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The applications for Ordinary Membership from Sian Glanrid-Jones, Patrick Hannon and Diane Hannon were **ACCEPTED AND APPROVED**.

The Chair advised that an additional Junior Membership application form had been received from Joe McCarvill-Ellis. The Junior Membership application was **ACCEPTED AND APPROVED**.

A discussion occurred around whether it was administratively efficient to ask people for the £1 when applying for membership or whether it was more efficient to just make them aware that they had a maximum liability of £1 should the company ever be in financial difficulty and subject to administration or liquidation procedures. Directors felt the later was a more sensible approach and consideration should be given to amending the Membership Application Forms.

Directors also discussed whether to reduce the voting age for members from 18 to include 16 and 17 year olds. It was noted that this would require a variation of the Trust's Articles, which can only be varied by members through a ballot at an AGM or EGM. Directors agreed to discuss further at a future meeting.

5. GRANT UPDATE

Ala McGruer – Energy Saving Grant

Sharon Ferguson reminded Directors of the situation in respect of this application and that this had been APPROVED by Directors voting by email after the December meeting. Directors noted the email vote and **RATIFIED AND APPROVED** the decision to award the grant.

6. TEAM MEMBERSHIPS

Sharon Ferguson gave a brief explanation and resume of what each Team was trying to achieve.

(a) Apprenticeship Team

Directors discussed whether to remain in the current Apprenticeship Scheme with Fort Augustus Community Company and The Invergarry Trust. Directors AGREED to remain in the Scheme.

Members of the Team to be Zoe Iliffe, Sharon Ferguson and Julie Murphy.

(b) Broadband Team

Members to be Sharon Ferguson, Ken Sinclair and Steven Watson.

(c) Communications Team

Members to be Peter Faye, Stewart MacPherson, Hugh Nicol and Garry Page. Laura Walker-Knowles had also expressed an interest in assisting the Comms Team.

(d) Grants Team

Members to be Sharon Ferguson, Stewart MacPherson, Frank Ellam, Steven Watson and Laura Walker-Knowles.

(e) Energy/Renewables Team

Members to be Gordon McAndie, Garry Page and Steven Watson.

(f) Funders Team/Community Benefits Negotiator

Peter Faye agreed to become the Trust's Community Benefits Negotiator. Funders Team members therefore to be Zoe Iliffe, Peter Faye (with Alan Speight being the Community Council's Negotiator).

(g) Foyers Bay Project Team

Members to be Peter Faye, Stewart MacPherson, Hugh Nicol, Steven Watson. Garry Page and Ken Sinclair expressed an interest in attending, and would be informed of dates/times, etc, meetings. The 3 external volunteers would continue as members of the Team.

7. RIVERSIDE FIELD SUBMISSIONS

Directors reviewed and discussed the 5 submissions received from architects. It was agreed to invite 3 firms to make a 15 minute presentation followed by a 5 minute Q&A session hopefully prior to the February Board meeting. The 3 architects chosen to be invited to give presentations were HRI, Colin Armstrong Associates and Ian Baily.

The new Riverside Field Project Team could then take up the project once an architect had finally been appointed. Members of the Team will be Zoe Iliffe, Julie Murphy, Garry Page, Hugh Nicol and other interested stakeholder groups representatives.

8. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Comms Team's quarterly update report was noted. Thanks were offered by Directors to the Team for their efforts in producing Issue 4 of the S&F News in Steven's absence.

9. BROADBAND TEAM QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Broadband Team's quarterly update report was noted. Team Members also expanded on their actions over the last few months. Cromarty Firth Wireless Network's system appears economical. The Broadband Team to meet with them further within next 10 days to establish firm proposals and financial implications/costs.

The Board decided, given the lack of progress with named service providers, that a wireless option offered by Cromarty Firth Wireless may well provide a solution with the ability to provide organic growth of a service throughout the Trust's area.

Discussions occurred around land and site acquisition and potential planning requirements. It had been intimated to the Team that the potential cost would be significantly lower than the traditional fibre optic/cable systems utilised by mainstream operators. It may also be possible to obtain financial support from Better Broadband UK for hardware to individual households. The Team are to meet further with Cromarty Firth Wireless Network to establish firm proposals for the mechanics of a wireless system and the financial implications. The Team would also investigate the possible utilisation of new emergency service network masts for incorporation within the proposal.

The Board fully supported the efforts of the Team and very much looked forward to firm proposals being presented for a wireless broadband network.

10. GRANT QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Grant quarterly spreadsheet for 2016/17 was noted. This is still available on the Director's secure side of the Trust's website if there are any further comments.

11. ACTION LIST/TIMELINE

The items on the Action List/Timeline were noted.

Ken Sinclair wondered whether the Administrator could undertake additional reporting duties, such as the 6 monthly reporting to SSE.

12. AOCB

Trust emails

It was noted that some directors were still having difficulties downloading, sending and deleting emails via the Trust's email system. There were differing opinions as to how the Webmail system appeared to function. All those with any doubts or concerns were encouraged to contact Calico and seek assistance and/or clarification as emails are regarded as the primary form of communication between directors.

Foyers Store & Waterfall Café

A general discussion occurred around a potential purchase of the business and premises but directors decided not to pursue this as, at the present time, it is still appears to be a viable commercial business capable of being sold on the open market. Were there ever to be a situation whereby the Store and Post Office were in danger of being closed, then the Trust may reconsider the situation.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 1 February 2017. Venue proposed to be Whitebridge Hotel.

The Meeting closed 9.45pm.

Signed by Chair

Date
