

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust held in Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

<b>Present</b>	Morag Cameron, Sharon Ferguson, Lyn Forbes, Willie Fraser, Liz Merther, Fraser Ross, Justin Sharpe, Alex Sutherland
<b>Chair</b>	Willie Fraser
<b>In Attendance</b>	Fiona Ambrose (Secretary), Andy Holt, Helen Grainger
<b>Apologies</b>	-

### **1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2013**

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting was moved by Sharon Ferguson and seconded by Lyn Forbes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February was duly accepted as a correct record, was approved and signed by the Chair.

### **2. GRANT APPLICATIONS**

#### **a) Summer Feis**

It was **agreed** to award the £700 requested for bus transport from Stratherrick /Whitebridge to Fort Augustus subject to the bus picking up participants from Foyers, Inverfarigaig, Erroglie and Gorthleck if required. If additional costs were incurred, the Trust would make an additional grant payment.

#### **b) Energy Saving Grant, Erroglie**

It was **agreed** to award the sum of £2803.50 towards installation of secondary glazing or double glazed sashes.

#### **c) Private Water Supply Improvements**

The applicant had sent a letter together with one quote for improvements to a private water supply.

It was **agreed** that the applicant be asked to complete an application form, supply two further quotes and to confirm that they were the homeowner.

#### **d) Destination Loch Ness**

It was **agreed** to award the sum of £4,000 towards the costs of construction of a new section of the South Loch Ness Trail near the Suidhe.

### e) Stratherrick Primary School Parent Council

Sharon Ferguson and Justin Sharpe declared an interest and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

It was **agreed** to award the sum of £4,000 to supplement parental contributions for a week long activity trip to Loch Insh, plus buses to Loch Insh, swimming lessons, & the music festival.

### 3. SMALL GRANT APPLICATION FORM

In considering one of the applications above, there was discussion on the current small grant application form having a limit of £1,000. This sum had been set by the Scottish Community Foundation some years ago and there was now scope to review this figure.

It was **agreed** that the small grant application form be amended to show an upper limit of £2,000 and that the Secretary review the form as a whole prior to it being updated on the website.

### 4. COMPLETION REPORT

A completion report from Foyers senior citizens benevolent fund was **noted**.

### 5. EXPENSES SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER

The Secretary's expenses of £349.60 for the period 24 January to 28 February 2013 and the Treasurer's expenses of £363 for the period from 23 January to 1 March 2013 were both **approved** and signed by the Chair.

### 6. TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The Secretary distributed information on a free training course provided by the A9 partnership, part of which was on the duties of Directors.

It was **agreed** that training would be sought from Lochaber Volunteer association once the new Directors were in post.

## 6. APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Sharon Ferguson advised that the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company were looking to set up an apprenticeship scheme for young people in the area and to extend this to include Whitebridge and Foyers as young people from these areas also attended Kilchuimen Academy. In the first instance they were seeking volunteers from the Trust to sit on the Steering Group.

Sharon Ferguson and Morag Cameron **agreed** to put their names forward.

## 7. REVIEW OF AGM

There was a detailed discussion of the AGM which had been held on 27 February. The main issues from opinions voiced at the AGM was that the Community wanted the Trust to communicate much more widely and more often on its activities and that there was a desire that the Trust should be seen to be more democratic in the appointment of Directors.

The following were agreed as a way forward

- a. The Trust acknowledged the community view that more frequent communication by a variety of means was required to better inform the community of the work of the Trust
- b. That a report should be prepared for the next Boleskine Bulletin, based on the Chairman's report presented at the AGM, to fully advise the community of the Smiddy project
- c. That a survey be developed, the purpose of which would be to gain the views of the community on what they saw as priorities for the future and the types of projects which the Trust should be developing. It was **agreed** that each Director should submit questions to be included in the survey to the Secretary.

There was discussion on the statement which a former Director had made on a number of occasions, including the 2012 and the 2013 AGM that his employer, the Forestry Commission, were of the opinion that the Directors of the Trust were incompetent. If there was any truth in these accusations, the Trust would need to address these concerns. Even if they were only perceptions they would impact on the Trust's standing and creditability in the wider community and with other stakeholders like SSE.

It was **proposed** that the Trust should write to the Forestry Commission to ascertain what concerns they had which had resulted in them requiring an employee who was a Director of the Trust to resign from his position with the Trust.

There was also a discussion on the proposed new Articles of Association. It had been decided over a year ago to review the current Articles as they were difficult to interpret and did not meet the needs of the Trust moving forward. The Review had been a long and difficult process and it was felt that the Trust now had a set of Articles which were fit for purpose at the present time. Consideration would be given to the view of the community in future changes, particularly the desire for the Trust to be seen as more democratic in the appointment of Directors.

Lyn Forbes moved, seconded by Alex Sutherland that the Articles be registered.

It was **agreed** that the Secretary would request Harper Macleod to register the new Articles of Association on behalf of the Trust.

## **8. ACCOUNTS**

Following the AGM the accounts had been reviewed and the Secretary advised that a number of invoices had been identified which had not been included in the accounts prepared by the accountants for the year ending 30 June.

Discussion took place on whether a more local accountant should be sought and the benefits of having the accounts audited.

Once clarification had been received regarding an invoice from HGA, the Secretary would advise the accountants of the additional invoices so that they could update the accounts prior to them being approved, signed by the Chair and submitted to Companies House prior to 31 March 2013.

## **9. APPLICATIONS FOR DIRECTORS – INTERVIEW PROCESS**

It was agreed that interviews be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March subject to the availability of a suitable location and the availability of the applicants and that the interview panel be Willie Fraser, Liz Merther, Morag Cameron and Alex Sutherland.

Signed by Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_