

MINUTES of the MEETING of the STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST held in STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK on WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2013

Present Graeme Ambrose, Sharon Ferguson, Lyn Forbes, Willie Fraser, Sally McGuire, Paula Page, Justin Sharp, Ros Rowell
Chair Willie Fraser
In Attendance Fiona Ambrose (Secretary), Michelle Allcock (Treasurer)
Apologies Morag Cameron, Fraser Ross

1. DISCUSSION WITH SUSAN SCOBIE AND GRAEME KEDDIE OF SSE

The Chair welcomed Susan and Graeme K to the meeting and introduced everyone round the table including Alex Sutherland and Frank Ellam.

Reference was made to the meeting which had been held between Ian Brown and Frank Ellam and Graeme K earlier in the day. It was understood that Ian Brown had indicated at the last CC Meeting that SSE had asked for the meeting but this appeared to be at odds with what Graeme K described. Also, it was not clear why the Community Trust Community Benefit Negotiators had not been invited to the meeting when Frank Ellam, the CC CBN was in attendance. Graeme K was not able to offer clarification on this matter.

Graeme K and Susan gave a brief résumé of their respective positions and the changes which had been made within SSE to administer community benefit funds. The company had a duty of care, wanted to ensure that as a company they secured a legacy in the areas where funds were dispersed and also wanted to help communities to administer the grants.

Graeme K advised that for all new wind farms, SSE's policy would be to provide a fixed £5,000 per megawatt for the full 25 year life of the wind farm. 50% of this fixed amount would be administered by the local community (e.g. through a trust or community panel), and 50% would be available to projects within the Highland Council boundary and would be administered by a central panel. SSE were currently targeting areas where they had operational sites and a £1M regional fund for the Highlands would be launched later in November. The funds were earmarked for transformational change projects and the 3 key areas for investment were community energy projects, skills development and job retention and the natural built environment. The local funds would have wider criteria and could be used for any type of priority projects identified within communities.

The £5,000 /mw would be reviewed every 5 years based on the cost of living index. The 50/50 distribution between the regional and local fund would not change.

Graeme K referred to the letter which had been sent by Frank Ellam on the variable payments for Glendoe and confirmed that the timescale for variable payments within the memorandum of offer would be amended to take account of the period when there was no construction as a result of the tunnel collapse.

Alex Sutherland and Frank Ellam left the meeting

Graeme K responded on a line basis to the amendments requested by the Directors on the memorandum of offer for Glendoe. He confirmed acceptance of some of the

amendments, gave reasons why others could not be changed and advised that he would give further consideration on a final point and get back to the Directors with a decision.

Graeme K and Susan requested sight of the proposed new articles of association once developed by the review sub group and also indicated their interest in being involved in the next stage of the action plan which would be developed following the community survey.

The Chair thanked Susan and Graeme K for a very useful and informative discussion. .

Graeme Keddie and Susan Scobie left the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRUST HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2013**

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting was moved by Graeme Ambrose and seconded by Justin Sharp

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 were duly accepted as a correct record, were **APPROVED**, subject to one small amendment, and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

It appeared that the grant of £3,000 approved for a wood pellet stove at a house in Foyers was a second grant to the householder in question. The current policy was that no individual could be awarded more than the maximum sum of £3,000 for energy saving measures. However, the wording in the application form was slightly ambiguous and required clarification.

The offer of grant had been made to the applicant and the offer would stand.

The Directors discussed this matter in detail and **AGREED** that no second grant applications would be approved, pending clarification of the current policy. They further **AGREED** that to ensure that this did not occur again, that each grant application would, in future, be categorised and entered into a grant register.

3. **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

a. Small Grant application – Children’s Christmas Party

It was **AGREED** to award the sum of £400 to the Children’s Christmas Party.

Paula Page and Sharon Ferguson declared an interest in the foregoing item and took no part in the discussion.

b. Small Grant Application – 1st Stratherrick Guides

It was **AGREED** to award the sum of £550 to the 1st Stratherrick Guides

Paula Page and Sharon Ferguson declared an interest in the foregoing item and took no part in the discussion

c. Small Grant application – Boleskine Senior’s Lunch Club

It was **AGREED** in principle to award the sum of £1,000 subject to the Directors having sight of the constitution before any grant payment be made. It was also

AGREED that the Lunch Club be encouraged in the future to also seek out other possible sources of funding.

Paula Page declared an interest in the foregoing item and took no part in the discussion

Ros Rowell left the meeting as she was feeling unwell.

- d. Small Grant Application – Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council
It was **AGREED** to award the sum of £1,300 to the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council for further work on the Community Transport Survey.

4. **TREASURY REPORT – OCTOBER 2013**

A report by the Treasurer provided information on the following areas:-

Financial summary - Total funds in 5 accounts - £121,657.53
Funds remaining in account when grants approved but not yet paid and invoice provisions deducted - £110,822.53

Non disclosure agreement – It was **AGREED** that all Directors, the Treasurer and Secretary should sign a copy of the non-disclosure agreement and submit it to the Treasurer before the next meeting in December

Banking summary – Progress was still being made in changing the signatories for the three banks, namely Bank of Scotland, Santander and Northern Rock. Bank of Scotland had lost the original forms and these had been completed and sent again.

Grant application status – Four invoices from applicants still outstanding and included in the figures within the treasury summary above.

Annual Accounts – there has been submitted to the A9 Partnership and the Treasurer expected them to be returned to her by the middle of the month.

5. **APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

A further twenty five completed membership application forms had been received.

The Directors **ACCEPTED** the applications for membership as detailed in the report by the Secretary with the exception of the application from a minor, which would be put on hold pending the current review of the Articles of Association.

The Directors **NOTED** that 95 applications for membership had now been received and approved.

6. **OPEN DAY**

a. **Feedback from open day**

The Directors **NOTED** the further comments which had been received at the open day and the Secretary advised that she would add these to the list of all comments received as part of the survey questionnaire returns.

b. Issues raised by Ros Rowell

Rory Dutton of DTAS had verbally answered the questions raised at the first meeting of the Articles Sub Group. Lyn Forbes had written these up in a report but was awaiting confirmation from Rory as to the accuracy and once received, she would circulate this to all Directors.

c. Next steps

The Directors **AGREED** that the next step was to develop an action list based on the comments received. Lyn Forbes offered to start this process and it was **AGREED** that the Directors would have a full discussion on this matter at the next meeting on 11th December.

7. TRUST INFORMATION LEAFLET

There was discussion on the draft information leaflet which Michelle and Gareth Allcock had developed. A number of minor comments had been made by Directors and these would be taken into account in the final draft.

It was **AGREED** that the leaflet be put on hold, pending the approval of the new articles of association which would include new objects.

The Directors agreed that this was an excellent information source and recorded their appreciation of the considerable time which Michelle and Gareth had put into the design and content of the leaflet.

8. LOGO COMPETITION

The Directors discussed the winning logo design. It appeared that there was a potential issue with copyright as the design was very similar to a clip art design.

It was **AGREED** that this be looked into further.

9. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT MEETING WITH MARGARET DAVIDSON

The Directors **NOTED** the report of this meeting which had been prepared by the Secretary.

10. FEEDBACK ON FIRST MEETING OF THE ARTICLES REVIEW SUBGROUP

Lyn Forbes to arrange for her report on this meeting to be circulated to all Directors.

11. FEEDBACK ON FOYERS/INVERFARIGAIG OPEN FORUM

The Directors **NOTED** the report of this meeting which had been prepared by the Secretary.

12. FOYERS TOILETS

The Directors **AGREED** that the Trust was not in a position to finance this project because the Trust did not have the funds to do so but **NOTED** that this matter was however now being discussed as part of the wider discussions being taken forward for Foyers following the Foyers/Inverfarigaig open forum.

13. INVOICES SEPTEMBER 2013 – SECRETARY & TREASURER

The following expenses were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair

- Secretary's expenses for the period 29 September to 30 October 2013 - £598.50
- Treasurer's expenses for the period 30 September to 27 October 2013 - £547.20

14. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 11th December at 7.30 p.m. in Stratherrick Hall

Wednesday 15th January 2014 at 7.30 p.m. Venue to be agreed

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Signed by Chair

Date
