

MINUTES of the MEETING of the STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST held in STRATHERRICK HALL, GORTHLECK on WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2013

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

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRUST HELD ON 7 AUGUST 2013

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

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2013 were duly accepted as a correct record, were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

2. RESIGNATION OF DIRECTORS

The Chair advised that letters of resignation had been received from two Directors, namely Fraser Ross and Paula Page. Fraser had not given any indication for the reasons for his resignation but Paula explained that due to a change in employment she no longer had the time to commit fully to the role of Director. Each Director, in terms of the Articles of Association was required to give 3 months notice of their resignation and Fraser and Paula would stand down in November and December respectively.

3. RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE COMPANY

The Secretary advised that the Community Council, at their meeting on 20th August, had referred to the request from the Trust, made in March 2013, that the Community Council, as sole member, pass a resolution to change the Company name. The Secretary reminded the Directors that they had agreed at the meeting in July that there was no need to seek a change to the Company name at this time.

4. GRANT APPLICATION – 1st STRATHERRICK BROWNIES

1st Stratherrick Brownies had requested assistance towards the celebration of 100 years of Brownies at Dalguies PLG Centre – the Big Brownie Birthday. 14 Brownies and 4 adults would be able to attend the event.

The Directors **AGREED** to grant the sum of £870 towards this event.

5. SCOTTISH HYDRO GLENDOE FUND – GRANT OFFER

SSE had advised that they would make an annual grant award to the Community Trust, together with a variable top up payment from the Glendoe Fund. They would make fixed payments into the Fund equivalent to £33,301.39 per annum, index linked to RPI, accruing from 15th January 2012 and on the anniversary of that date for the lifetime of the project (or 19 annual payments, whichever was the shorter.) SSE would also pay into the Fund an additional variable amount, linked to the output of the Glendoe Hydro Scheme and subject to the division agreed between the SFCT and Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (45% /55%). The award was conditional upon the Trust agreeing to SSE's Terms and Conditions and dependent on the Trust complying with said Terms and Conditions which

included stringent monitoring requirements. If the Trust did not meet any of the requirements set out in the Terms and Conditions, payments of the grant or any other from the Fund could be at risk.

The Directors considered the Terms and Conditions on a line by line basis and **AGREED** that the Treasurer would contact SSE for clarification on a number of points and also request that some amendments be made to the document to improve the terms afforded to the Trust.

Mrs Cameron advised that it had been suggested that SSE would backdate the variable rate and requested that the Trust approach SSE to request these funds. The Directors **AGREED** that evidence of where this suggestion had been made was required from both Mrs Cameron and also Mrs Ferguson in her capacity as Secretary to the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company before any formal approach be made.

Justin Sharp left the meeting

6. LETTERS FROM GRAEME KEDDIE AND SUSAN SCOBIE OF SSE

A letter from Graeme Keddie confirmed that the original Dumnaglass community benefit fund agreement the Trust signed with RES had now transferred to SSE and they would be honouring the original commitments set out in the agreement.

However, for all new wind farms, a new policy by SSE would 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.

A move to this new policy model would result in a reduced amount of funding administered by the Community Trust. As such, SSE would honour the existing agreement and, in the initial years that the Dunmaglass fund fell below £5,000 per megawatt, SSE would 'top up' the total amount by depositing the difference into SSE's Highland-wide regional fund. Over time, as the local element of funding increased due to RPI, the contribution to the regional fund would cease.

In summary, this meant that the local community would not be adversely affected and would still receive the amount negotiated with RES, while the wider Highland region would benefit from additional funding as defined in SSE's community benefit policy. The Dunmaglass communities would always have the opportunity to submit applications to the Regional fund if they met the relevant criteria.

A letter from Susan Scobie requested that she and Graeme Keddie attend the meeting of the Trust on Wednesday 6th November.

The Directors **AGREED** that Susan Scobie and Graeme Keddie be asked to attend the Trust meeting on 6th November at which point the Directors would be able to ask for points of clarification on the revised SSE model.

7. TREASURY REPORT – AUGUST 2013

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

Financial summary - Total funds in 5 accounts - £146,154.80
Funds remaining in account when grants approved but not yet paid and invoice provisions deducted - £111,554.80

The Chair of the Stratherrick Hall Committee, Hugh Nicol had verbally advised that the Hall Committee had been successful in their application for Lottery Funding and that the sum which the Committee would request from the Trust had been revised down from £20,000 to £10,685. This would in turn amend the figure of funds remaining in the preceding paragraph to £120,869.80.

Budget Visualisation – Glendoe – Once the Memorandum of Offer (terms and Conditions) was agreed with SSE the Trust would receive an annual fixed element payment from Glendoe of £34,330 in January 2013 plus a variable element yet to be determined. The Trust had already committed £17,700 from these funds and there was therefore £16,630 available for budget allocation

Banking summary – Progress was still being made in changing the signatories for the three banks, namely Bank of Scotland, Santander and Northern Rock.

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

Other treasury matters – Document processing – There was discussion on the need to ensure a document recovery plan was in place and on other issues relating to document processing.

It was **AGREED** that

1. each Director (and the Treasurer) be allocated specific Trust e mail accounts so that Trust e mails were kept separate from personal e mails
2. that memory sticks be purchased and
3. that previous Directors, Secretaries and Treasurers, be requested (if they had not already done so) to delete written material relative to the Trust from their home computers.

Work in progress – A number of actions associated with document processing were still to be progressed.

Sharon Ferguson left the meeting

8. INVOICE FROM HGA

An invoice had been received from HGA in the sum of £1,500 relating to the Errogie Smiddy project.

The Treasurer was seeking clarification on this invoice and had also requested a full paper audit and a final statement of account from HGA.

The Directors **NOTED** the position and asked the Treasurer to confirm the timescale relative to an invoice submission.

9. LOGO COMPETITION

The Secretary reminded the Directors that it had been agreed at the Trust meeting in May that a logo competition would be held as part of the Open Day.

Morag Cameron and Paula Page offered to attend Stratherrick and Foyers Primary schools to advise the staff and pupils of the competition and to give some advice and guidance on the logo requirements.

The Directors **AGREED** that as it was a competition, a small prize would be offered.

10. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRUST

The Chair advised that he wished the Directors to consider the applications for membership which had been submitted. He was aware that one of the recent decisions of the Community Council as Sole Member, in passing two resolutions so as to amend the Articles of Association of the Trust, was that this function had passed from the Directors of the Trust to the Sole Member. However, advice was being sought from Highland Council on whether the decision was competent as there was a query as to whether the Community Council had adhered to its own standing orders in making this decision. In essence the decision was in limbo.

So as to avoid a further delay (some of the applications had been received in June and the applicants had been advised at that time that the Trust would wait until the Community Council had reformed and the three Community Council nominated Directors were able to take part consideration of the applications), the Secretary advised that the Trust could consider the applications and make a decision but subject to the outcome of the advice from Highland Council.

The Secretary also advised that three individuals had intimated that they wished to withdraw their applications as clarity was required on clause 5.2 of the Articles of Association regarding whether members could benefit from grants from the Trust. Clarification was currently being sought on this matter.

There was discussion on whether the Trust should consider the membership applications. Lyn Forbes moved, seconded by Willie Fraser, that those listed on the report by the Secretary (excluding the 3 individuals who had withdrawn) be appointment as members of the Trust. On a vote being taken, Paula Page, Willie Fraser, Lyn Forbes and Graeme Ambrose voted for the motion (4), Ros Rowell and Sally McGuire voted against the motion (2) and Morag Cameron abstained.

The motion was therefore carried and the applicants would be accepted as members by the Directors of the Trust if the decisions of the Community Council as Sole Member were deemed to be incompetent or alternatively, if the decisions stood, the Trust Directors would recommend to the Community Council as Sole Member that they approve all the applications for membership.

11. UPDATE ON DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES

There were no activities to report.

12. INVOICES AUGUST 2013 – SECRETARY & TREASURER

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

- Secretary's expenses for the period 1 – 29 August 2013 - £577.20. A proportion of this amount was attributed to the extra work involved in relation to the petition

submitted to the Community Council and also the resolutions of the sole member.

- Treasurer's expenses for the period 1 – 31 August 2013 - £350.40

13. ALLEGATIONS

There was a short discussion on the recent allegations/accusations which had been made by Community Council appointed Directors at the Community Council meeting held on 20th August.

Ros Rowell made her apologies as she was feeling unwell and left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item

14. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Joint meeting with Community Council – 12th September

Special meeting to plan open day – Wednesday 18th September 2013

Scheduled Monthly Trust meeting - Wednesday 2nd October 2013

Open Day – Friday 4th October 2013

The meeting closed at 10.45 p.m.

Signed by Chair

Date
