



**MINUTES of the MEETING of the STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED held at CRAIGDARROCH INN, FOYERS ON WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2015**

<b>Present</b>	Graeme Ambrose, Martin Donnelly, Frank Ellam, Peter Faye, Zoe Iliffe, Hugh Nicol, Stewart MacPherson, Ken Sinclair
<b>Chair</b>	Zoe Iliffe
<b>In Attendance</b>	Fiona Ambrose (Administrator), Steven Watson (Project Coordinator)
<b>Apologies</b>	Sharon Ferguson, Gordon McAndie

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Stronelairg**

The Chair referred to the recent decision by the Court of Session to uphold the judicial review lodged by the John Muir trust and refuse SSE consent for the wind farm at Stronelairg.

The Directors discussed the implications of this decision, namely a significant reduction of monies coming to the Trust. The Trust would have to wait and see if SSE were of a mind to continue with this project.

**2. MINUTES**

a) 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Peter Faye proposed, seconded by Frank Ellam, approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2015.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2015 were **AGREED** as a correct record, **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

b) AGM – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015

Graeme Ambrose proposed, seconded by Martin Donnelly, approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 2 December 2015.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 2 December 2015 were **AGREED** as a correct record, **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

c) 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015

Peter Faye proposed, seconded by Hugh Nicol, approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2015.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2015 were **AGREED** as a correct record, **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

### 3. GRANTS

Frank Ellam advised that the first payment of £2,500 from Easter Aberchalder windfarm was due on 9<sup>th</sup> December (today) and he suggested that this sum be used to pay some of the following grants if the Directors were so minded to approve them.

The Directors **AGREED** that this was a sensible suggestion.

*Stewart MacPherson declared an interest and left the meeting during consideration of the following item.*

a) **Student - Iona MacPherson (Ref: ST17/2015)**

**Grant Awarded - £200**

**Grant Purpose:** for travel expenses

The Directors **APPROVED** the application.

b) **Student - Amelia Jones (Ref: ST 18/2015)**

**Grant Awarded - £200**

**Grant Purpose:** Towards cost of Diploma in Legal Practice and textbooks

The Directors **APPROVED** the application.

c) **Student - Siobhan McDonell (Ref: ST23/2015)**

**Grant Awarded - £200**

**Grant Purpose:** for travel and household bills

The Directors **APPROVED** the application.

d) **Student - Annie Butterworth (Ref: ST 24/2015)**

**Grant Awarded - £200**

**Grant Purpose:** for text books and travel

The Directors **APPROVED** the application.

e) **Energy Saving - Alexandra Coombs (Ref: ESG 22/2015)**

**Grant Awarded - £500**

**Grant Purpose:** purchase and installation of wood burning stove.

The Directors **APPROVED** the application.

f) **Energy Saving - Jenny McCallum (Ref: ESG 20/2015)**

**Grant Awarded - £500**

**Grant Purpose:** loft insulation, underfloor insulation, replace single glazed window, replace front doors.

The Directors **APPROVED** the application.

g) **Energy Saving - Hugh Haines (Ref: ESG 19/2015)**

**Grant Awarded - £500**

**Grant Purpose:** towards cost of removing existing open fire and back boiler and installation of wood burning stove



## 6. UPDATE REPORTS

### a) Finance

The Finance Director advised that at the end of November 2015 there was £690,295 in hand spread between 9 banks/building societies.

The Santander Corporate Bank was now open and login details had been provided. Once a new cheque book was received, the Santander Business Account would be closed by transfer to the new Santander Corporate account. The Santander Business Account was the designated account for withdrawals from the various savings accounts that were opened such as Aldermore. These would need to be changed to Santander Corporate once further information was available.

The Big Lottery Fund had rejected the application for funding towards the Project Coordinator's salary. This application had been submitted before it was known that the Dunmaglass benefit payments were to commence early. The grounds for rejection were that the employment would not directly result in assets being owned by the community.

### Legacy Fund

Frederick Bathurst of Clarendon Financial Planning had suggested that it was important to establish a Statement of Investment Principles as a first step towards the establishment of the Legacy Fund. Frank and Frederick had developed a draft Statement which was in a form consistent with the Trust's Financial Control document.

The Directors **APPROVED** the Statement of Investment Principles subject to the following wording being inserted into the final paragraph:-

..."Clarendon will use reasonable discretion and endeavours to try to avoid direct investments in these types of companies"

The Statement of Principles would then be signed by all ten Directors.

### Financial Control Document

The Financial Control document required updating as it referred to keeping bank balances below £85,000 for each bank (page 2). The compensation limit would be reduced to £75,000 from January 2016.

The Directors **AGREED** that the figure of £85,000 within the Finance Control document be amended to £75,000 and that the document be signed at the next meeting.

### b) Project Co-ordinator/projects

A report by the Project Co-ordinator outlined the range of activities which he had been involved in during November 2015

Particular reference was made to the Errogie Community Woodland Group and the Project Co-ordinator that they should discuss their plans with the Community Council who had been involved in the community wood scheme.

c) **Community land purchase**

Peter Faye advised that the negotiations on the Minute of Agreement were almost complete, as were the negotiations on the Standard Security. He anticipated that the contract would be received within the next week.

Peter also advised that the environment report requested by the Trust had confirmed that no contamination had been found on the land.

The Directors commended both Peter Faye and Zoe Iliffe for the considerable amount of work which they had put into this project and their patience during the extended negotiations.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR**

The Chair advised that two applications had been received for the post of Administrator. After the short leeting process it had been agreed that both applicants be invited to attend for interview.

The Directors **AGREED** that Zoe Iliffe, Steven Watson and Fiona Ambrose form the interview panel.

**8. NEW DOMAIN AND E MAIL ADDRESSES**

The Chair referred to her e mail of 26 November regarding the new domain name which had been set up with Calico, namely [....@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:....@sfctrust.org.uk) (£12 per annum), e mail addresses [.....@sfctrust.org.uk](mailto:.....@sfctrust.org.uk) and extra capacity (£24 + VAT per annum).

The Directors **RATIFIED** the decision by the Chair to incur expenses of £12 per annum for the new domain name and the £24+VAT per annum for the extra 100mb capacity

**9. ACTION LIST/TIMELINE**

The Chair talked through the actions from the last meeting. She confirmed that a number of actions were complete, some were ongoing and a number were covered in reports on the Agenda.

Particular reference was made to the refusal by Gilkes Energy to pay the Trust any community benefit monies from the development at Easter Abercalder.

The Directors **AGREED** that this decision should be highlighted to the Community.

The Directors **NOTED** that the Community Council had decided not to accept the amended funding terms for the Knockie Hydro Scheme.

The Timeline was reviewed and would be updated to reflect the current position.

**10. AOB**

**a) Invoices/Expenses**

1. A9 Accountancy - £795 plus VAT
2. Project Co-ordinator expenses – November - £107.76

The Directors **AGREED** to pay the invoices in the sums shown above.

**b) Foyers Pier project**

Peter Faye advised that the joint project with Scottish Canals and Highland Council to repair the pier at Foyers had been abandoned due to escalating costs. Scottish Canals had advised a sum of money earmarked for the project would be released to the Trust to undertake a project at Foyers Bay. A small amount of funding would also be available from VisitInverness Loch Ness and it was also suggested that Sport Scotland might be willing to provide some funding for the project.

The Trust **AGREED** that a Sub Group be established to take forward a project at Foyers Pier and that the membership should include representatives from a range of bodies such as Scottish Canals, VisitInverness Loch Ness, SSE, Highland Council, Fishing Club and the Trust.

**c) Community Consultation**

The Chair suggested that there was a need to consult with the community on a range of issues early in 2016, including Broadband, ideas for the use of the land purchased at Lower Foyers and the project at Foyers Bay.

An open weekend could be held in Stratherrick Hall to allow members of the community to ask questions and put forward ideas on each of the consultation topics.

The Chair requested that each of the Teams get together and come forward with ideas for the open weekend.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 13<sup>h</sup> January 2016 (Venue to be arranged)**

*The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.*

Signed by Chair

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Date

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