



MINUTES of the MEETING of the STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST LIMITED held at the Catholic Church Hall, Bridge of Loin, ON WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 2016

Present	Graeme Ambrose, Frank Ellam, Peter Faye, Gordon McAndie, Ken Sinclair.
Chair	Zoe Iliffe
In Attendance	Steven Watson (Project Coordinator) and Laura Walker – Knowles (Administrator)
Apologies	Sharon Ferguson, Hugh Nicol, Martin Donnelly and Stewart MacPherson

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair immediately requested that each director declare any conflict or potential conflict of interest in any items on the agenda at the outset of the meeting. No conflicts were intimated. A new Administrator was present but the minutes would be taken by Steven for this meeting. Frank continued in his role as interim Grants Administrator until handover.

2. MINUTES OF 6 APRIL 2016

There were two amendments / clarifications raised relating to the draft Minutes of the April 2016 meeting.

1. Minute Item 3 Grants (F) Knockie Trust – The draft minute was discussed and agreed as accurate.
2. Minute Item 3 Grants (E) Visit Inverness Loch Ness – The draft minute included information on a previous historical grant which had been awarded by the Trust. Whilst correct, this historical grant was not a factor in the assessment of or decision on the current application. The Directors agreed this line should be removed from the Minute.

Subject to the single change their adoption was proposed for approval by Frank Ellam and seconded by Peter Faye.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2016 were **AGREED** as a correct record, **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

3. FINANCE / INVOICES / EXPENSES

Frank Ellam talked through his Finance Report dated 24 April 2016. Frank highlighted the delay in the receipt of the residual energy fund payment from SSE. He would remind SSE that this was now due. The funds summarised by Frank were as follows. The Legacy Fund investment arranged through Clarendon (first investment of £140k made March 2016) was currently valued at £141,486. Frank

would not be updating the board with monthly valuations of the investment which was monitored every week by Clarendon. Sir Frederick Hervey-Bathurst (Clarendon) was due to attend a Directors Meeting in September 2016. Funds held in Banks and Building Societies totalled £574,556. Project Coordinators expenses were approved.

Budget requirements were now clearer. In this financial year so far the Trust has approved over £100,000s worth of grants. The policy to retain 18 months operating costs and grant payments in a cash reserve and the projected annual spend would likely result in a surplus of income over expenditure of the order of £67,000.

The Directors discussed the option of transferring this surplus as an initial medium term investment. The idea would be that the Trust then had three types of financial reserve.

- (1) A sum equivalent to 18 months operating and grant costs held in cash accounts.
- (2) A medium term investment without immediate access for withdrawal earmarked to grant aid larger projects in the coming years whilst earning some interest meantime.
- (3) The Legacy Fund investment with Clarendon, designed to build up a fund which would replace the funds from the renewable energy operators when the financial agreements ran-out after more than 20 but less than 25 years which is currently designed to accept 25% of trust annual income.

The Board agreed that the proposal for a medium term investment (2) above should be investigated and progressed to complement the other two types of financial reserve.

There were no additional questions for the Finance Director and his report was **NOTED** by the Board.

4. QUARTERLY REPORT FROM ENERGY / RENEWABLES TEAM

There were two elements to this report. A proposal for a free distribution of LED Lightbulbs for householder and a revised information sheet about the Energy Efficiency / Renewables Grant.

LED Lightbulbs

The Board had recently supported a grant application for the replacement of all bulbs in a domestic property with LED lightbulbs. The Directors considered that individual applications from householders for this technology would be time consuming for all parties. The benefits to householders in terms of lower electricity bills from LED lightbulb replacement were substantial. The Board discussed the merits of different purchase and distribution options. The Directors agreed that they did want to allocate funds for LED bulbs and that an arrangement with a supplier would be finalised by the Project Coordinator.

The basics of the scheme were as follows

- Resident domestic households only
- Max 20 bulbs/household, max £200 whichever is the lesser,
- Limited range of bulbs – (no dimmers or floodlights)
- Purchase order system linked to households
- Advertised scheme in June Newsletter.
- Review scheme uptake and issues monthly at Board Meetings

Information Sheet about the existing Energy Grant system

The content was agreed. This will appear in the S&F NEWS to stimulate interest and applications. LED lightbulbs would be removed as an example of the use of the grant – as this aspect can now be taken up by the LED Bulb Distribution Scheme.

5. ACTION LIST / TIMELINE

The following three salient items were noted

Foyers Primary Minibus Grant – The Head teacher had successfully completed her MIDAS assessment and the minibus element of the grant agreed previously was now to be finalised.

The Inverfarigaig Forest Centre proposal was moving forward. The next meeting of that group is scheduled for 17 May.

The Grant previously awarded to the Community Council which remained unspent (Noticeboards and Hearing Loop) and the Community Council's application for costs from 1 August 2016 would be discussed at a meeting with Catriona Fraser (CCAC) and Kim Burton (16 May). Project Coordinator and Frank Ellam as acting Grants Administrator would attend.

6. UPDATE REPORTS

Reports from the Project Coordinator, Foyers bay Project Team and Community Council Liaison Director were all considered.

A Project Coordinator

Report noted. June issue of S&F NEWS in preparation. Comms. Team are assisting.

B Foyers Bay

Report noted. Directors were pleased that the team now included some additional local residents with knowledge and interest in the area. Local operational SSE staff are positive about a proposal which would tidy up the shoreline debris and improve access, in conjunction with the clearance of the redundant fish farm by the outgoing tenant. The Directors confirmed that repairs to the pier (Quay) were not a priority for the Trust and that funds were not available for upgrades or repairs to the structure. SSE's Power stations Manager at Foyers Jason Smith has invited the directors to attend a familiarisation meeting at the Power Station. The **Directors agreed to ACCEPT this invitation.**

S

C Community Council Liaison Director's Report

Report Noted. It was confirmed that Iain Brown, Whitebridge had resigned from the Council and that Catriona Fraser was acting as Chair until the May meeting. The issue of the replacement renewable's negotiator was discussed. Graeme Ambrose would remain as the Trust's nominated negotiator. Frank Ellam was also in the role as the Community Council nominee in that role as his appointment pre-dated his return to the Trust. As Frank had now stepped-down, filling the vacancy fell to the Community Council. The Directors agreed to assist in any way they could.

7. AOCB

1 Aberarder (12 Turbines) Consent has been refused.

2 Stronlaig Wind Farm. Decision still outstanding. If approved, financial payments to the Trust would be substantial.

3 Dell Windfarm would likely follow on from the Stronlaig decision.

4 Brownies Guides and Rainbows Trip, Grant Completion Report

The Completion Report included an invitation for Directors to attend a meeting of the group to allow those who benefitted to tell the Trust about the experiences they had and the benefits of all girls in the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows being able to participate.

The Directors agreed to ACCEPT the invitation.

5 Voluntary Action Lochaber

A Statement of Account had been received however no director recalled a purchase of services during the period concerned. Frank would question VAL further.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1st June 2016 (Venue to be arranged – proposed Stratherrick Hall)

The Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed by Chair _____

Date _____