



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL, GORTHLECK AT 7.00pm ON WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2019**

**Present** Peter Faye (PJF), Frank Ellam (FE), Garry Page (GP), Ken Sinclair (KS), Olaf Olsen (OO), Gillian McIntyre (GM), Margaret Cormack (MC), Sharon Ferguson (SF), Ian Bateman (IB)

**Chair** Peter Faye

**In Attendance** Steven Watson (SW) (Project Co-ordinator), Laura Walker-Knowles (Administrator) (LWK)

**Apologies** Zoe Iliffe (ZI)

**Declarations of interest**

SF expressed an interest in Stratherrick Primary School Parent Council.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Action  
by**

**2. SUMMER EVENT – Presentation by Mr Stewart Macpherson**

Stewart Macpherson made a proposal for an event for summer 2019. This included a Barn Dance, with possibilities including a bar, catering, porta-loos and staging for a band.

The Board were keen to support the idea and discussed suggested dates, formats, licensing and the provision of alcohol.

The Events Team will consider further.

**3. CO-OPTION OF DIRECTOR – Mr Stewart Macpherson**

Stewart thanked the Board for the invitation but unfortunately had to decline due to other commitments.

*8.10 p.m. Stewart Macpherson left the meeting.*

**4. MINUTES – 6 MARCH 2019**

FE requested a small change in the finance report section changing update the Board to update the report.

Ken Sinclair **PROPOSED** and Sharon Ferguson **SECONDED**, and the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 6 March 2019 were

thereafter **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

## 5. GRANT APPLICATIONS

### GROUP

#### (a) Glenurquhart High School Parent Council

**Total Project Cost: £600**  
**Amount applied for: £500**

Purpose of grant: contribution toward cost of a school trip.

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£500**.

**Fund: Glendoe**

### STUDENT

#### (b) Roxanna Elgar-Bond

**Amount applied for: £500**

**Purpose of grant: Student expenses**

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£500**.

**Fund: Glendoe**

## 6. FINANCE

FE updated the finance report, the payments and receipts during the month are listed in the finance report and expenses approved in accordance with current system.

SSE have invoiced £14,099.26 for the cable. The Trust has paid Angus Macpherson £635 for Foyers Bay rubbish clearance.

The Trust should expect a payment from SSE Stronelaig fund this month. This was because the Trust had received the first two payments later than expected. However, as per the Agreement payments are in advance and the funds received in January 19 were for the period to March 18 and March 19 and this payment is to March 20.

The Legacy Fund investment is currently 25% over six months.

*Action: Board to consider allocation of the usual 25% into the Legacy Fund and should it be allocated to costs at Wildside, as it is a legacy project.* **Board**

FE has updated the Finance Policy to reflect the new approval authority for invoices and expenses and the procedure for approving the Chair's expenses. Within that FE has also amended the Financial Services Compensation Scheme of £75,000 compensation limit to £85,000 to reflect the increase. FE has also amended the payment of grants to via both BACS and cheque.

The Board **APPROVED** the changes to the finance policy.

*Action: Replace finance policy on secure side of website with approved updated version.* LWK/SW

## 7. BROADBAND UPDATED

SF updated the Board. Comments on the draft Lease had been received from solicitors acting for the proposed Landlord and were under consideration.

## 8. RIVERSIDE FIELD

Directors felt that the Open Day had been a great success. Some comments had been made concerning specific elements of the proposals. The Board undertook to review these comments and consider all the property currently held by the Trust and whether any elements of the proposals might be located on other Trust property. It was stated that the Trust should continue to encourage all residents to be part of the project and have a firm sense of ownership.

It was suggested that cutting a path around the site to give residents an opportunity to envisage current plans and the potential of a multi-use development.

The Board discussed the further display of the Riverside Draft Masterplan at Wildside and noted there is currently no fixed end date for the return of comments.

The Board discussed the publicity and feedback from the meeting and dissemination of information to residents. SW will be collating feedback responses received to date.

*Action: Pros and cons of Riverside Field Meeting – agenda item next month.* LWK

## 9. APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE

The Board accepted the Apprenticeship Team report

Concerns were expressed about confidentiality clauses in agreements with training companies and agents, and it was suggested that the Board should contemplate disallowing such

clauses in any future agreements, so as to ensure the Board are fully informed of all circumstances if they are to support any further apprenticeships under the present arrangements with other Community Companies.

#### 10. QUARTERLY GRANT UPDATE

The Board noted the updated grants spreadsheet.

#### 11. PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATE

SW ran through highlights of his report. The March news was now distributed and the 32 page format continues to work well. There is progress on two large grant applications and they are now with assessing Directors.

SW had attended the successful BCC Hub opening.

#### 12. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM UPDATE

Work on improving the website continues.

The Board debated the pros and cons of using a business Facebook page.

The Board **AGREED** by vote to explore Facebook for Business further.

*Action: Next month's agenda – Facebook.*

LWK

#### 13. WILDSIDE UPDATE

The building should be presentable by Easter Weekend. The Board discussed timings and dates for Community access to enable residents to properly view the property.

*Action: MC to suggest dates post Easter weekend.*

MC

The Board discussed duplication of facilities given the number of venues likely to be available in the future, including Riverside Field, Gorthleck Hall and Wildside. The Board agreed that careful overall planning is required to avoid potential duplicity.

A number of storage heaters have kindly been offered to SFCT by Fort August Community Company. The Board agreed to investigate further and offered thanks to their colleagues in Fort Augustus. Decisions concerning permanent heating systems will be made once potential uses for the property are established.

## 14. LARGE GRANT PROGRESS

### **Boleskine Community Care – remaining four years on lease of two units - operating costs**

The Board noted that a reconciliation of the first operating grant is still required.

The Board discussed the role of the BCC Support and Development Officer and would like to revisit the job description.

*9.42 p.m. Sharon Ferguson left the meeting.*

It was suggested the assessing team and SW visit the Hub to meet with the applicants to clarify the detail and supporting information required for the new grant.

It was noted that BCC has significant reserves but were requesting 100% funding from SFCT.

## 15. AOCB

### **Local Primary Schools**

A discussion occurred about potential alternative locations for facilities between the Trust's various properties, including educational facilities at the Riverside Field. Further debate revolved around the need to be careful when considering what could be statutory requirements in which the Trust cannot be involved.

### **Housing – south Loch Ness**

The Chair has been invited to a meeting with the Highland Council, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust and Albyn Housing to discuss the provision of housing in the South Loch Ness area. Several possible development sites exist.

### **Stratherrick and Foyers Primary School Parent Councils**

Further to the recent grant approval the Parent Councils have requested a change of use for funding previously awarded for skiing trips, which have not been possible. The Parent Councils would therefore like to take the pupils to Sealife at Loch Lomond. The Chair advised the Board he had received appropriate quotes and costings in line with the original approval.

The Board **APPROVED** the change of use. The fund remains as per the original grant.

### **South Loch Ness Heritage Group**

The Board agreed the group should now return unspent funds.

### **100 Years of Forestry**

This is a two-day event planned at Gorthleck Hall at beginning of June, exact dates to be advised.

**UHI**

Ian Robertson from UHI presenting a lecture at Gorthleck Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Minutes 1 May 2019**

SW will take the minutes of the next meeting in LWK's absence.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting, 7.00 p.m., 1 May 2019, Stratherrick Public Hall.

*The Meeting closed at 10.55 p.m.*

Signed by Chair (PJF)

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Date

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