



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL, GORTHLECK AT 7.00pm ON WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2019

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

Chair Peter Faye

In Attendance Steven Watson (Project Co-ordinator) (SW)

Apologies Laura Walker-Knowles (Administrator) (LWK)

Declarations of interest None

Action by

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. All Directors were present and he thanked them for attending.

The Chair advised the Board he had recently attended the Stronelairg Grant Panel and that grant announcements were expected shortly. The Chair also attended the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council which had met the previous evening.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 3 APRIL 2019

Ken Sinclair **PROPOSED** and Gillian McIntyre **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Meeting held on 3 APRIL 2019 which were **AGREED** as a correct record without any amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

The Board was yet to make a decision about the allocation from the Stronelairg payments to the Legacy Fund. Frank Ellam gave notice that this would require to be discussed at the next meeting of the Board. The payment due from SSE by cheque was not yet received however it was said to have been written and signed. Amounts in bank accounts in excess of the guaranteed limit were being watched.

The Project Coordinator had not yet uploaded the updated Financial Strategy. FE would provide a clean copy of the finalised

document for SW to post on line. Other 'matters arising' would be dealt with in the balance of the agenda headings.

Action: Upload updated financial strategy.

SW

3. FINANCE / MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

FE, Finance Director advised the Board as follows: –

Payments made in the last week or so since the report was finalised were noted.

The payment SSE was still awaited. This would be in the following amount - Stronelaig around £190k, and Glendoe around £30k.

Frank ran through the management accounts to 31 March 2019.

Directors / Team Leaders were asked to estimate anticipated expenditure for the 2019 /2020 financial year and pass this information to Frank. The need for additional bank accounts will be determined by the decision on whether to invest 25% of Stronelaig income, costs for Wildside Classroom and site upgrade for new uses, and Foyers Bay / Riverside Field developments.

FE confirmed that signatories and anti-money laundering requirements of Santander had all been concluded.

Invoices paid during the last month were all available for inspection on the Directors' area of the website and at the meeting.

4. WILDSIDE CLASSROOM AND SITE

The Open Doors Day on 27th April was judged a success. There was a large turnout over the six hour period with over 100 visitors. Other residents had experienced the building earlier, as with the Village Hall closed for repairs some classes and groups had transferred to Wildside. MC will collate the responses from the day. Response sheets are still available on the Trust website. No closing date for Wildside Classroom consultation has yet been set. The three questions set are – the new name for the building, the preferred use of the building and ideas for the use of the site surrounding it.

It was clear that residents wanted a variety of things to happen at the Wildside Classroom but Directors felt that it must be stressed that local people would have to volunteer to run groups or activities as these could not just be 'laid-on' by the Trust. The Chair would prepare a letter to local young people asking for their specific input. This was to be entitled 'Old people don't know what young people want'.

The use of the Hall for Bushcraft and adventure training by a third party was mentioned and Directors made positive comments about this and other opportunities including those which would lead to income to support the running costs of the building.

Once the decanted groups (Yoga, Singing, Spinning) return to the upgraded hall with the new floor and new kitchen units and the chairs etc. are returned to the hall, consideration will be given to retaining a caretaker or janitor to hold the key, monitor the building and deal with the bins etc. A monthly fee is expected to be paid to a local person willing to do this job as a self-employed contractor. The position will be advertised once it is clear the scope of the work expected.

Action: Agenda item June – retention of caretaker at Wildside

LWK

5. RIVERSIDE FIELD

ZI, Lead Director, Riverside Field stated that, at the Hall Consultation Day in March, a resident had asked whether the proposed Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) could be located either at the Bay site or at the newly acquired Wildside Classroom, rather than the Riverside Field. The Board discussed the possibilities and agreed that neither of these alternative sites were practical for a MUGA. The space at Wildside was limited, especially with the car park requirement demonstrated at the recent Doors Open Day, and not practical at the Bay because the area adjacent to the Loch and Slipway would be needed for boats, and trailers and there was therefore insufficient space for those facilities, a MUGA and the changing rooms that would also be required. It was also pointed out that the lease for the property at Foyers Bay contains specific provisions relating to the permitted use and development of the property, for water based activities and ancillary buildings and facilities. The agreement of the Landlord to the lease was contingent on such uses.

It was agreed however that the recent purchase of Wildside Classroom meant that there was less of a need for a community building at Riverside, however a gym and/or changing rooms would still be appropriate with the MUGA. SW is currently summarising the Field responses to date and will produce a summary and report once all consultation and feedback forms are returned.

Reference to the statement that “old people don’t know what young people want” was again mentioned. The Board agreed that this was absolutely correct and that it would be good to seek the opinions of our young people before any final decisions are made on the draft Masterplan. It was therefore agreed that young adults and children would be canvassed and consulted. SF stated she

could contact the two primary schools and had contacts for the teenagers.

The question of whether to arrange a mower at the field to cut a single width path around the site to encourage the community to walk around the field was discussed. It was considered that due to the current condition of the field this would need to be more of an agricultural cutter first hand rather than a garden or sit on mower.

Action: Summarise field responses.

Action: Investigate options for cutting single width path round site.

SW

PJF/Dell

6. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM UPDATE

The following items require attention: -

Website – menu not currently available on mobile device since Wordpress new version. SW to prioritise.

Website improvements – still outstanding including ordering of the tabs, especially the new Foyers Bay Tab which is in the wrong place.

The Directors noted that the NEWS was in preparation – and the June edition had a deadline of 15 May 2019 for general articles with scope for some stop press items the week following.

Directors also requested more information on the Knockie Trust should be included.

Action: Knockie Trust info into NEWS.

Action: Website updates, various.

SW/Comms

SW

7. PROJECT COORDINATOR UPDATE

The update had been available on the website and was shown at the meeting. Salient points included the need to move on decisions regarding large grant applications.

8. LIAISON DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY COUNCIL

IB appraised the Directors of the usual monthly public Community Council meeting which had occurred the previous evening. Directors agreed that it was essential that good relations and communication were always maintained.

The Community Council had intimated some concerns about the procurement of goods and services by the Trust around the initial urgent work which resulted in the Wildside Classroom being fit to

accept classes normally held at the Hall. The Chair confirmed that all the work undertaken had been done so after due consideration of the procurement issues, after multiple requests or quotes had been received. The use of local contractors was now established as a method of making the community benefit funds augment the income for businesses local to Foyers and Stratherrick. KS highlighted the accuracy and veracity of some statements he had made as regards competition and rules around Public Sector procurement. Directors agreed that KS' information was correct and that those questioning his procurement knowledge should contact him direct. The Chair would let other parties know this.

Whilst the Trust was not a public body, the procurement process, especially for larger contracts did need to be transparent. Some larger tenders have been advertised on the Trust website and local contractors are encouraged to make themselves and their skills known to the Trust.

Action: Correspondence re procurement.

PJF

9. FOYERS BAY

OO stated the current position in line with his comprehensive written report. His short update will be put on the Trust website.

Action: OO update on to Website.

SW

10. ENERGY, RENEWABLES and TRANSPORT

Given that the Trust now had its own site at Wildside Classroom and an electricity supply, Directors considered that it was time to look again at community transport and particularly minibus and electric vehicle and charging point provision. SW would provide some details to commence the discussion. This would include registered bus routes and Section 22 operation, costs and contacts.

Action: Info re bus routes, s22 operation, costs and contacts.

SW / MC

11. BROADBAND

SF introduced her document which provided two questions requiring a decision by Directors. It was agreed that Directors read SF's paper in detail and respond to Sharon by email by Wednesday 8 May with comments.

Action: Broadband paper response.

*All Directors
URGENT*

12. FACEBOOK

After a detailed discussion of the pros and cons of the Trust initiating its own Facebook page the Directors voted against doing so. Information would still be posted on the Trust's own website and events would be advertised on the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Facebook, with jpegs being offered to Facebook moderators, administrators or users to post on the Trust's behalf.

13. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Board was pleased to note that fourteen new members had joined as follows.

Philip Rushton, Heather Stock, William Stock, Gunvor S Finlay, Chris Finlay, Angus MacNally, Heather MacDonald, Angela Barclay, Kirsty Balfour, Colin Barclay, Susanne Buddemann, Steve Glew, Annelise Glew.

Action: Register new members and send certificates.

LWK

14. AOCB

Summer Event

The Board agreed this should proceed. Lead Director GM advised progress on the band, toilets and food. The Board agreed that tickets should include admission, food and a welcome refreshment. Hog roast (a whole pig on a spit) and beef burgers were preferred, along with an alternative for those who do not eat meat. Ticketing proposal needed.

Action: Draft ticketing proposal.

SW

Request that a new Community Development plan be re scheduled

ZI proposed that a letter be drafted to SSE suggesting a delay to the new Community Development Plan. The four major projects (Hub, Field, Wildside Classroom and Bay) were all in the development stage. The Hall kitchen refurb was under way and the Community Council's Toilet project was also advancing. ZI suggested that spending £20,000 on a Community Development Plan would just result in consultants telling us what we know – that the Trust and other bodies are fully engaged in projects which should come to fruition before our community's next set of priorities become clear and the Trust has more funds to apply to them.

The Board **AGREED** that ZI should draft a letter to SSE in these terms seeking a postponement of the next Community Development Planning exercise.

Action: Draft letter to SSE.

ZI

Stronelaig – best project – awards

SSE had been awarded ‘Best project’ at a recent renewable energy trade event in Inverness.

Highland Councillors Visit – PJF would meet all four ward councillors on Friday 17th May 2019 and report any information to the Board.

Luvvies Evening – Confirmed for the Stratherrick Public Hall, Saturday 11 May 2019 at 7.30pm.

South Loch Ness Housing Meeting – PJF would attend this meeting scheduled for the 7 May 2019 and report any issues or opportunities to the Directors.

Hardship grant enquiry – This was to be passed to the Knockie Trust in line with the agreement.

Action: Hardship grant to Knockie Trust.

SW

Boleskine House for Sale

The Board were made aware that Boleskine House was up for sale (in 4 lots or as a whole at over £500k.) PJF would explore the opportunity further, however the asking price was considered well in excess of the value of the ruin, sites, land and buildings.

Action: Enquire further re Boleskine sale.

PJF

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 5 June 2019, 7.00 p.m., Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck unless otherwise advised of change of venue to Wildside Classroom.

The Meeting closed at 11.00 p.m.

Signed by Chair (PJF) _____

Date _____