



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS  
COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT STRATHERRICK PUBLIC HALL, GORTHLECK AT  
7.00pm ON WEDNESDAY, 3 JULY 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) Laura Walker-Knowles (Administrator) (LWK)

**Apologies**

**Declarations of interest** None

**Action by**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Community Action Collective**

The Chair had attended the first Aird and Loch Ness Community Action Collective. The Collective is divided into three areas, the North Loch Ness District Collective, Glen Urquhart and Aird District and Strathnairn, Dores and Essich, the latter being the Trust's area. This initial meeting of the Collective was a general discussion to establish the desire and feasibility of the proposal. The principal motive is to involve community bodies in policy and spending decisions in their area and to explore potential partnerships at a local level.

It is hoped that the next Board meeting will be held at Wildside.

**Community Council**

The Chair reported to the Board briefly on the recent Community Council meeting when the Chair had resigned to allow a hand over to a new incumbent. Both the old and new Chairs are very committed, community minded and hard working. The Board discussed how individual Trust Directors address issues raised at the Community Council meetings and agreed the response should be that queries will be passed to and addressed at forthcoming Trust board meetings.

## ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2019

Zoe Iliffe **PROPOSED** and Margaret Cormack **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Meeting held on 5 June 2019 which were **AGREED** as a correct record without any amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Housing Survey Information**

*Action: carried forward to next month.*

SF

##### **Summer Event**

*Action: E mail Hugh Nicol and check quantities of tables and chairs.*

SW

##### **Signatures and Footers**

*Action: Update footers to all emails and correspondence.*

Board

##### **Foyers Bay**

E mail has been sent.

##### **Membership Certificates and Letters**

The administrator issued on 3 July.

### 3. GROUP GRANT APPLICATION

#### **Well-being Group**

**Amount applied for:** £10,080

**Purpose of Grant:** yoga equipment, additional sessions of yoga and mindful movement, meditation day, mindfulness courses, refreshments, singing instructor.

The Board discussed the grant, noted the numbers attending the singing group after one year were extremely low therefore did not merit continued funding and **AGREED** the grant be reduced accordingly. An amount of £560 would be withheld pending demonstrable need for an additional yoga class on Sunday morning. If the class proved a success, then these funds would be issued. A further condition attached to the award would be an increased charge of £2.00 per attendee for the 'advanced' Sunday morning yoga, given the investment in additional expensive equipment and attendees *must* be members of the

Well-being Group. The grant would also have the condition of further advertising on noticeboards and in the Stratherrick and Foyers News and not just through social media. A nominal charge should be made to all non-members of the Well-being Group of £1 for all other classes.

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £8,245.

**Total grant awarded:** £8,245 (of which £560 withheld).

**Fund:** Corriegarth (Greencoat).

#### **4. FINANCE / MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

FE updated the finance report. The Board noted the third annual Stronelairg payment had been received and next year's payment is expected to have an additional £100,000. FE advised the Board the Legacy Fund was valued at £493,000 on 30 June 2019.

FE took the Board through the budgets for the year, explaining the budgets were deliberately at the high end. The Board noted the Riverside Field budget was particularly high, but this could be less depending on the type of planning permission applied for. The BCC Hub budget for next year was nominal. The Wildside budget received from the team included the cost of work required over the next twelve months and FE had included an additional sum for utilities for the year. The broadband project budget included the costs for Phases two and three. The Foyers Bay budget takes the project to near completion.

The projected expenditure for the year is £1 million and the expected income is £600,000 (plus £70,000 in hand from Highland Council/Scottish Canals). Reserves will therefore be drawn upon.

The Board noted it was essential to monitor the cashflow around April 2020 when, if budget matched actual, the cash balance would fall below fifteen months running costs plus normal grant awards. However, the fourth Stronelairg payment will be due in May 2020 and it would therefore be a temporary issue.

The Board noted the allocation of Stronelairg funding to the SSE Stronelairg Community Panel should now be complete.

#### **5. WILDSIDE PROPERTY REPORT**

The team took the Board through the collated consultation responses for ideas for use of the building and grounds, along with suggested names for the building. The Board discussed the many suggestions put forward at the open day, noting that play-

ground facilities were the highest scoring. The Board discussed the fact that facilities are already available at the playparks at Glenlia and Gorthleck. It is understood that the latter is not available to use.

In the immediate future no significant changes are required to the building itself to open as a meeting place. A decision is required on long-term heating for the winter months needs. The Board discussed and decided a professional opinion be sought on the most suitable source of sustainable heating and once decided there would be an invitation to tender.

The Board went through the points to note in the report, including the basic works to be completed. The Board were keen for a decision as to what the final purpose of the building would be in the long-term. Initially it was hoped to be used as meeting rooms until the final options are chosen. This decision would only be made after a further consultation with the community.

The Board discussed the next steps and suggested the advice of an architect; however, the Board were keen not to incur significant expenditure until a decision on the final use for the property was made. However, limited works should be undertaken imminently to tidy up the landscape to allow better access, parking and general space.

*Action: Seek opinion on most suitable form of sustainable energy heating installation.* GP

*Action: Collate top five ideas and return to the community for further consultation and advising on the groundworks that will take place in the meantime.* GP/MC

## 6. BROADBAND TEAM

The team took the Board through the proposed programme for the suggested work and the Board discussed in detail the redistribution of original approved costs and additional costs likely in additional Phases of work.

The Board noted the new proposed arrangement would supply a strength of signal into Wildside at the same level as Gorthleck Hall and match the number of potential and estimated customer connections.

The Board queried the future cost of updating and maintaining equipment and the team explained that this cost would continue to be covered by the monthly service costs paid by consumers to CFWN. The Trust are funding and will retain ownership of the infrastructure.

In summary the sum of £88,990 was previously approved and the cost for Phase 2, utilising a Corriegarth mast (inc. fibre costs) is £76,152, including the new Wildside - Thain Road cost of £31,350. This alternative proposal is a consequence of the Easter Aberchelder route not proceeding. The Board noted that further investment in Dunmaglass infra-structure would allow 'criss-crossing' of signals and increase resilience.

The Board were pleased to note the Corriegarth Phase is scheduled to be completed August/September 2019.

There is an additional cost for a secure cabinet/container to future proof the Gorthleck Hall Base Station with an estimated cost of £5,400. The Board agreed this was essential especially after the experiences of recent electrical storms.

The team confirmed the estimate of an additional one hundred houses having the availability for connection as being realistic, as there are further pockets of the area where the Dunmaglass Phase would facilitate coverage.

The Board were clear on the situation and **APPROVED** the additional sums to enable the project to move forward.

#### **7. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

The Directors noted the update report that had been circulated.

#### **8. FUNDERS TEAM**

The Directors noted the update report that had been circulated.

#### **9. PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR**

SW gave a brief update. The latest edition of the Stratherrick and Foyers News had been distributed and SW continues in his involvement in the current projects and communications.

#### **10. LIAISON DIRECTOR**

IB had nothing further to add to the Chair's report earlier.

#### **11. QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL GRANT NOTICE**

The Board noted the report and asked for a running total sum to be incorporated on the annual report.

*Action: Update annual grant spreadsheet and check figure with FE. LWK*

**12. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The Board noted an Ordinary Member application from Alex Barry and an Associate Member application from Baba Barry.

*Action: Send out membership certificates.*

*LWK*

**13. AOCB**

None.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 7 August 2019, 7.00 p.m., venue TBA.

*The Meeting closed at 11 p.m.*

Signed by Chair (PJF) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_