



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust held in Stratherrick Public Hall, Gorthleck, on Wednesday 30 October 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

Present	Peter Faye, Zoe Iliffe, Frank Ellam, Garry Page, Olaf Olsen, Margaret Cormack and Gillian McIntyre
Chair	Peter Faye
In Attendance	Laura Walker-Knowles (Trust Administrator) and Steven Watson (Trust Project Co-ordinator)
Apologies	Sandra Sutherland, Alan Sutherland, Gillian Haston, Morag Pickethall, Ewan McTeague, Sharon Ferguson and Karina McTeague
Members	65
Non-members	5

1. WELCOME

The Chair informed the meeting that as 65 members were present, the meeting was quorate and **declared** the meeting formally **open**.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair referred to the letter and notice of meeting which had been circulated to members as required. The letter was taken as read.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair advised the attending members and non-members that an election was required this evening to choose five new Board members. There were seven candidates for five vacancies. The Chair thanked all those who have shown interest in the community.

The Chair thanked the current Board and staff for their help during the year. The Chair was pleased with the number in attendance at the AGM.

The Chair presented his Annual Report giving an overview of the actions of the Trust over the year and advised that this could be viewed in full on the Trust's website, or paper copies can be made available.

The Chair highlighted the number of grant applications over the last twelve months, noting the number was similar to last year. The total awarded at the time over the last year was £442,339 for grants and community projects and will continue to rise. There have been a variety of applications including the Wellbeing Group, FIRA and many

students. Several new groups have been set up including a support group and a mother and toddler group. There has also been a proposal for a youth group to support social activities among the younger generation. Boleskine Community Care remains the recipient of a high value grant from the Trust. Directors continue to work on long term legacy projects, including Wildside, the Riverside field and Foyers Bay and the Directors have been careful to invite the community to discuss proposals in relation to the projects. More specifically the result of the Riverside Field consultation has been communicated to the architect and the results will be part of a further consultation following the same process as with Foyers Bay. The Chair highlighted that the project at Foyers Bay will be a wonderful facility for all to enjoy and the Chair invited members who were interested to get involved. The Broadband project has entered a new phase, and completion and expansion of the network and infrastructure is now advanced. The building, currently known as Wildside, has proved popular given the increased use of the Hall. The Wildside purchase has been questioned by some and the Chair advised the naysayers that the acquisition is, has and will be used by the Wellbeing Group, the broth and blether, the Trust as an office, a craft group, youth group and by FIRA. Other ideas for use are being put forward and will hopefully come to fruition. In relation to the name for the building, the Chair advised that 184 responses had been received from an online poll, which represented a fair view from the Community. People were asked to choose from 4 options, 3 were names suggested at the Open Day in April and the 4th was to retain the name Wildside, and the winner by a huge majority was to retain the name Wildside.

The Chair was pleased to announce Sian Glanrid-Jones as the new editor of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust News.

The Chair highlighted that the Trust deals with high profile and visible projects and thanked Director, Zoe Iliffe, for implementing the GDPR Policy for the Trust and ensuring that the Trust continues to meet its objectives, complies with legal obligations and agreements with funders.

The Trust is now expanding its employment structure to relieve pressure on volunteers and to take the Trust and plans for the Community forward. The basic outline of that structure would be a Trust Manager to assume responsibility for the day to day running of the organisation, a Project Co-ordinator, a Community Liaison Officer and Administrator.

The Chair thanked the continuing Directors, the retiring Directors, the Administrator, Project Co-ordinator and to Members who had attended the AGM.

The Chair thanked the Community Council, Catriona Fraser and Paula Page for their staunch support and tireless work for the community.

The Chair thanked the two Directors standing down, Garry Page and Sharon Ferguson, in particular for Sharon's six years on the Board.

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE DIRECTORS' REPORT

Frank Ellam, Finance Director presented the Finance Director's Financial Year End Report and Annual Accounts for year ending 30 June 2019. Frank explained the statutory requirements for accounts for a company limited by guarantee. The Trust qualifies as a micro-entity allowing the accounts to run to only 8 pages. Given the brevity of the 8-page accounts Frank ran through the detail of the Management Accounts to 30 June 2019, with comparisons and explanations against the previous year's figures.

The Board of Directors approved and signed the accounts for the year ending 2019 on 2 October and they were duly signed by the Trust accountants, A9 Accountancy, Inverness on the same date.

The Report and Accounts of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust for the year ended 30 June 2019 were considered and noted by the Members.

Frank asked if there were any questions.

An attendee asked Frank why the Trust did not depreciate the value of the Hall. Frank and Zoe explained that the Trust did not own the Hall, but that ownership of the Hall was granted to Trustees in 1934 and their successors in office. Recent investigations had recently been undertaken to try to establish who the current trustees are. It appears that the four existing Ward Councillors of the Aird and Loch Ness Ward of the Highland Council, as individuals, may be the legal owners. However, this has been slightly complicated by events on 10 March 1975, for which further research is needed. This event appears to show new Trustees being appointed and this may have been sufficient to transfer the ownership. Further investigation is needed but the Trustees are either the four Ward Members or, two Ward Members of the Highland Council, the Minister of the Combined Parish of Dores and Boleskine and the Headteacher of Stratherrick Primary School. Investigations are continuing.

A further question was raised in relation to the Legacy Fund and how the 25% contribution is set. Frank advised that when Trust runs out of projects and ideas this amount could possibly be increased, the 25% was set four years ago as a reasonable amount on budgeted income, which would allowed the Trust to continue to pay administration costs and the level of grants received at that time. Now the Trust are spending more, but the income has also increased and the 25% remains. The amount is reviewed annually.

4. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Chair explained again that, in accordance with the Articles of Association, three Directors had to step down each year from the Board and two had stood down earlier in the year. There were therefore five vacancies on the Board. Seven Nomination Forms had been received and therefore there was a requirement for an election. Nominations had been received from Russell Bain, Kirsty Balfour, Jillian Barclay, Christopher Finlay, Patrick Haston, Dave Mortimore and Karla Stewart. The Chair read out the Candidate's Statements and explained to the Members that they could vote for five of the seven Nominated Candidates. Should there be a tie the Chair explained the final decision would be from a sealed pack of cards and the highest card would be the winning Candidate.

The voting process was undertaken and independently verified by Charles Stephen, Ward Manager, The Highland Council.

The Chair announced the nominees with the highest votes as Russell Bain, Kirsty Balfour, Jillian Barclay, Christopher Finlay and Karla Stewart.

The Chair therefore **declared** that they be elected to the board of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust.

Director, Margaret Cormack thanked Peter Faye on behalf of the Board and Members for his term as Director and Chair of the Trust.

The Community Council thanked the Board and wished them luck and hoped good relations would continue.

The Chair advised that that concluded the formal elements of the AGM and opened the meeting to questions from the floor.

OPEN QUESTIONS

A Member asked about the impact on the Trust finances of the new employees. Peter Faye explained that further to a calculation, using SSE's Hay Model, the cost would be in the region of £80,000 per annum and this fits within the Trust's financial remit. In response to this a Member commented that any employee would also generate match funding and therefore increase the Trust income.

A Member highlighted global climate concerns and recalled that one of the first projects the Trust set up were Energy Grants, which helped with energy saving measures, such as insulation. There was also a very popular whitegoods scheme. Now that it has been mooted that Inverness will be a diesel free zone do the Trust have any new schemes and have they considered EV charging points. Peter Faye advised that in relation to EV charging, sustainable transport was on the Trust's agenda. The Member further queried that the Trust received money for the renewable wind and water projects in the area but what about the wood. The Forestry Commission bought up land over forty years ago with the FC and private landowners reaping the profits, what about the timber extraction,

should the Community not be recompensed for that. The Member also raised the proposal for a scheme generating firewood for the local community.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The Chair **declared** the meeting **closed** at 9.15 p.m.

Signed by Chair

Date
