



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE AT 6.00pm ON WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2019**

<b>Present</b>	Zoe Iliffe (ZI), Frank Ellam (FE), Russell Bain (RB), Chris Finlay (CF), Jillian Barclay (JB), Karla Stewart (KS), Kirsty Balfour (KB), Margaret Cormack (MC), Gillian McIntyre (GM)
<b>Apologies</b>	Olaf Olsen (OO)
<b>Chair</b>	Margaret Cormack (MC)
<b>In Attendance</b>	Laura Walker-Knowles (Administrator) (LWK)
<b>Declarations of interest</b>	Zoe Iliffe, Chris Finlay and Russell Bain declared an interest in Strathgorfoylbridge OSA 2019 grant application

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Board noted Gillian McIntyre had stepped down as Vice Chair.

**2. MINUTES**

**AGM Minutes 30 October 2019**

Frank Ellam **PROPOSED** and Russell Bain **SECONDED** and the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2019 were **AGREED** as a correct record without any further amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

**Post AGM Minutes 30 October 2019**

Frank Ellam **PROPOSED** and Zoe Iliffe **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Post AGM Meeting held on 29 October 2019 were **AGREED** as a correct record without any further amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 November 2019**

Frank Ellam **PROPOSED** and Chris Finlay **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Meeting held on 6 November 2019 were **AGREED** as a correct record without any further amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

**Matters Arising**

GM and MC are scheduled to visit the new Community Hub to see the new building and view furniture, next Wednesday, 11 December.

**CLO E Mail Account**

The Community Liaison Officer e mail account has been created.

**Action by**

### **New Vacancy - Website and News**

The website has been updated to include the vacant post of part time Project Co-ordinator. The December News will include information on the Trust's new employment structure.

### **Architect Retainer Fee**

Correspondence has been sent to CAA accepting the retainer fee, but no response has yet been received.

*Action: Chase up CAA re retainer payment and start date for the services.* ZI

### **Volunteer List**

Directors are happy with the project teams assigned last month. KS will not be part of the Foyers Bay team because of a possible conflict of interest.

### **Leaflet**

A generic leaflet with information about the Trust will be included as a pull out in the next edition of the News.

### **Heating**

The Chair met with a McInnes engineer at Wildside yesterday and they will provide a quote for an efficient and economic heating system.

The Board had a brief discussion about environmentally friendly options for heating Wildside.

### **EOI Dates - Contracts**

The dates have been extended on the website.

*Action: Remove invitations to tender at closing date, 8 December 2019.* LWK

## **3. FINANCE**

FE had no amendments to the circulated report other than to update the end of month figures. The Dunmaglass payment has yet to be received from SSE. FE had received several questions from SSE on the submitted half yearly reports which he has answered. Morven Smith advised that the payment was authorised, but it has yet to be received by the Trust.

## **4. CHRISTMAS CEILIDH**

The tickets have all been allocated and a waiting list started.

## 5. GRANT APPLICATIONS

### Student Grant Applications

**Applicants:** Millie Ferguson, Jane Brown, Ruari Tweedlie, Samuel Mortimore, Roma Yeats and Heather MacDonald

**Amount applied for:** £500

**Purpose of grant:** Costs associated with study

The Board **APPROVED** the six student grant applications in the sum of £500 each.

**Fund:** TBA

**Applicant:** Robyn Jane Kerr

**Amount applied for:** £500

**Purpose of grant:** Costs associated with study.

This grant was **DEFERRED** until confirmation of residence in the area received.

*Action: Check current permanent residential address.*

*LWK*

### Group Grant Application

**Grant Applicant:** Stratherrick Lunch Club

**Total Project Cost:** £2,200

**Amount applied for:** £2,200

**Purpose of grant:** 50% of the cost of meal for eleven months; the summer outing and a small Christmas gift, plus sundries.

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £2,200 with £1,000 payable now and £1,200 for the summer outing held until quotes received.

**Fund:** Corriegarth

### Group Grant Application

**Grant Applicant:** Stratherrick Primary School Parent Council

**Total Project Cost:** £3,489.13 (£3,489.13 plus £1,552.37 underspend to be refunded to the Trust)

**Amount applied for:** £5,041.50

**Purpose of grant:** Organisation of extra-curricular events of swimming lessons, attendance at a pantomime, and ski-ing lessons for 18 pupils and an activity week for two chosen pupils, all with parent and teacher attendance. Although the pupils are

from Stratherrick, Foyers and Aldourie, the Aldourie costs are not included in the application.

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £5,041.50.

**Fund: Corriegarth**

*ZI, RB and CF left the meeting for the next item.*

### **Non-Constituted Group Grant Application**

**Grant Applicant:** Strathgorfoybridge Outdoor Sporting Association 2019

**Total Project Cost: £1,524**

**Amount applied for: £1,000**

**Purpose of grant:** A Sporting Association to promote healthy, outdoor, sporting activity in the adult population of the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council Area. The objective is to encourage adults to participate in a broad range of outdoor activities, initially winter sports, with the intention of expanding involvement in a broader offering, to include such undertakings as Hill walking, on and off-road cycling and water-based activities such as kayaking and sailing.

The Board discussed that this was an opportunity for the community and were keen to see if it generated activity. The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £1,000 subject to additional conditions: -

- Emphasis on beginners, bringing the activity chosen for this first grant to a new audience. Recommendation that at least two ski pass discounts be made available to beginners in addition to their two days of lessons.
- Evidence of (1) progress in the recruitment of beginners (2) development of other outdoor activities e.g. organised hill walks and (3) evidence of assistance with transport e.g. car sharing.
- The group advertise through Facebook and other means and evidence group meetings throughout the season including evidence of positively encouraging community participation.
- The group open a bank account and manage all funds themselves.

**Fund: Corriegarth**

## **7. (a) RIVERSIDE FIELD QUARTERLY UPDATE**

The Board noted the updated Riverside Masterplan. The Board discussed the possible increased traffic in the area and the potential effect on the bridge. ZI explained the pre-planning advice received prior to purchase and that Highland Council

advice then had been that recreational use should not result in overuse of the bridge or the need for a replacement.

The Board discussed the climbing wall and the health and safety issues likely surrounding that, the height of any suggested fencing, the type of aggregate on the path and night lighting. ZI advised these details would be considered in more detail as part of the planning and building regulation process.

The Board noted the cover over the multi-use games area and discussed colouring so as not to be intrusive. The Board noted that the plan will be put into action as soon as all consents are obtained.

The Board **AGREED** that the revised Masterplan was ready to go back to the community.

The Board then discussed the adjacent areas of land owned by Highland Council and the Forbes Estate.

ZI explained that, following an initial approach to The HC to enquire if The HC would be prepared to sell the land to the Trust, she had been requested to submit a formal request through the Council's Community Asset Transfer Scheme but that this places no obligation on the Trust to purchase. The Board **AGREED** to submit a formal Community Asset Transfer request to the Highland Council for the purchase of the Highland Council land with playpark.

The Board noted that the land outside the Trust's ownership had not been included in the Masterplan and would need to be fenced to ensure there was no encroachment. Alternatively, it was **AGREED** to contact the Forbes Estate in relation to possible purchase of the small corner of the field still in their ownership.

#### **(b) APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE**

The Board noted the circulated report. MC updated that they are trying to organise a meeting with the panel in Fort Augustus.

### **9. ENERGY – E Mail from SSE re Energy Efficiency Grants**

FE had circulated an extract of an e mail received from SSE.

FE explained the background in relation to SSE's desire to phase out the energy efficiency grants. SSE are now requesting an update on how the phasing out is progressing and on what date they will end. SSE would like to see them ended in Spring 2020. FE suggest the Trust set a closing date.

The Board agreed to email members and advertise the end of the scheme in the new year to allow any applicants to come forward in good time before the April end date.

*Action: Look at ways of enabling all individuals in the community to benefit from energy saving measures.*

Energy  
Team

*Action: E mail membership, put public notices on community noticeboards and the website in the new year re the end of the energy grant scheme.*

LWK

## **8. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

A steering group has been set up with members from various parts of the community and hope to meet at the end of January/beginning of February 2020.

## **9. PLAYPARK**

The Board discussed creating a playpark at Wildside. A Trust Board subgroup had spoken with a representative from Garve Community Trust who had worked extensively on the creation of the playpark at Garve. The group hope to meet up with representative and find out what is required to create something similar.

The Board discussed asking locals what they would like and were keen that the playpark was suitable for all sizes and abilities of children.

The Board discussed a coffee shop and potential employment but noted that it would conflict with local businesses. The Board discussed the possibility of a small kiosk or vending machine. The Board agreed that facilities are already available, i.e. the kitchen allows flexibility for multiple groups using Wildside at the same time, e.g. yoga group and a youth group.

The subgroup noted that any investigations and work in relation to community transport and playpark would benefit from including Charles Stephen, Highland Council.

## **10. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The Board noted recent ordinary membership applications from Ashley Craddock, Lesley Ann Craddock, Peter MacKinnon, Christine MacKinnon, Ewelina Gehrke, Philip O'Neil, Julie O'Neill and one associate membership application from Kathy Preston-Hill.

## **11. OFFICE 365**

The Board discussed the options available and the differences between MS Office365 and Google Docs. It was decided to investigate the option of buying a set of director laptops that would be loaded with the necessary software.

RB

## 12. AOCB

### **The News**

The printers are putting everything together for the print of the December edition. A set of guidelines for producing the news is being put together. The distribution list will also be updated.

The Board noted that Sian Glanrid-Jones had stood down from the editorial role.

### **Hall Committee**

The Hall Committee has agreed to the proposal to transfer ownership of the Hall to the Trust however the Committee wishes to put this to the community for approval first. It was noted that the Hall Committee would be unlikely to have sufficient funds to pay the necessary legal fees. As the Committee's response had just been received, it was agreed that this be discussed at the January Board meeting

*Action: Report for next board meeting.*

*Forward email detailing researches into Hall ownership to new board members*

MC  
ZI

### **E Mail Addresses**

MC and LWK had been discussing generic and personal work e mail addresses. Suggestion for an info@ e mail address for all to access. The info address could be linked to multiple accounts.

### **Etape Loch Ness**

The Board noted a request from Caledonian Concepts asking if the feed station for the Etape Loch Ness could be set up at Wildside rather than the Whitebridge Hotel. The Board were agreeable. A meeting will be arranged with Caledonian Concepts to discuss the position.

## 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.00 p.m. Wednesday, 8 January 2020 at Wildside, Whitebridge

*The Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.*

Signed by Chair (MC) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

