

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS  
COMMUNITY TRUST HELD VIA ZOOM AT 7.00 pm ON WEDNESDAY  
7 DECEMBER 2022**

<b>Present</b>	Gareth Jones (GJ), Catriona Fraser (CF), Chris Gehrke (CG), Maire Brown (MB), Kirsty Balfour (KB), Maureen McGuire (MG), Ken Sinclair (KS), Susan Greer (SG), Malcolm Stewart (MMS)
<b>Apologies</b>	Mark Sutherland (MS)
<b>Non-attendance</b>	-
<b>Chair</b>	Gareth Jones (GJ)
<b>In Attendance</b>	Tony Foster (TF), Marie Keenan (MK), Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)
<b>Minutes</b>	Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)

**Declarations of interest:** Maureen McGuire declared an interest in student grant.

**(A) INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed and introduced the new Directors, Susan Greer and Malcolm Stewart. The Board and staff introduced themselves to the new Directors.

**(B) MINUTES 2 NOVEMBER 2022**

KB **PROPOSED** and MM **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Meeting held on 2 November 2022 were **AGREED** as a correct record without any further amendment and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

**Trust Action List/Matters Arising**

**Finance**

Accessing the bank – **c/f action**.

**Governance**

The Board discussed asking A9 Accountants to present to the new Board charitable status options – **c/f action**.

**Grants**

The Board discussed reviewing student grants and making available additional support.

The Board discussed the format of grant delivery via parent councils with associated match funding, as discussed at the last Board Meeting and KB is looking at options.

*Action: Agenda item – grants and support January 2023 meeting – KB.*

### **Riverside Field**

Place plan dates are in the diary.

### **Steering Group Policy**

A policy is now in place that requires the Trust to ensure regular steering committee meetings are held in support of large projects. The dates of the meetings will be published well in advance and on the website and in the newsletter.

### **Matrix**

Following the completion of the Community Action Plan and the key objectives, the Trust is developing a prioritisation tool that is in the process of being refined. The next step is for the Trust staff to test its effectiveness.

### **Post**

TF has spoken to LWK in relation to a PO Box and it has been agreed to trial sending SAEs to Wildside for mail to be sent to LWK in the first instance.

*Action: Send SAEs to Wildside - LWK*

## **(C) FINANCE REPORT**

The Board noted the circulated finance report.

MK updated on the activity during November along with the first tranche of cost-of-living grants.

The Board noted the delays in receipt and forwarding paperwork in relation to signatories and updating lists.

The Board discussed how the purchase of goods could be improved and reduce the requirement for directors and staff to use their own bank accounts. It was agreed in principle to use a company credit card and to explore the most effective method of managing its use.

*Action: Review number of transactions being processed; can they be minimised – TF/MK.*

*Action: Pros and cons of company credit cards – MK*

*Action: Pros and cons of prepaid cards for community groups – CF/MK*

Foyers Toilet invoices have been received and Sharon Ferguson, Trust Fundraiser has met with MK to go through the expenses alongside the budget. GJ explained the Trust's involvement in the Foyers Toilets and the responsibility it carries for the benefit of the new Directors.

## **Errogie Budget**

The Board noted the circulated paper in terms of the work required for Phase 1. The forecast expenditure is higher than the initial budget set out at the start of the year. TF requested transfer of £90,000 from the Foyers Bay and Riverside budgets to the Errogie project. Foyers Bay and Riverside are likely to be in planning for some time. The Board noted Errogie can move forward in January with this additional budget in place. There would be sufficient funds retained for the necessary small works on the Foyers Bay (the Board noted this would not be the restricted grant received) and Riverside projects.

The Board discussed Foyers Bay and the opportunity to carry out improvements to the area without significant expenditure.

*Action: Agenda item - Foyers Bay spring usage plan Feb '23 Board Meeting - MMS*

*8.05 p.m. SG left the meeting.*

CF recently attended the Inverfarigaig Placing Meeting and noted the comments made about legacy projects. GJ explained the project to date for the benefit of the new Directors. The Board noted that generally, there is criticism in the community in relation to legacy projects and spend particularly in the context of the current cost-of-living crisis. It was acknowledged that this criticism would exist even without the current difficulties.

The Board discussed criticism and highlighted the timing of projects and if its focus had not been Errogie, it would be another project such as Wildside several years ago, and this would have also attracted criticism. In relation to the meaning of heritage it was agreed this was no longer about physical buildings but the wider projects and benefits that flow from the infrastructure that is put in place. Comments were made about the increase in budgets, partly because of the inflation in building costs, and asked that tight control is maintained on project spend.

The Board **AGREED** to the funding arrangement proposed.

## **Community Council**

The Board noted that planning permission for Riverside Field was imminent. the Trust was expecting to receive planning permission for Riverside Field shortly.

## **(D) GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **Cost of Living Grants**

**Applicant:** Isabella Kilgannon

**Purpose of grant:** Subsidised Fish Friday for Community.

**Amount applied/eligible for:** £1,000

The Board **RATIFIED** the grant approved via e mail in the sum of **£1,000.00**

### **Student Grants**

**Applicants:** Maureen McGuire, Grant MacGruer, Isabel Slater, Michelle Rhodes, Robbie Stewart, Verity Cameron.

**Amount applied/eligible for:** £500.00

The Board **APPROVED** the grants each in the sum of **£500.00**

**Applicant:** Jennie Devlin

Amount applied/eligible for: £100.00

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£100.00**

**Applicant:** Meg Somerville

Amount applied/eligible for: £250.00

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£250.00**

### **Non-Constituted Grants**

**Applicant:** Anna Peterkin, Highland Dancing

**Amount applied/eligible for:** **£1,000**

The Board were keen to see the Highland Dancing starting up with wide promotion and the potential for the group to return to the Trust as a constituted group if successful. The Board would be good to see them demonstrate at the Highland Gathering in summer.

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £1,000.00

The Board discussed the gun club grant awarded earlier in the year and CF will speak to Lesley in relation to promotion on the Facebook page.

*Action: Speak to Gun Club re promotion - CF*

*KB left the meeting for the next item.*

**Applicant:** Jenny Tompkins, Baby and Toddler Group

**Amount applied/eligible for:** **£700.00**

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £700.00 with the additional condition to keep a record of costs for future applications.

## **(E) PROJECTS/TRUST MANAGER REPORT**

The Winter Wonderland is taking place this weekend with several Board members and staff attending. The Board were pleased to note £250 had been awarded from the Stronelairg fund for the Christmas presents.

The Board noted the fireworks event received 7.5/10 on the survey. A suggestion that the lighting should be improved was noted. The Board discussed next year's event. A request was received to discontinue the fireworks event and instead donate to charity. This will be discussed with the organisers of the event.

The Trust manager reported on the meetings held to develop detailed plans for each of the settlements in Stratherrick and Foyers. They had been well attended and the consultant, Nick Wright was preparing a detailed report. Reference was made to the meeting for local businesses. Although the attendance had been small, there were good suggestions. It was recommended that meetings for business people should be held either at breakfast time or in the evening to enable more people to attend.

The Board noted the Visit Inverness Loch Ness banners have been rejected by the Community Council.

In relation to the Paths Group attendance, the contract for work on the pathway network has a conflict of interest.

*Action: Query payment in advance – TF*

The Housing Survey is scheduled for a wider discussion in January 2023.

In relation to the hubs a revised lease for the area around Boleskine Community Care including potentially more car parking is being investigated

### **Cost of Living**

The Board noted the circulated paper with 22 applications for hardship grants.

An application to fund the local larders has been successful in the sum of £5,000, awarded by Hubbub from the Co-op.

There are warm jackets being donated and available from Wildside to any residents in the community with a suggested donation of £1.00.

The Board expressed its thanks for the effort being put by the staff into planning the Winter Wonderland project.

### **Loch Kemp**

The Board discussed the pump storage scheme and asked the fund-raising team to investigate the possibility of a community benefit contribution.

The local authority energy efficiency grants are not rolling out well and the Trust have advertised with a code to help promotion.

The Board expressed it thanks for the work that is being done by the new Facilities Manager.

**(J) GRANTS NOTICE/TIMELINE UPDATE**

Amendments to Timeline 2023: -

- Remove Broadband.
- Update project reports from quarterly to monthly.

The Board noted the Grant Notice.

*Action: Investigate automatic request to Directors for updates – LWK/TF*

**(O) AOCB**

The Board **AGREED** that at the October meeting when the chair was attending virtually, Tony Foster took the Board through the agenda items and did not Chair. GJ and CF chaired. The Board **AGREED** this definition/amendment, recorded here, to the Minute dated 5 October 2022.

In relation to Broadband there has been little publicity by the service supplier about the opportunities created by the new mast at Daviot. The Board discussed sending a mailshot to the 20/30 houses drawing their attention to the provision of broadband from CFWN now that work is complete.

*Action: CFWN visibility improvement – TF*

**Stratherrick Public Hall**

The Board formally approved the second half of the application for grant to cover the cost of repairing damage caused by water leaking into the building.

*Action: MK has paperwork - GJ*

**(P) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.00 p.m. Wednesday, 11 January 2023 at Wildside Centre/MS Teams  
*The Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.*

Signed by Chair (TF) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_