

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE AND MS TEAMS AT 7.00 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023**

Present	Kirsty Balfour (KB), Catriona Fraser (CF), Ken Sinclair (KS), Gareth Jones (GJ), Malcolm Stewart (MMS), Maire Brown (MB)
Apologies	Maureen McGuire (MM), Susan Greer (SG), Chris Gehrke (CG), Mark Sutherland (MS)
Chair	Gareth Jones (GJ)
In Attendance	Tony Foster (TF), Marie Keenan (MK)
Non-attendance	-
Minutes	Laura Walker-Knowles (LWK)
Declarations of interest:	None.

**A. INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**B. MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – 11 JANUARY 2023 and 1 FEBRUARY 2023**

KB **PROPOSED** and CF **SECONDED** and the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023 were **AGREED** as a correct record **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

The Board requested additional time for Directors to review the Minutes of 1 February 2023.

*Action: Review February minutes and confirm approval to LWK by Friday 4 March 2023 – Directors.*

**Actions Arising**

Financial Process

MK has circulated a document for review and TF and GJ will progress through the business meeting.

Bank Account Access

The Board **APPROVED** MS as a banking signatory.

Gun Club

Advertising will be appearing in the magazine.

Visibility – Cromarty Firth Wireless Networks

Advert and text produced will appear in the Trust magazine.

Transport – BCC

TF met with Kit and discussed the Community Action Plan (CAP) and transport. The Trust will promote the transport initiative and advertise for drivers.

Procurement

The Trust are going to put in place a facility to contact local contractors automatically when a new tender is listed.

*Action: Add MS as signatory - MK*

**C. FUNDING OPTIONS – HOUSES/SHOP**

The Board noted the housing group are in support of a house purchase, but there is no budget this financial year, however, other funding options include mortgage and drawdown on funds/legacy funds, but the Trust would expect to see firm plans of how properties would be managed. In addition, various queries need to be addressed by the Housing Group; do they want to build or buy, what funding will be applied for and over what period? TF will continue to support the group and has provided information about demand for homes in Inverfarigaig and support from the Communities Housing Trust (CHT) with new builds. Existing homes must be empty for some time to attract funding. There was mention of property in Whitebridge with 8 units which we could become a House in Multiple Occupation and receive management support from CHT. Boleskine Community Care are looking at the shop and TF will follow up progress. The Board were supportive of using legacy funds for housing projects.

*Action: Follow up shop progress with BCC - TF*

**D. FINANCE**

The Board noted the Finance Report. MK updated on the lead in times to the various Trust bank accounts and accessibility. The Board discussed a process going forward to ensure cash is accessible and Project Managers are requested to draft cashflow expenditure forecasts for each project by 15 March 2023.

*Action: Cashflow (expenditure) forecast for projects and events by 15 March 2023 – All*

**E. TRUST MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Board noted the Trust Manager's Report.

The Board were pleased to note the amount of income the fundraisers had successfully secured.

The Board discussed managing expectation in the community and to prioritise carefully.

**F. GRANTS****Cost of Living – Business****Applicant: Gill Gray/Alannah Graydon****Amount applied for: £1,000****Reason:** To reduce cost of attendance at Yoga.

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of £1,000 subject to the following additional conditions:

- ✚ the applicant to offer classes at Wildside for accessibility.
- ✚ work with the Trust in highlighting the health benefits of yoga across different parts of the life cycle, particularly more senior members of the community with reduced mobility.
- ✚ provide details of numbers attending and demonstrate how the money was allocated in relation to number of classes and persons attending.

**Student Grants****Applicant: Gill Gray****Amount applied/eligible for: £250**

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£250**.

**Applicant: Martin Fallon**

Amount applied/eligible for: £250

The Board **APPROVED** the grant in the sum of **£250**.

**Constituted Group Grants****Applicant: Stratherrick Public Hall**

The Board noted the initial application was twofold and £7,500 for running costs previously approved with the second part being approved in principle but subject to actual costs being provided. The Board noted receipt of the final costing and **APPROVED** the release of the remaining grant in the sum of £8,300.

The Board discussed including the current total grant expenditure in the assessment forms.

*Action: Discuss with MK grant spend figures - LWK*

**G. MOBILE PHONES**

The Board asked the CEO to consider suitable workspaces for staff at the Wildside Centre. the purchase of mobile phones for staff and asked to investigate HMRC advise on claiming for home working.

<p>The Board discussed the purchase of phones for certain staff and <b>APPROVED</b> the purchase of suitable smart phones as an option.</p> <p><i>Action: Investigate suitable smart phones for staff – TF/SF</i></p>
<p><b>H. NEW MEMBERS</b></p>
<p>The Board noted two new Ordinary Members of the Trust.</p>
<p><b>I. RIVERSIDE</b></p>
<p>The Board noted the meeting went ahead as scheduled and the minutes would be circulated once agreed.</p>
<p><b>J. SELF SUSTAINING COMMUNITY BY 2030</b></p>
<p>The Board noted GJ's circulated paper. The Board discussed the required reach of the Trust in the area. The Board noted the ideas for a support structure in the community. The Board agreed there was a lot to work with and currently it was an overview with a need to get people involved.</p>
<p><b>K. AOCB</b></p>
<p>The Playpark costings are not yet finalised, an estimated amount will be included in next financial year's budget.</p> <p>The Stronelairg funding has now finished, and the Board noted the suggestion to include an element of funding for small non-constituted grant awards within the Community Council's running costs.</p> <p>The Board <b>AGREED</b> the Trust would support the bring and buy sale at The Whitebridge Hotel under the Trust licence preferably with staff support.</p> <p><i>Action: Approach fundraisers - TF</i></p>
<p><b>L. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Next meeting, 5 April 2023, 7 p.m. Hybrid – Wildside/MS Teams.</p>

*The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.*

<p>Signed as a correct record of the meeting</p>	
<p>Signed .....</p> <p>Chair (Catriona Fraser)</p>	<p>Date .....</p>