

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS
COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT WILDSIDE, WHITEBRIDGE AND VIA MS TEAMS
AT 7.00 pm ON WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023**

Present Gareth Jones (GJ), Kirsty Balfour (KB), Catriona Fraser (CF), Ken Sinclair (KS), Maureen McGuire (MM), Maire Brown (MB).

Apologies Chris Gehrke (CG), Malcolm Stewart (MMS)

Non-attendance Mark Sutherland (MS), Susan Greer (SG)

Chair Gareth Jones (GJ)

In Attendance Tony Foster (TF), Fiona Mustarde (FM), Kirsteen Campbell (KC), Robert Butcher (RB), Bailey Hood (BH)

Minutes Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

Declarations of interest: Kirsty Balfour – Member of Stratherrick Primary & Nursery Parent Council.

(A) INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Robert Butcher and Bailey Hood from Clarendon Financial Planning. BH gave a macroeconomic overview and summarised the effects of global events over the past year. It was noted that this wouldn't have a significant impact on the Trust's investments.

RB summarised market trends and investment strategies and updated the Board in relation to the Trust's investment portfolio. Equities noted as the main driver of growth over the longer term.

GJ summarised the strategy adopted over the previous three years as firstly, to stabilise and professionalise the Trust, and secondly, to realise strategy in terms of infrastructure. Investment of around £6,000,000 would be necessary to realise all the Trust's plans. The Board are considering a drawn down from the Community Benefit Funds the Trust receives which is to be discussed with SSE in January. The implications of this on the Legacy Fund were noted.

In line with one of the priorities of the Community Action Plan, the Board raised the option of buying properties that come onto the market to create an asset as a use of the Legacy Fund.

The Board also raised the question of what the likely projections would be for putting 25% of the fund over twenty years, and similarly, 12.5 %. Projected figures can be provided by Clarendon.

RB summarised the portfolio performance over the previous twelve months and noted there are no concerns and overall, it has been a positive year. As discussed last year, RB recommends changing from Saracen to Fidelity and tidying up the smaller funds to keep everything balanced in terms of dividends.

RB agreed to write to the Board with recommendations and a letter with the relevant documents that need to be signed to TF.

The board queried fees and were pleased that there will only be a proportional increase which will remain below the standard fee.

The Board thanked Robert Butcher and Bailey Hood for attending.

Action: To sign relevant documents when received TF

(B) MINUTES – 4 OCTOBER 2023

CF **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** and the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2023 were **AGREED** as a correct record **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

TF ran through the outstanding actions.

(C) FINANCE REPORT

The Board noted the circulated report.

The Board approved the Annual Accounts for the year ended June 2023.

(D) GRANT APPLICATIONS

Constituted Grant Application

Applicants: Stratherrick & Foyers Primary & Nursery Parent Council.

Application for: Costs relating to various activities over the course of the academic year.

Amount applied for: £11750

The Board **APPROVED** the grants in the sum of £11750.

Action: Send Grant Award and Acceptance letters to the Chair – KC

(E) TRUST MANAGER'S REPORT

The Board noted the circulated report and supporting documents.

Housing in Stratherrick & Foyers

TF updated the Board on the ongoing community projects and is to meet with the Communities Housing Trust to discuss issues raised with regards to building plots, buying houses to rent, and the legacy project they hope to initiate in the new year.

TF also summarised the housing needs in the area in terms of affordable housing following analysis undertaken by the Communities Housing Trust.

The board discussed the Rural Housing Burden and the conditions that apply.

KB mentioned that the information relating to housing is often outdated and there is a requirement for an updated list of needs. She suggested a live list which would enable us to view current information.

Action: Set up local housing list – KC/TF

(F) AOCB

Memberships

The Board welcomed two new Ordinary members, Angelina Goff and Tim Kendall.

AGM

The Board discussed the format of the AGM and agreed to each talk about their own area of responsibility. The need for an independent verifier, should one be required, was also discussed along with the roles designated to staff on the evening.

Action: Invite member of local council to be independent verifier – KC

Complaint

CF noted a complaint made by a member of the local community in relation to the length of time the Trust took to respond to their initial complaint. This was appreciated by the Board and the mitigating circumstances when dealing with this issue.

Boleskine Community Care

GJ noted he'd met with the new employees of BCC to advise on development plans, outputs and outcomes. He noted this went well.

Local Place Plan

GJ summarised a meeting with Scott Dalgarno, strategic planner for Highland Council who is pleased the Trust are the first group in the Highlands to submit a

Local Place Plan. He has arranged for various officials to meet with Board members about ongoing projects. TF noted that during their discussions the issue of delay at local authority level for afterschool care would be brought up.

Correction to previous Minutes

TF deferred this until the January board meeting.

(G) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30 p.m. Wednesday, 29 November 2023 AGM at Wildside Centre
7.00 p.m. Wednesday, 6 December 2023 at Wildside Centre/MS Teams

The Meeting closed at 21:10

Signed by Chair (JG) _____

Date _____