



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS
COMMUNITY TRUST HELD AT WILDSIDE, WHITEBRIDGE AND VIA MS TEAMS
AT 7.00pm ON WEDNESDAY 27th November 2024**

Present Catriona Fraser (CF); Chris Gehrke (CG); Maire Brown (MB); Mark Sutherland (MS); Craig Lightbody (CL); Cllr Chris Balance.

Apologies Cllr David Fraser; Ken Sinclair (KS); Malcolm Stewart (MMS); Susan Greer (SG); Gareth Jones (GJ); Maureen McGuire (MM).

Non-attendance

Chair Catriona Fraser (CF)

In Attendance Kirsteen Campbell (KC) (SFCT Administrator); Fiona Mustarde (FM) (SFCT Finance Officer); Sharon Ferguson (SF) (SFCT Fundraising Officer); Caroline Tucker (CT) (SFCT Project Co-ordinator); Jillian Barclay (JB) (SFCT Communications Officer); Matt Rhodes (MR) (Facilities & Buildings Manager); Peter Leyden (PL) (Facilities Assistant); Jewels Lang (JL) (Newly appointed SFCT CEO); Stewart MacPherson (SM); Peter Faye (PF); Michael White (MW).

Members 25

Non-members 5

Minutes Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

INTRODUCTION

CF welcomed the Board and staff members to the meeting. The meeting started at 19:05.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE REPORT

CF introduced Fiona Mustarde (FM), SFCT Finance Officer. FM presented a summary of the Statutory Accounts beginning with Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2024. The Accounts are available to view on the Trust website.

FM gave a summary of the key points from her finance report and advised that the full report will be available after the meeting. She noted that SFCT are no-longer classed as a micro entity and therefore the accounts are now prepared differently from previously and require more information.

FM went through her presentation of the Income and Expenditure followed by highlighting the key points within the balance sheet. FM opened the floor for questions and was asked the following:

Alex Sutherland: Can you tell me how you arrived at the value for the Fixed Assets?

FM: This is the cost that SFCT have incurred for things like the playpark equipment, polycrubs, Errogie church, etc. It includes all the costs involved. She noted it may be necessary to re-evaluate the fixed assets in the coming financial year.

Ian Cameron: Can we get to know what companies are on the investment portfolio?

CF: Clarendon manage the investments, and we have a Board member who is investment savvy. She noted that the investment portfolio could be shared publicly.

CHAIRS REPORT

The Chair presented her report to the floor outlining the activities of the Trust during the fiscal year from July 2023 to June 2024.

CF began by talking about the Legacy Fund and highlighted the importance of ensuring there is money available in the future. She noted how helpful Carol Masheter (SSE Fund Manager) has been in giving advice on how to best use the funds to benefit the community.

CF then talked about the new homes in Inverfarigaig, stating that these are almost ready. She highlighted the importance of housing to the Trust, which has been made very evident through community surveys etc.

She then handed over to CG who gave an update on the land at the bottom of the Corkscrew Road in Inverfarigaig including the clearance of non-native species of trees and fencing of the compound, both from grant monies, and the plan for a 'Men's Shed' which is currently in development. CG noted that the two detached SFCT homes in Inverfarigaig have an open market valuation of £520k, and were built for £519k with funding covering £227k of this. The SFCT houses will be available to rent, and it is expected that these will generate an income of £13k per annum. He also mentioned how positively the community had come together to help distribute the wood cleared from the compound.

CG also mentioned the Farigaig Forest Classroom and Fasnagruig Paddocks asset transfer, the purchase of which was recently paused by the Trust. He noted that as a result, we have been informed that this will go onto the open market at the beginning of 2025, should the Trust decide not to purchase it. This could result in the loss of the existing car park to visitors and locals alike, as well as the building and paddocks for community use. He advised this is something the new Board will have to consider.

CF then took to the floor again to give a brief update on the three main legacy projects. She noted that the Riverside Field project has been on hold since the previous CEO, Tony Foster, left the Trust and this will be revisited by the new Board of Directors and CEO in the coming months.

She talked about Errogie Church and noted that the project is progressing well, with a pro-active steering group in place. They are currently looking at ways on how best to use the building with community input driving the project forward.

Foyers Bay is also progressing well and CF noted that Malcolm Stewart, lead Director, is looking closely at development plans and next steps are currently being considered.

CF then talked about community events and noted how positively volunteers and SFCT staff have come together to produce the Highland Gathering, Winter Festival, and recent Fireworks

event. She encouraged community groups to bring ideas to the Trust and noted that positive interactions at these events really highlight what a special community we live in.

CF also mentioned two large grant recipients, Boleskine Community Care (BCC) and Stratherrick Public Hall. She began by paying tribute to the late Kit Cameron, who had been instrumental in developing the future vision for BCC. CF mentioned one of the key priorities of the Community Action Plan was to purchase a community shop. She was pleased to say that a funding application has gone in this week to fund a feasibility study. In relation to Stratherrick Public Hall, CF thanked the volunteers and hall committee as they look at ways to improve the hall.

CF was delighted to inform the room that in terms of Community Transport, a minibus will be available for community use from the beginning of 2025. Highland Council sourced grant funding to pay for the minibus which will be leased to SFCT at no cost. The minibus will have 16 seats and volunteer drivers are being sourced.

CF also highlighted the importance of community groups and those who take time to run these. She noted that these groups would not exist without community involvement and encouraged anyone with new ideas to engage with the Trust to discuss funding opportunities etc.

CF then paid special tribute to SFCT staff, naming them individually and highlighting the invaluable contribution they make to the running of the Trust. She then introduced the newly appointed CEO, Jewels Lang (JL), to the floor. JL introduced herself and her partner, Michael, and commented that she is honoured she is to be working for this community. She is to commence her position in January 2025.

CF thanked her fellow Directors for their contribution over the past year, and lastly, she thanked the community for their continued support of the Trust.

CG gave recognition and appreciation to the tireless work that CF has put in over the last year as Chair of SFCT. He noted how well she has served the community, along with fellow Director, Gareth Jones, who has also stepped down.

CF then opened the floor for questions and was asked the following:

Hugh Nicol: It is interesting to see the figures coming up. Can we see how much is spent in each project?

CF – These are listed in the management accounts.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the Articles of Association, a third of Directors must step down each year. The existing Board comprised of eight Member Directors: Catriona Fraser; Gareth Jones; Ken Sinclair; Maureen McGuire; Malcolm Stewart; Chris Gehrke; Susan Greer; and Maire Brown, and two co-opted Members: Craig Lightbody and Mark Sutherland.

The following Member Directors stood down: Catriona Fraser; Gareth Jones; and Ken Sinclair. Co-opted Directors, Mark Sutherland and Craig Lightbody, also stood down.

Five Member Directors remained on the Board: Maureen McGuire; Malcolm Stewart; Chris Gehrke; Susan Greer; and Maire Brown.

The Articles allow for nine Member Directors. There were therefore four vacancies. Four nomination forms had been received and therefore no requirement for an election. The four Member Director nomination forms had been received from: Ken Sinclair; Peter Faye; Stewart MacPherson; and Michael White.

CF noted that at the post-AGM meeting will now commence. However, the usual procedure of nominating a Chair and Vice-chair will happen at the next Board meeting to be held on 11th December, 2024.

QUESTIONS

No questions were received by the Administrator.

Meeting closed at 19:58

Signed by Chair (CF): _____

Date: _____