



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY TRUST
HELD AT THE WILDSIDE CENTRE, WHITEBRIDGE, INVERNESS and via MS TEAMS
at 19:00 on WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2025**

Present Peter Faye (PF); Chris Gehrke (CG); Ken Sinclair (KS); Craig Lightbody (CL); Michael White (MW); Maire Brown (MB); Lewis Fraser (LF)

Apologies Susan Greer (SG); Mark Sutherland; Maureen McGuire (MM); Malcolm Stewart (MMS); Stewart MacPherson (SM).

Non-attendance

Chair Peter Faye (PF)

In Attendance Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administrator.

Minutes Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

Declarations of interest:

CG – IRG grant application
LF – Foyers Primary School
CL – SFCC grant application

1. INTRODUCTION

PF welcomed the Board and staff members to the meeting.

2. CO-OPTION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR

The board **AGREED** to the co-option of Lewis Fraser (LF) as Finance Director via email prior to the meeting. This decision was ratified by those present, and LF was invited to join the meeting and was introduced to the Board by PF.

LF joined the meeting at 19:05

3. MINUTES

KS requested a technical change of wording in relation section IV of the previous Minutes from:

*This brought about a wider discussion on how much monetary support SFCT should provide new tenants and all **AGREED** that an improved specification to SFCT Housing properties may be appropriate in the future.*

to

*This brought about a wider discussion on how much monetary support SFCT should provide new tenants and all Directors present **AGREED** that an improved specification for SFCT Housing properties may be appropriate in the future.*

CG then **PROPOSED** and MW **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 30 April 2025 and these were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

MB entered at 19:10

4. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Trust Action list was circulated prior to the Board Meeting and items from the previous Minutes that remain 'open' were discussed and updates provided.

The Board discussed the recent acquisition of Inverfarigaig Forest School, and ideas were floated among Board members regarding its use. Prior to any final decisions being made, the community will be consulted, and in the meantime, the priority is to open the public toilets and a QR code and secure box for donations is to be installed.

Budgeted works of compliance, repair, maintenance and decoration at the property will proceed.

Action: KC to remove closed actions from Trust Action List.

5. FINANCE REPORT

The Board went through the finance papers which were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting by Finance Officer, Fiona Mustarde (FM). A draft budget for 2025-26 was presented to the Board with a deficit of approx. £61,000 along with the recommendation that the Board should seek to approve a balanced budget. Following discussion, it was agreed that a balanced budget could be achieved by:

- Removing £18,000 Foyers School to Other Group Grants, and keeping that at £72,000

- Removing £15,000 from Events spending
- Reducing the Legacy Fund Contribution by approx. £28,000.

There was a follow-up commitment to top-up any surplus at the end of year to the Legacy Fund Contribution.

Two new staffing posts were **APPROVED** by the Board – Events Officer and Logistics Officer. Job descriptions are currently being prepared by JL.

CG **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** the 2025-26 Budget, and these were **APPROVED** by the Chair

6. GRANTS

The following Student grant was **APPROVED** by the Board:

Rowan Main: £500.00 to cover course costs.

The following Constituted Group Grants were **APPROVED** in principle by the Board. However, further information and details are to be requested prior to final sums being released:

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council

Inverfarigaig Residents Group

Boleskine Biodiversity Group

The Board **APPROVED** an amendment to the original Large Group Grant awarded to Boleskine Community Care (BCC) at the Board meeting held on 2 April 2025. Due to an SFCT clerical error the figure of £124,428.63 stated in the April minutes was incorrect. The correct sum to be awarded is £148,898.05 minus an interim payment of £12,348.00 which was awarded in January 2025. The remainder is to be paid six monthly over a three-year period from May 2025 to October 2027.

As a result of the clerical error, the total amount paid to BCC in April 2025 was £20,182.22 and the correct amount due was £28,342.62. The Board **APPROVED** the payment of £8160.40 to BCC.

Action: KC to send grant award letters to all approved recipients and other applicants.

7. FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

It was confirmed that the terms of a Licence to Occupy granted by The Highland Council (THC) to SFCT had been received. The Board discussed the potential costs which may be incurred by SFCT if the license with the Highland Council is agreed. These include the maintenance of the inside of the building, (THC have offered to maintain the exterior and insure the building), contents insurance, and potentially very high electricity costs.

Discussions had previously been held between PF, JL and the South Loch Ness Heritage Group (SLNHG) in relation to the group using the building. The Board **AGREED** that more questions need to be answered in relation to the potential costs involved with the occupation of the building and what alternative funding specifically for the groups' activities may be sought. The Board discussed the possibility of the group applying for a Large Group Grant from SFCT which would outline the costs involved and give more detail as to how the building would be used.

Action: JL to meet with the SLNHG to discuss options for funding from other sources.

Action: PF to request Highland Council extend the time given to SFCT to make a decision re the license of Foyers Primary School by an additional month.

Action: PF to investigate further the high historical energy costs for Foyers Primary School.

At this time, the Board **DID NOT APPROVE** progressing with the license to occupy Foyers Primary School and will re-visit the proposal when in receipt of the above information. This will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

8. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

A paper prepared by Sharon Ferguson (SFCT) regarding options for terms of use and costs involved was circulated to Board members. The minibus will be run on a 'trial and error' basis until a payment structure is adopted. The Board **AGREED** that a stakeholder meeting is required to look at the possible options. In the interim, the current minibus will be promoted throughout the Community in order to assess the level of popularity and types of journey requested.

Action: JL to arrange a meeting with community stakeholders to discuss how the minibus will be used and what pricing structure will be adopted.

9. CEO INTERFACE

Directors **AGREED** to read and respond to the CEO/Board of Directors Interface, which had previously been circulated by the CEO.

Action: KC to recirculate the CEO interface document with all Directors for comment prior to the next Board Meeting.

10. FOYERS SHOP STEERING GROUP

Action: JL to ask SFCT Director Stewart McPherson to join the steering group as SFCT representative, along with Mark Sutherland. Next meeting of group will be held on 17 June 2025.

11. ERROGIE CHURCH

A meeting between PF, JL, MW and the Errogie Church community group was held on Friday 30 May 2025. The outcome of this meeting was that a request would be made to the Board for works required to bring the church up to satisfactory Health & Safety standards would go out to tender next week.

MW notified the board that he was still waiting for written reports from authoritative sources for the septic tank and heating system. The Board **AGREED** that further investigations into both the septic tank and heating system are to be undertaken before any tenders go out.

Action: JL to contact an alternative Engineering firm to those previously used to undertake investigations into the septic tank and heating system at Errogie church.

12. COMMUNITY LIAISON DIRECTORS ROLE

The Board **AGREED** to provide comments on the CLD role description prior to the next Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council (SFCC) meeting being held on 24 June 2025.

Action: JL to circulate CLD role description and Directors to respond prior to next SFCC meeting (24 June 2025).

9. AOCB

The Board noted one new Ordinary member.

Directors were reminded of the imminent social event to be held on Saturday 21 June at the Wildside Centre and were encouraged to attend.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

SFCT Board Meeting Wednesday, 2 July 2025 – Wildside Centre/MS Teams

Meeting closed at 00:10

Signed by Chair (PF): _____

Date: _____