



**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 6 AUGUST 2025

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

Apologies Stewart MacPherson (SM)

Non-attendance Susan Greer (SG)

Chair Peter Faye (PF)

In Attendance Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administration and HR Officer.

Minutes Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

Declarations of interest:

Student Grants - MB

The meeting started at 19:08

1. INTRODUCTION

- I) PF welcomed the Board and Staff members to the meeting. PF notified the Board that Malcolm Stewart has stepped down from his position of SFCT Director. PF thanked Malcolm for his hard work and guidance in the development of Foyers Bay.

2. MINUTES

- I) LF **PROPOSED** and CL **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 6 July 2025 and these were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

3. ACTIONS

- I) The Trust Action list was circulated prior to the Board Meeting and items from previous Minutes that remain open were discussed and updates provided. The following actions were marked as closed and completed:
 - i) JL to contact Andrew Fleming of Fairhurst Engineering, Inverness, to clarify any concerns he has in relation to the septic tank at Errogie Church and to ascertain capacity.
 - ii) LF to prepare a monthly report for Board meetings and will circulate a proposed format for Directors to review and discuss.

4. FINANCE REPORT

- I) LF provided an overview to the Board of the finance papers prepared by Finance Officer, Fiona Mustarde (FM). These were **APPROVED** by all Board members present.
- II) LF went through the cashflow up until the end of June 2025 and this was **APPROVED** by all Board members present.
- III) As part of the Management Accounts, all SFCT owned buildings were recently valued. Details of all valuations will be provided in the Annual Accounts prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- IV) SFCT have been part of the Steering Committee along with Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council (SFCC) to assist Boleskine Community Care (BCC) with the feasibility stage of their proposed community purchase of Foyers Stores. As part of this, SFCT Fundraiser, Sharon Ferguson, applied to the Scottish Land Fund for stage one funding for a consultation to carry this work out and it was agreed, via email in November 2024 by the former Chair and Vice-Chair, that SFCT would provide £3000.00 as match funding along with £3000.00 from BCC and £500.00 from SFCC in the form of a micro grant. All Board Members present **APPROVED** the transfer of £3000.00 to BCC for this purpose. It was noted that any further funding requirements to progress the project, should it go to the next stage, must be subject to a full grant application.

5. FOYERS BAY

- I) Certain elements of work are budgeted for including those within the compound as per the Steering Group plans. These are to proceed. Additional work, including the construction of a causeway, is to be investigated further, with clarification of consents and permissions established. All Board members present **APPROVED** Project Co-ordinator, Caroline Tucker (CT), initiating work within the compound as per the Steering Group plans.
- II) Progression of the Foyers Bay project will be discussed at the SFCT Strategy meeting being held on 13 August 2025.
- III) MB agreed to take over from Malcolm Stewart as lead project Director.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- I) As per the SFCT Articles of Association, one third of the current Member Directors are required to stand down at the AGM. The longest standing Member Directors, and therefore those who are required to stand down this year are: Maire Brown, Susan Greer, and Chris Gehrke.

7. DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MEETING

- I) PF noted a positive meeting with former Deputy First Minister, Kate Forbes, MSP, during her recent visit to Stratherrick. The DFM expressed support for increased housing and will investigate the progress of legislation surrounding Compulsory Sale Orders and revert to SFCT.

8. FIREWORKS

- I) The Board members present **AGREED** to fund this year's event with the following conditions attached:
 - i) A constituted group is created ahead of next year's event.
 - ii) SFCT staff will not be involved in running the event.
 - iii) Event organiser to discuss alternative firework suppliers with the Drumnadrochit Fireworks Committee.

Action: JL to write to Neil Kirkland, Fireworks organiser, regarding funding for the event.

9. WINTER WONDERLAND

- I) Given the constraints on Staff time, PF outlined proposals to run Festive events, probably on Saturday 20 December, including Carol singing/concert, a Christmas Ceilidh and 'Santa on a Tractor' rather than the full blown "Winter Wonderland".

Further details will be released immediately as they are finalised. It was hoped that the Children's Christmas party and gifts would still go ahead in Stratherrick Hall. JL has written to local hall committees and groups to notify them of the proposed events.

10. GRANTS

- I) The Board members present **APPROVED** the following Student Grants:
 - i) Roxy Elgar: £500.00 for course costs.
 - ii) Alexander Brown: £500.00 for course costs.
 - iii) Laura Gwilliam: £400.00 for course costs.

Action: KC to write to all grant recipients.

11. ERROGIE CHURCH

- I) The Board members present **AGREED** that the priority is to open the building as soon as possible. PF to confirm with Architect, Mike Lawson (ML), that once the following specifications and details, as outlined in his plans, are met, the building will be Health and Safety complaint:
 - i) Installation of a disabled toilet.
 - ii) Provision of disabled access to the building.
 - iii) Installation of a fire door.
- II) The Board members present **APPROVED** the building works, as per the specifications, now going out to tender and for CT to begin preparing the relevant documents.
- III) Investigations into buildings insurance with the existing diesel heating system in place remain ongoing.
- IV) The Board members present **AGREED** that alternative forms of heating should be explored by a professional alongside the Health and Safety works being undertaken.

Action: KC to follow up with insurers regarding the diesel heating system and, if this is not acceptable, what alternative options would be.

Action: KC to seek out any relevant building certificates in the SFCT SharePoint files.

12. UNNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

- I) The Board members present **APPROVED** the inclusion of the newly drafted Unacceptable Behaviour Policy on the SFCT website. This will also be circulated with SFCT Members and the wider community in due course.

13. DRIVING LESSONS

- I) The Board members present **APPROVED** driving lessons for community members at the Board meeting held in August 2024. It is expected that the payment will be for a maximum of £300.00 per individual on a one-off basis and will be paid directly to a registered driving instructor. The application process and all terms and conditions are currently under review, and SFCT Members and the wider community will be updated in due course.

14. COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS REPORT

- I) CL noted that there are five spaces available on the SFCC with the interim elections beginning on 19 August, with notice being published from then, and the closure of the withdrawal period and confirmation of elected members being on the 9 September. Further details can be found on the SFCC website.
- II) The large tree recently felled at Foyers Bay has been deemed unsuitable for milling or turning and has been donated back to the community for firewood by Alex Butter Landscaping. The local Firewood group have agreed to process the wood for local distribution.
- III) A survey into creating a Fireworks Control Zone within Stratherrick and Foyers is currently under review by SFCC.

15. AOCB

I) Foyers Stores Feasibility Study

- i) The Foyers Stores Feasibility Study and current BCC Business Case was circulated with Board members prior to this meeting. The Board recognised the work undertaken by BCC so far and looks forward to receiving the revised Business Plan and further details on the Community Benefit Scheme. The Board members present **AGREED** that this information is required before an informed decision can be made in relation to financial assistance.

II) Membership

- i) The Board welcomed two new Ordinary members.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

SFCT Board Meeting, 3 September 2025 at 7pm.

Wildside Centre/MS Teams

Meeting closed at 22.39

Signed by Chair (PF): _____

Date: _____