

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust held at The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge and via MS Teams.

Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 7pm

Present	Peter Faye (PF); Maire Brown (MB); Lewis Fraser (LF); Mark Sutherland (MS); Stewart MacPherson (SM); Chris Gehrke (CG); Ken Sinclair (KS).
Apologies	Cllr David Fraser; Susan Greer; Janet Sutherland; Fiona Bateman.
Non-attendance	
Chair	Peter Faye (PF)
In attendance	Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administration and HR Officer; Sharon Ferguson (SF) - SFCT Funding and Development Officer; Caroline Tucker (CT) - SFCT Project Co-Ordinator; Calum Martin (CM) - SFCT Marketing and Media Officer; Mandy Laing (ML) - SFCT Facilities Officer; Cllr Chris Ballance (CB); Carol Masheter – SSE.
Minutes	Kirsteen Campbell (KC)
Members	37
Non-members	10

INTRODUCTION

The Chair, Peter Faye (PF) welcomed the Board, Staff, SFCT members and non-members to the meeting which commenced at 19.05.

CHAIRS REPORT

The Chair presented his report to the floor outlining the activities of the SFCT during the fiscal year from July 2024 to June 2025. These included the new houses at Dodd's Park; the acquisition of the Forest School; Wildside Centre toilets; Community minibus; and the acquisition of Foyers Primary School. He noted the support provided to Boleskine Community Care (BCC) and the importance of the grant scheme which supports many local individuals and groups.

PF went on to commend the work of the SFCT staff and volunteers in organising events for the community to enjoy. Events including the Highland Gathering; Pie and Pint nights; Fireworks; Christmas activities the Lochness Luvvies shows, all promote a good sense of community spirit and help bring people together.

PF mentioned the Community Action Plan (CAP) and the Local Action Plan. Both documents are now several years old and require scrutiny to ensure they are still delivering for the community. The work of the recently developed SFCT Strategy Group, who hold monthly meetings, will focus on creating targets and clear objectives, was noted.

PF thanked all the funders of SFCT, without whom, SFCT would not exist.

The Chair's report is available to view on the SFCT website.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE REPORT

PF introduced Finance Director Lewis Fraser (LF) who was co-opted onto the Board in June 2025. LF presented a summary of the Statutory Accounts beginning with Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2025.

LF gave a summary of the key points from the finance report which was available in hard copies for members at the meeting. LF gave an overview of the Income and Expenditure and followed this by highlighting the key points within the balance sheet.

LF noted the recent asset re-evaluations which reflect a fair account of SFCTs assets.

The full accounts are available on the SFCT website, and a copy of the report can be obtained from the SFCT Administration and HR Officer.

QUESTIONS

Catriona Fraser: Is the same percentage of income going into the legacy fund?

PF: The figure is slightly less this year and is being monitored closely. This will be evaluated at the end of the year.

Jim Cameron: The valuation of Errogie Church has dropped significantly. How long until the church will be ready to use?

PF: The church has been physically examined, and guidance has been sought from the retained architects to bring the building into a useable condition. The current plan is to begin work to make the building health and safety compliant once the building warrant is approved. The estimated costs are in the region of £60,000. It is hoped that works will commence in February 2026.

PF noted that SFCT Staff met with the Errogie Church steering group who were given four options to decide on the future of the church. They opted to open the church as soon as it was health and safety compliant.

Jo Cameron asked about the insulation and heating at Errogie Church

PF: Two independent engineering firms have been approached to advise on how best to heat the church and to provide us with a quote for the cost of installation and maintenance.

Jo Cameron asked what the valuation of the church will be once all the building works are complete. PF stated it is policy to have all properties revalued at regular intervals.

Matt Rhodes commented that the value of a building isn't only monetary and its use for community benefit is equally as important when looking at value. Catriona Fraser echoed this sentiment.

Jo and Jim Cameron questioned why so much money had been spent on Errogie Church compared with Stratherrick Hall and noted what could be achieved at the hall with financial assistance from SFCT. Both MS and PF suggested that the hall committee put together a proposal which will then be considered by the SFCT Board both at a practical and funding level.

Alex Sutherland asked if Errogie Church would qualify for a Public Entertainment License given the current lack of carparking space.

PF noted that discussions were being held and that there was no definitive answer at this point.

Jo Cameron commented on SFCTs purchase of buildings and questioned what they will be used for. MS noted that within the CAP, there was to be a community hub in each settlement area. CG went on to note the positive impact of the Forest School in Inverfarigaig, not only to local residents as a useable space, but also to visitors to the area who can now use the public facilities.

KS asked if SFCT have ever turned an application down from Stratherrick Hall?

PF responded to his knowledge, the answer is no and in addition, funding had been provided in emergency situations to ensure the viability of the hall.

Hugh Nicol noted that we are very lucky with the facilities we have in the local area, and SFCT has bought and modified sensibly. He questioned if Errogie Church is duplicating some of the existing facilities at other SFCT owned properties.

PF agreed that the purchase of buildings should not be competitive with other existing properties, but always complimentary. This is an objective in accordance with the CAP.

Katherine Grant suggested that easier procedures should be in place when applying for SFCT funding and help given to community groups.

CF responded by stating that Sharon Ferguson (SF) had assisted Stratherrick Hall in their recent grant application. She added that there is help available from SFCT for any group who wish to apply for a grant. Funding workshops had also been arranged by SFCT to assist applicants.

In relation to support from SFCT for grant applications, Olivia Grant suggested that help is subjective. She went on to say that help was offered to her for the Foyers Shop project which was then taken away. JL noted that extensive assistance has been provided to BCC, not only in the form of help with filling out grant application forms, but also with their Business Case which will be used to support the large grant application to SFCT. JL had been approached by BCC to assist with this grant application and subsequently offered as much support as possible. However, this support was eventually withdrawn as it would become a conflict of interests. The considerable work of SF in assisting BCC was also noted.

Billy MacKenzie added that despite the withdrawal of support from SF and JL, assistance was not required as BCC have two members of staff who filled out the form with no issues.

Carol Masheter, SSE Community Investment Manager for the North of Scotland, mentioned that support can be given for grant funding, although employee capacity has to be considered.

Michael White: What community group decided how much money was spent on the Wildside Centre?

PF stated that there was a steering group in place when works were being carried out, including the play park and pathway. However, no such group exists now as these projects are complete, and the building is managed by the SFCT Staff and Directors. As with any proposed spend, any improvements to the Wildside Centre are considered by the SFCT Board of Directors.

SM pointed out that in relation to grant applications and project proposals, all Directors and Staff undertake due diligence, and a high level of scrutiny is involved with every application received. He pointed out that the Directors and Staff work hard for the community and do their best to ensure openness and transparency.

In relation to SFCT owned buildings, PF mentioned the possibility of Foyers School coming up for sale in the future and attempted to gauge sentiment towards a community acquisition. It was emphasised this was not a formal survey. The consensus was that it would depend on what the building would be used for.

PF thanked everyone for their questions.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the Articles of Association, each year one third of the Member Directors must step down, and all Co-opted Directors must step down. The following Member Directors stood down: Michael White and Susan Greer, and the following Co-opted Directors stood down: Craig Lightbody; Mark Sutherland; and Lewis Fraser.

There were five remaining Member Directors: Peter Faye; Maire Brown; Chris Gehrke; Stewart MacPherson; and Ken Sinclair. The Articles of Association allow for a maximum of nine Member Directors leaving four vacancies. Four Member Director nomination forms were received, meaning there was no requirement for an election. The following nominees were duly elected as Member Directors: Lewis Fraser; Graham Bain; Sorin Bogdan; and Neil Farnham.

PF informed the floor that the post-AGM meeting will now commence where the Board will convene to accept the new directors and elect officers, and he invited everyone to partake in the refreshments provided.

Meeting closed at: 20:15