

**Minutes of the meeting of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust held at
The Wildside Centre, Whitebridge and via MS Teams.**

Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 7pm

Present	Peter Faye (PF); Ken Sinclair (KS); Maire Brown (MB); Lewis Fraser (LF); Graham Bain (GB); Neil Farnham (NF).
Apologies	Stewart MacPherson (SM); Mark Sutherland (MS); Chris Gehrke (CG).
Non-attendance	
Chair	Peter Faye (PF)
In attendance	Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administration & HR Officer; Calum Martin – SFCT Media & Marketing Officer (CM); Gary McGowan (GM) - SFCC Representative; Sharon Ferguson – SFCT Funding & Development Officer (SF)
Minutes	Kirsteen Campbell (KC)
Declarations of interest	None

1) INTRODUCTION

- 1) PF welcomed the Board, Staff members and Gary McGowan (GM) from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council (SFCC) to the meeting which commenced at 19.03

2) COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

- 1) GM thanked CM for his part in organising the Coast-to-Coast Musical Tour in aid of My Name's 5 Daddie Foundation at the Wildside Centre last Friday. All agreed it was a huge success.
- 2) GM noted that there were no questions from the SFCC and provided updates which will follow in the SFCC Minutes.
- 3) GM notified the board that Colin Ross, THC Roads Department, is attending the next SFCC meeting and asked if there were any questions:
 - a. KS: Are THC going to clear the culvert blocked with stone to avoid further flooding?
 - b. LF raised the fact that the reflective lighting on the bollards face the wrong way at Calanour Junction.
 - c. PF asked if something is to be done about the single-track road immediately after the new road bridge near Farr.
 - d. GB noted the straight edges of new road surfaces should be tapered to avoid flooding.

GM left the meeting at 19:31

- 4) PF reminded all Directors that they are required to attend the joint SFCT/SFCC meeting on April 29th, 2026. He also notified Directors of the upcoming DTAS Governance training taking place on May 5th, 2026.

3) SFCT WEBSITE UPDATE

- 1) CM gave an overview of his proposal to create a new SFCT website which will be more user-friendly.

The Board members present **AGREED** to CM creating a new SFCT website and to carrying out the necessary cost analysis.

Action: CM to undertake a cost analysis on both proposed platforms, Wix and Squarespace, prior to starting work.

CM left the meeting at 19:58

4) FOYERS COMMUNITY STORES UPDATE

- 1) PF: The transfer of funds from SFCT to BCC has taken place and PF commended the enormous amount of work undertaken by JL and SF and thanked them for their efforts. JL also wished to highlight the effort put in by PF and KS and thanked them for their support.

SF joined the meeting at 20:01

- 2) SF notified the Board that the stock was valued on the 31st March 2026 and is valued at approximately £14,000.00.
- 3) SF has also been provided an update from Billy MacKenzie, BCC Treasurer, that the Share Offer is currently at £28,000.00 and the closing date is set for 1st May 2026.
- 4) SF: The shop lease has now been transferred from BCC to the Community Benefit Society (CBS), and the shop is operational by the CBS.

SF left the meeting at 20:05

5) MINUTES

GB **PROPOSED** and NF **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board meeting held on the 4th March 2026 and these were **AGREED** by all Board members present.

6) ACTIONS

- 1) PF and JL went through the SFCT Action List, and all items from previous minutes that remain open were discussed and updates provided. The following actions were marked as completed and are now closed:
 - a. JL to liaise with Sharon Ferguson, SFCC Administrator in relation to the joint CAP meeting.
 - b. JL to find out why the rent increase for Dodds Park residents is not in line with the LHA.
 - c. KC to update existing Wildside booking pricing information.

- d. JL to liaise with Calum Martin (CM) SFCT Marketing and Media Officer to update hours of availability.
- 2) In relation to the recently installed solar panels at the Wildside Centre, it is anticipated these will be up and running by Monday 6th April, 2026.

Action: JL to liaise with NF in relation to questions regarding the configuration of the smart meter at the Wildside Centre.

7) FINANCE

- 1) LF gave an overview of the Finance report which had been prepared by Fiona Mustarde (FM), SFCT Finance Officer.

PF **PROPOSED** and GB **SECONDED** the Finance Report and this were **AGREED** by all Board members present.

- 2) In relation to the SFCT Statement of Investment Principles (SIP), the Board members present (PF, LF, KS, MB, GB, NF) **AGREED** that the current SIP should remain unchanged. This will be reviewed in November 2026 when Robert Butcher (Perspective Financial Management) returns. The Board members present **AGREED** that the SIP should be a Board-approved document, with approval recorded in the minutes, and a single sign-off by the Chair on behalf of the Board.
- 3) In relation to including cash in the risk profile formula, the Board members present **AGREED** that no changes should be made.
- 4) The Board members present **AGREED** to continue investing in line with the current approach, rather than direct new contributions toward lower-risk holdings.

Action: LF to write to Robert Butcher to advise no changes to the SIP to be made.

8) EVENTS COMMITTEE

- 1) JL: SFCT staff are supporting the newly formed Events Committee to organise a gala and barn dance during the summer. Plans are currently being made, and updates will be provided in due course.

9) ERROGIE CHURCH

- 1) JL: Works are progressing as planned and Sorin Bogdan (SB), SFCT Project Co-ordinator is providing updates to the Board. Signage alerting the public to the location of the defibrillator are in place and the fences have been adjusted.

10) FOYERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 1) JL: The licence between THC and SFCT to use the building is due for renewal in August 2026. The Board will review the viability of leasing the school, given the exorbitant electricity costs, and any decision will be made in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders.

Action: JL to meet with the South Loch Ness Heritage Group to ascertain plans for the school building.

11) ELECTRICITY

- 1) The question of electricity bills for SFCT building being paid for by funds from SSE was raised by PF prior to the meeting. JL received confirmation from Carol Masheter (CM) SSE Community Fund Manager, that SSE will not pay for SFCTs electricity bills. However, SSE will support initiatives such as insulation, installation of solar panels etc.

Action: JL to seek further clarification on whether buildings occupied by SFCT can use SSE funding to assist with electricity bills.

12) INVERFARIGAIG COMPOUND (CORKSCREW ROAD)

- 1) SB is currently liaising with the community regarding proposed use of the land. The Board members present **AGREED** that the vehicles stored within the compound need to be removed prior to any developments.

Action: JL to contact the local residents to ask them to remove vehicles.

13) RIVERSIDE FIELD MEETING

- 1) JL: SB has arranged a public meeting which aims to re-open discussions around the proposed development of Riverside Field. This is to be held on 3rd April 2026.

14) COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

- 1) JL: Work has started on the CAP and is progressing as planned.

15) AOCB

1) Companies House Verification

- a. The Board have been notified that the companies house verification process must be undertaken individually to avoid any sanctions being taken against SFCT. The Board member present **AGREED** to set-up their accounts no later than 30th April 2026.

16) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 1) DTAS Governance Training – Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 10.30am
- 2) SFCT Board Meeting – Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 22:10