



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

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm**

<b>Present</b>	Peter Faye (PF); Ken Sinclair (KS); Maire Brown (MB); Lewis Fraser (LF); Chris Gehrke (CG); Graham Bain (GB); Neil Farnham (NF);
<b>Apologies</b>	Mark Sutherland (MS); Stewart MacPherson (SM)
<b>Non-attendance</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	Peter Faye (PF)
<b>In attendance</b>	Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administration and HR Officer; Gary McGowan (GM) - SFCC Representative, Tracey McWilliams (TM).
<b>Minutes</b>	Kirsteen Campbell (KC)
<b>Declarations of interest</b>	PF – Knockie Fund grant; MB Biodiversity Grant

**1) INTRODUCTION**

- I) PF welcomed all Board members, Staff and GM from the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council (SFCC) to the meeting which commenced at 19.05. He also introduced Tracey McWilliams, who is currently considering joining the Board of Directors.

**2) SFCC UPDATE**

- I) GM notified the Board that the questions raised at the April Board meeting in relation to roads were passed onto Colin Ross, Highland Council Transport Department, who will come back to SFCC with updates.
- II) He went on to give a brief update on the final submission for SFCCs objection to the proposed Loch Kemp Hydro scheme which is due on 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- III) CG suggested that negotiations with energy companies regarding community benefit could either be undertaken by SFCT or an independent negotiator. GM to raise this at the next SFCC meeting.
- IV) JL noted that Carol Masheter (CM), SSE Community Investment Manager, had advised the community benefit money for Aberarder Wind Farm is now available.

She advised that Sharon Ferguson (SF), SFCC Administrator is to add this to the agenda for the next SFCC meeting.

- V) All parties agreed that the recent joint meeting between SFCT and SFCC was received very well by all who attended. The details of the next meeting will be available in due course.

*GM left the meeting at 19:38*

### **3) MINUTES**

LF **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board meeting held on 1 April 2026 and these were **AGREED** by all Board members present as a correct record.

### **4) ACTIONS**

- I) 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 arrange a meeting with the SFCC and SFCT Directors to address issues raised regarding the AGM.
  - b. Sorin Bogdan (SB), SFCT Project Co-Ordinator, to produce a cyclical maintenance programme for Dodds Park, and to propose an appropriate sinking fund.
  - c. JL to liaise with NF in relation to questions regarding the configuration of the smart meter at the Wildside Centre.
  - d. JL to meet with the South Loch Ness Heritage Group to ascertain plans for the school building.

### **5) FINANCE REPORT**

- I) LF notified the Board that Fiona Mustarde (FM), SFCT Finance Officer is currently preparing a proposed budget for the next financial year. This is to be presented for consideration at the Board meeting in June.
- II) LF gave an overview of the Finance report and cashflow figures which had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

LF **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** the Finance report that had been prepared by FM in consultation with LF and these were **APPROVED** by all Board members present.

- III) JL gave an overview of the current SFCT running costs and advised the Board to take this into account when contemplating the purchase of properties and considering projects. She also noted that there is a significant drop in SFCT's income as both the DTAS grant and Glendoe fund have come to an end.

## 6) GRANTS

### I) **Constituted Groups for Community Benefit:**

- a. **Stratherrick Public Hall** - £11,150.00 to upgrade all current external windows and doors to modern, energy-efficient units. **Special Conditions:**
  - i. To return the SFCT Spend Tracker spreadsheet along with the completion report.
  - ii. To return any unspent funds at the end of the period.
  - iii. That the grant to meet the above purpose will be spent within twelve months of the date of grant award.
  
- b. **Boleskine Biodiversity Group** - £1710.00 to construct Swift boxes in the local area and to help raise the community's awareness of Swifts and the role individuals can play in helping their recovery including:
  - Construction of purpose-built nestboxes in 5 new locations locally and to upgrade 2 nestboxes installed in 2025.
  - Installation of trail cameras in 2 nestboxes - the information gathered to be studied by the group and a report to follow.
  - Reporting on the general project progress through presentations, articles, the BBG website and social media.
  - Advice provided to householders on how to protect existing nest sites.
  - Survey, monitor and report breeding colonies.

#### **Special Conditions:**

- i. Change banking to the following:
  1. Payment authorisation by non-related persons only.
  2. Signatories to have no familial relationship.
- ii. To return the SFCT Spend Tracker spreadsheet along with the completion report.
- iii. To return any unspent funds at the end of the period.
- iv. That the grant to meet the above purpose will be spent within twelve months of the date of grant award.

### II) **Non-constituted Groups/Individuals for Community Benefit:**

- a. **Anna Peterkin, Highland Dancing** - £1000.00 to meet the costs of running a local Highland Dancing group for residents within the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council area. **Special Conditions:**
  - i. Provide basic accounts for the years spend – SFCT will provide the accounting sheet.
  - ii. To return any unspent funds at the end of the period.

iii. That the grant to meet the above purpose will be spent within twelve months of the date of grant award.

b. **Luke Grogan – A Night at the Musicals** - £470.00 for costs associated with running 'A Night at the Musicals' event in June 2026. **Special Conditions:**

- i. To return the SFCT Spend Tracker spreadsheet along with the completion report.
- ii. To return any unspent funds at the end of the period.
- iii. That the grant to meet the above purpose will be spent within twelve months of the date of grant award.

III) **Student:**

a. **Karen Holland** - £500.00 to cover course costs.

IV) **Driving and Motorcycle Lessons:**

a. **Jensen Hadwen** - £300.00 towards the cost of driving lessons.

b. **Lincoln Lewis** - £300.00 towards the cost of driving lessons.

KS **PROPOSED** and GB **SECONDED** the above grants, and these were **APPROVED** by all Board members present.

*PF left the meeting at 21:10*

V) A Constituted Group for Community Benefit grant application from the Knockie Fund was deferred, pending further consultation with the Trustees of the Fund. SF to revert back to the Knockie Fund.

*PF rejoined the meeting at 21:17*

**7) WILDSIDE SOLAR PANELS**

I) NF gave an overview of the recently installed solar panels at the Wildside Centre. These are working well to date, and all agreed they appear to be an excellent energy saving feature. A full report will follow in the coming months.

**8) SPRING MAGAZINE**

I) LF raised the issue that although the magazine size had increased, the font had not. JL noted this and a larger font will be used in the next magazine.

**9) SUMMER EVENTS**

- I) The Board discussed the upcoming gala and barn dance due to be held on 15th August. Local businesses and organisations are currently being approached to attend and support, and an update will be provided in due course.

#### **10) COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

- I) SFCT staff are meeting with Nick Wright on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May, and a draft CAP is currently being drawn up. JL went over the project plan timeline which will feed in from the CAP and will in turn form the basis of budget.

#### **11) ERROGIE CHURCH**

- I) The Board discussed the building works that are currently being undertaken and are progressing well, and relevant updates will be provided in due course.
- II) The steering group have now become constituted and have been advised they will go through the same grant application process as other groups when applying to SFCT for funds.

#### **12) SFCT PROJECT EVALUATION PROCESS**

- I) PF and KS were nominated by JL to lead current project evaluations along with GB and NF. The group will meet in May to review and evaluate current and proposed projects.

#### **13) FOYERS BAY**

- I) MB advised the Board that the broken fencing that resulted from the large tree being removed from Foyers Bay has not yet been fixed. Craig Lightbody, member of SFCC, has been notified about this.
- II) MB is liaising with SB regarding the 'Initiating of Works' in relation to the slip way.

#### **14) BOLESKINE COMMUNITY CARE GRANT**

- I) JL and SF are currently reviewing the next tranche of the grant which was awarded to Boleskine Community Care (BCC) in April 2025. Concerns were raised about how the funding is being used, as the current job roles and employment arrangements deviate from the original scope of the grant.
- II) SFCT have made contact with BCC to make them aware of the concerns and to advise that an updated grant application outlining the new job descriptions will be required. This will undergo the large grant process including assessment by SSE.

#### **15) FOYERS COMMUNITY STORES**

- I) A meeting between SFCT and Foyers Stores Community Benefit Society (CBS) is to be scheduled to discuss funding for a Shop Manager. JL noted that no response has been provided by the CBS to the questions raised by JL and SF in relation to a grant application made by the CBS in January this year.

#### **16) AOCB**

- I) The Board members present welcomed new SFCT members:
  - a. 3 Ordinary
  - b. 2 Junior
  - c. 1 Associate
  
- II) Given that a significant proportion of the Board must retire later this year, current Members were asked to encourage new Members to consider nominating themselves at the appropriate time.

#### **17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- I) SFCT Board meeting: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

*Meeting closed at 22:30.*