SFCT
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust

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

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 7pm

Present	Peter Faye (PF); Lewis Fraser (LF); Ken Sinclair (KS); Neil Farnham (NF): Maire Brown (MB); Graham Bain (GB); Eileen Martin (EM); Tracy McWilliam (TM); Chris Gehrke (GG).
Apologies	
Non-attendance	
Chair	Peter Faye (PF)
In attendance	Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administration and HR Officer; Gary McGowan (GM) - SFCC Representative.
Minutes	Kirsteen Campbell (KC)
Declarations of interest	None

1) **INTRODUCTION**

   a. PF welcomed the Board, Staff members, and GM to the meeting which commenced at 19.04.

2) **SFCC UPDATE**

   a. GM went through the previous Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council (SFCC) meeting held on 25th August, and the minutes will be shared by the Sharon Ferguson (SF), SFCC Administrator in due course.

NF joined the meeting at 19:08
TM joined the meeting at 19:09

   b. GM stated that SFCC are compiling a priority list for road maintenance and requested any suggestions Directors may have to add to this, be forwarded to SF.

GM left the meeting at 19:34

3) MINUTES

a. NF **PROPOSED** and LF **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board meeting held on 6th August 2026 and these were **AGREED** by all Board members present as a correct record and were **APPROVED** by the Chair.

4) FINANCE REPORT

a. LF **PROPOPSED** and KS **SECONDED** the Finance papers and cashflow that had been prepared by Fiona Mustarde (FM), SFCT Finance Officer and these were **APPROVED** by all Board members present.

b. LF presented the Board with the updated Treasury & Reserve Framework. He outlined the proposed procedures to enable the Finance Manager to manage the cash balance.

c. KS **PROPOSED** and PF **SECONDED** the following Treasury & Reserves Framework and all items were **APPROVED** by the Board members present:

1. Approve the layered cash framework, under which the purpose of cash determines its required liquidity, security, and investment characteristics.

2. Approve Line A as six months of budgeted operating costs, currently £218,558 for 2026/27.

2a. Approve that Line A is a minimum liquidity requirement rather than a prescribed Santander balance; normally maintain approximately £120,000 in Santander, reflecting the prevailing FSCS-protected amount, with the remaining approximately £99,000 of Line A held in CCLA as liquid treasury cash.

3. Approve Line B as a rolling 12-month treasury requirement, currently approximately £700,000, reset through the annual budget approved in June and reassessed following material change.

4. Approve Option A - Manageable diversification - for cash up to Line B, with Santander plus the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund as the preferred implementation, subject to completion of account, mandate, share-class, settlement and eligibility checks.

5. Confirm that the Board considers the recommended diversified money-market approach to provide appropriate security for part of treasury cash and does not require maximisation of FSCS deposit protection across the full treasury balance.

6. Require material cash above Line B to be referred to the Board for an explicit purpose decision and confirm that such cash does not automatically become Legacy Fund capital; the Board may also consider direct community / mission deployment where appropriate.

7. Where above-B cash is designated as longer-dated investable capital, require investment implementation to be considered under the SIP and appropriate Perspective advice, including the alternatives already identified by Robert Butcher where suitable.

8. Delegate day-to-day operation of the approved treasury framework to the Finance Manager and CEO, with authorised directors providing transaction approvals/signatures where required and with quarterly Board reporting.

5) GRANTS

a. Non-constituted Group/Individual for Community Benefit:

i. KC notified the Board that the £639.00 awarded on 5th August 2026 to Gary Fentiman to cover the 'Radioking' subscription cost to allow live broadcasting on Foyers Radio had been declined by Mr Fentiman.

ii. A grant application reviewed at the Board meeting on 5th August 2026 from Rosy Conner on behalf of Creative Ness submitted for the August Board meeting was approved via email on 1st September 2026. The following general conditions apply:
   1. That the grant to meet the above purpose will be spent within twelve months of the date of grant award.
   2. Any unspent funds to be returned at the end of the period.
   3. The applicant will complete and return the grant spend tracker supplied by SFCT and return all invoices/receipts.
   4. The applicant returns a completion report to SFCT after the grant is spent.
   5. Articles(s) and photographs be made available for Stratherrick and Foyers News/Website and social media.

6) INVERFARIGAIG CORCKSCREW

a. A lease agreement between the Inverfarigaig Residents Group (IRG) and SFCT in relation to the Corkscrew compound is currently being investigated. Sorin Bogdan (SB), SFCT Project Co-Ordinator will develop this into a concept paper to be considered by the Board. In the meantime, Mike Lawson (ML) SFCT Retained Architect, is investigating costs to utilise the area as a carpark.

7) ACTIONS

a. PF and JL went through the current SFCT Action List, and the following items were closed:

   i. JL to contact the Communities Housing Trust to ascertain if there has been a change in building contractor.
   ii. KC to update the Board meeting minutes from 6th May to include the discussion on funding for Stratherrick Public Hall
   iii. JL to inform the Inverfarigaig Residents Group (IRG) that SNLHG intend to utilise the Forest school.
   iv. FM to prepare Treasury management policy
   v. JL to seek further clarification on whether buildings occupied by SFCT can use SSE funding to assist with electricity bills.

vi. JL to liaise with SFCT solicitors to draft a letter requesting that the vehicles are removed.
vii. JL to arrange signage to be displayed at the Corkscrew Road compound including Private Land and Caution.
viii. JL to send a letter to residents of Inverfarigaig asking them to remove their vehicles from the Corkscrew Road compound.
ix. JL to contact RB to obtain his recommendation for managing SFCT cash, and to ascertain costs involved.
x. JL to arrange a meeting with Phil Thomson regarding the plans for Riverside Field.
xi. JL to liaise with ML regarding the development of Thain Road.
xii. JL to contact Sarah Byrne, Trust Manager of Kyle of Lochalsh Community Trust, to gather information on the proposed eco-housing and ancillary property development near Kyle of Lochalsh.
xiii. JL to prepare a statement for SFCT members regarding social media posts.

b. In relation to the SFCT van, the Board members present requested that JL look at alternative options including an extension to the existing lease or purchasing the current van.

Action: JL to investigate further options for the van and revert to the Board at the next meeting.

8) **COST OF LIVING**

a. JL presented a Cost of Living (CoL) proposal following the discussion at the previous Board meeting.

b. GB **PROPOSED** and MB **SECONDED** that a 3.8% C0L increase, based on the September 2025 CPI, be awarded to salaried Staff from 1st September 2026.

c. The Board members present **AGREED** that future CoL payments should be informed by the CPI figure from the previous September.

d. KS suggested that any CoL increase, or otherwise, should be at the discretion of the Board and not be assumed by Staff.

9) AOCB

a. **Apprenticeships**

i. PF notified the Board that an apprenticeship application had been received from local building company, SB Building, for a 4 year apprenticeship. This was approved by SFCT apprenticeship panel member, Peter Faye, and unanimously by all other panel members from Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, Glengarry and Laggan. The total approved over the 4 years was £20,819.

10) CODE OF CONDUCT

a. JL shared a draft Code of Conduct with directors, and they will review and make further comments at the next Board meeting.

11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

a. SFCT Board Meeting - Wednesday 7th October 2026.

Meeting closed at 22:00