



**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 3 APRIL 2024.**

Present Catriona Fraser (CF); Craig Lightbody (CL); Chris Gehrke (CG);
Ken Sinclair (KS); Gareth Jones (GJ); Mark Sutherland (MS);
Maire Brown (MB); Susan Greer (SG).

Apologies Maureen McGuire (MM); Malcolm Stewart (MMS)

Non-attendance

Chair Catriona Fraser (CF)

In Attendance Tony Foster (TF), Kirsteen Campbell (KC).

Minutes Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

Declarations of interest:

(A) INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(B) MINUTES

MS PROPOSED and **CG SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 7 February 2024 and these were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

(C) ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

TF went through the actions and discussed the following with the group:

Action: TF to look into CGs queries re Inverfarigaig plans and will respond to the Board.

The Board discussed the costs involved with installing wood burning stoves, including arrangements for maintenance.

They acknowledged that installation of a wood burning stove may be a longterm cost effective heating system. CG suggested there may be a more appropriate heating system available than what is currently proposed. TF to check on the current heating system proposed by the company. MB mentioned that people living in the area would generally have a preference for burning wood regardless of other heating systems within their home.



CL added that the stoves should not have a back boiler due to the implications during a power cut.

The Board agreed they are happy to go forward with the houses.

(D) FINANCE UPDATE

The finance update documents were noted by the Board.

CF mentioned that a better breakdown of finances would be helpful to reflect cashflow at certain pinch points. TF noted that the Trust is under budget by approx. £72k. TF to meet with staff this month to discuss projects for the next financial year.

(E) GRANT APPLICATIONS

Student Grant applications and awards granted:

Neringa Matheson £500.00 for course costs.

Gabriel Muhmadov £500.00 for course costs.

Daisy Ferguson £500.00 for course costs.

Sporting Grant applications and awards granted:

Alex Sutherland £250.00 towards event attendance costs.

Constituted Groups Grant applications and awards granted:

FIRA (Friends of Inverness Royal Academy) £4340.00 to help with the cost of trips.

Non-Constituted Groups Grant applications and awards granted:

Highland Dancing Classes (Anna Peterkin) £1000.00 to help with the classes running costs.

The Board **APPROVED** all grants.

Action: KC to send out grant award letters.

(F) CHAIR/TRUST MANAGERS REPORT

The Board noted the circulated report and the following points were discussed.

Foyers Bay

TF went through MMS report on progress at Foyers Bay. KS updated the Board with the current plans in place in terms of environmental waste and advised quotes will be sought to undertake surveys etc.

The Board agreed with the recommendations put forward by MMS in his report on Foyers Bay.

Wood Survey

TF noted there were 94 responses to Wood survey and 72 per cent said they had the ability to split the wood independently. Delivery requirements were identified within the survey.

TF also noted that another source of wood for next year has been found. He mentioned that it had been suggested a wood community group be set-up to oversee sourcing and distribution of wood. The Board supported this idea.

CG expressed concern that people not online will be able to access information on how to receive wood. TF and CF said this information would be provided through the Spring Magazine for people who do not have internet access.

CG mentioned the IRG wanted to do some sort of wood processing at the Corkscrew.

Jobs

TF: Steven Watson (CLO) has retired, and Robbie Burns (CAP Officer) has resigned – The CAP Officer role will be advertised this week. Project Co-ordinator, Caroline Tucker, will have her contract renewed as it comes to the end of its three-year period.

Following staff appraisals, TF highlighted the need for staff working hours to be reviewed and the possibility of amalgamating roles to absorb the role of the CLO.

MS suggested the possibility of a BCC Liaison Officer on the Board. The Board agreed this could be a useful role.

MS mentioned a colleague who has the role of Emergency events and resilience planning sergeant for the North of Scotland who can advise the Board on community initiatives. The Board welcomed his input.

The Board accepted the change in criteria for Apprenticeships. TF to inform SSE.

Pathways Group

KS updated the group on the development of a Pathways App for the local area. The Board then discussed the merits of taking this further and producing an

app that includes all aspects of local information making it a dynamic platform that is easily accessible.

The Board also acknowledged the need for professionals to help devise the app.

A meeting will be arranged to present the proposal to Board members.

TF added a note regarding the James Hutton land reform note within report and the Board agreed to read the document and provide feedback.

Action: Board members to review and provide feedback on the James Hutton land reform document.

Clarendon

TF went through the report and the group discussed the possibility of projecting the size of the fund based on a number of variables. The Board discussed various views on how to best safeguard future finances as well as the need to have a clear plan around drawdown.

The Board discussed the need for comprehensive planning to help build a picture of the Trust's financial position in the coming years. KS stated the need to be robust in financial planning that looks forward in order to safeguard future finance.

GJ mentioned the need for resilience and sustainability of the community.

Inverfarigaig Forest School

KS questioned the purchase of the shed as he has been queried about it.

TF stated it was one of the objectives in the CAP as an action plan and GJ added the Forest School was to be used as a community space although it has been suggested it is too small to use for this purpose. KS suggested it could be used as a social housing unit.

TF agreed to re-circulate the plan from the CAP with the Board and asked for the Board to provide feedback.

The Board agreed that the use of the building should support enterprise.

Action: TF to recirculate plan from the CAP.

Action: Board members to provide feedback on the CAP plan.

(G)COMMUNITY LIAISON DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board noted the report circulated by Community Liaison Director Craig Lightbody. CL will update the Board once the Minutes from the previous CC meeting have been finalised.



A joint CC and SFCT Board meeting was suggested which members of the public would be invited to join. This discussion would include the Community Place Plan and would provide an opportunity for people to ask questions in a public platform. A provisional date has been set for 15 May 2024.

The Board commented on the mutual benefit of liaison between the CC and the Trust.

(H) ERROGIE UPDATE

GJ presented a brief update on the Errogie Project which is now getting back on track after a difficult period. He commented on the expansion of the steering group to include new members who bring a wealth of skills and knowledge.

He mentioned the need to revisit the business case to make it more robust for fundraising – Project Co-ordinator, Caroline Tucker, is producing a schedule of activities which will be published. A monthly report to the Board will be produced to ensure information is shared and up to date.

In keeping with the theme of supporting interest about biodiversity, GJ mentioned that the Ecologist would like to attract a colony of Swifts. The architect will check the viability of putting up boxes to house Swifts.

Time constraints led to the Board agreeing to discuss this further at the next Board Meeting.

(I) REFRESH OF CAP

GJ updated the Board on the refresh that he and TF had worked on looking at the most appropriate way to engage with the community about what they want to see three years on. Two aspects to consider:

- 1) Is a refresh required?
- 2) Is there is a change of direction from a community perspective?

Due to time constraints, The Board agreed to discuss this further at the next Board meeting.

(J) RIVERSIDE FIELD UPDATE

CF presented an update on the Riverside Field Project and stated that Chris Balance, Highland Councillor, has been in touch with planners who may look favourably on a Section 42 which would allow for a reduction of the parking spaces. The Board discussed this and were happy for the Riverside Steering Group to consider actioning this if appropriate after community consultation on the Masterplan.



CF went on to say that the Steering Group will look at all priorities and present these to the community. Emails will be sent out to the community prior to the next liaison group meeting on 17 April.

CL suggested that the operation of the Trust means that they will encourage maximum use of the facility, and this has resulted in resistance from the Riverside residents. CF highlighted the need to consider each stage of the plans as they arise and stated that discussions will continue at the next Riverside Liaison Group meeting.

(K) AOCB

Student Grants

The Board noted the circulated proposal to update student grant awards to include courses that are run over a set number of hours.

The Board agreed to the proposal.

Action: KC to update student grant guidelines.

HR Proposal

FM provided a proposal to update the Trust's HR system which will include using new software from WorkNest.

The Board agreed with the proposal.

Action: FM/KC to update HR system/Contact WorkNest.

Purchase of a drone:

CF proposed the purchase of a drone to assist the Marketing Officer, Calum Martin, to produce more dynamic ariel photos and videos. Costing is under £1000. Licenses are approximately £100 per annum.

Action: CM to purchase drone.

Memberships:

The Board welcomed four new Ordinary members and one Associate Member.

(L) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7pm, Wednesday 5th June 2024, Wildside Centre/MS Teams

Meeting closed at 22:08

Signed by Chair (CF): _____

Date: _____