

**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 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

**Present** Catriona Fraser (CF), Malcolm Stewart (MMS); Chris Gehrke (CG); Ken Sinclair (KS); Maire Brown (MB); Gareth Jones (GJ); Mark Sutherland (MS).

**Apologies** Maureen McGuire (MM); Craig Lightbody (CL); Susan Greer (SG)

**Non-attendance**

**Chair** Catriona Fraser (CF)

**In Attendance** Tony Foster (TF), Kirsteen Campbell (KC), Fiona Mustarde (FM)

**Minutes** Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

**Declarations of interest:** CG declared an interest in the discussions regarding BCC. The **Board agreed** he could remain in the room during the discussions.

**(A) INTRODUCTION**

CF welcomed the Board and staff members to the meeting.

**(B) MINUTES**

GJ **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 and these were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

**(C) ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

TF went through the list of actions from the previous minutes and discussed the following with the group:

- A meeting with the James Hutton Institute has been scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at 7pm (online).
- TF to recirculate plan from the CAP and Board members to provide feedback – Ongoing.

## **(D) TRUST MANAGERS REPORT**

The Board noted the circulated report.

Action: TF that we progress with the Forest School.

CG highlighted the need for Board members to meet and discuss the Legacy fund.  
**The Board agreed.**

Action: Directors to meet to discuss the Legacy Fund. A provisional date of 18<sup>th</sup> July was set.

## **(E) COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS REPORT**

CL emailed the Minutes from the previous Community Council Board meeting which were circulated prior to the Board Meeting.

CL requested clarification of his role as CLO from a Community Council and Community Trust perspective. CF identified areas where this could be improved, and the **Board agreed** that a formal description of the role and expectations would be prepared in the coming months.

KS also highlighted the increasing number of planning applications coming to the Community Council and suggested a Planning Consultant would be a useful person to have on retention to assist with these. **The Board agreed.**

Action – CF/TF To prepare a formal description of the CLO role and clear expectations on how this can be mutually beneficial for the CT and CC.

Action – To obtain a quote for a Planning Consultant to assist the Community Council.

## **(F) FINANCE UPDATE**

FM presented a draft budget to the Board with projected income and expenditure for July 2024 – June 2025. The **Board approved** these in principle with conditions attached.

Action: TF/FM to make small amendments to ensure break even position.

Action: TF/CF/FM To develop a cyclical maintenance programme for future.

Action: Sharon Ferguson (Pathways Group) to draft a report on the Pathways Project deliverables.

## **(G) GRANT AWARDS**

The following grant awards were **approved** by the Board:

### **Constituted Grants for Community Benefit:**

Aldourie Primary School: £603.00

Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council: £9498.00

Farr Primary School & Nursery Parent Council: £2600.00

### **Non-constituted Grants for Community Benefit:**

Wildside Community Growers: £1000.00

Biodiversity Group (Swift Project): £1000.00

### **Individual Sporting Grants:**

Carly MacIver: £250.00

TF passed thanks onto Sharon Ferguson for providing grant training to the staff.

**Action: KC to send grant letters to all recipients.**

## **(H) AOCB**

### **BCC:**

The Board acknowledged the documents circulated prior to the meeting including: BCCs six-month Interim Report; BCCs 5 Year Development Plan; and BCCs request to carry over unspent funds.

The Board discussed the Interim Report and the 5 Year Development Plan and **agreed** to release the second tranche of BCCs grant.

CF: BBC have requested that unspent funds from the 2023 – 2024 period are used to fund an increase in the standard rate of pay for carers for the next 2.5 years by 6% on their standard day rate and 10% on evening and weekend shifts. There is a shortage of carers in the area and given the rural landscape it is difficult to attract people into the role. The pay increase would help to encourage more applicants by providing a financial incentive.

Sunflower Care, who fund carers and are a branch of the Highland Hospice, have a blanket policy to keep current rates of pay the same throughout the Highlands and cannot increase this in individual areas.

The **Board agreed** in principle provided there is a contractual agreement set between BCC, Sunflower Care and the Highland Hospice to ensure all are in agreement, and that BCC agree to provide six monthly reviews to the Trust. The

group also highlighted that this is a one-time fund that BBC are required to agree to. TF reminded the group that grants are for one year which highlighted the question that for group grants, should there be an option to apply for three years.

**Action: GJ to meet with the BCC team to discuss this and will report back to the Board.**

**Action: TF to discuss the possibility of three-year grants with SSE.**

### **BCC Building costs:**

TF: BCC are having some work done at the hub to which the Trust offered free support from the Trusts architect. Subsequently a bill has been received by the Trust in relation to the building and planning application and the **Board agreed** that BCC should pay this from the additional funds they were provided to cover costs relating to the building.

### **Grant assessment forms update:**

The Board acknowledged the updated assessment forms which have been approved by Carol Masheter (SSE).

### **Errogie Church update:**

The Board noted the circulated documents following from the previous Errogie Steering Group meetings.

GC raised the question of parking. GJ responded that The Errogie Steering Group are looking into this, and the Yellow Brick Road is a possible solution. An architect has been commissioned to produce plans and an adjacent landowner will also be contacted.

TF noted that Planning did not mention parking so there is no condition.

The Board highlighted the success of the first event held at the church and noted that it was commented on social media very positively.

### **Riverside Planning Tracker:**

TF went through the Riverside planning tracker with the group. CF noted that progress is being made. A meeting between the Riverside residents and the Trust has been scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm at the BCC Hub.

TF noted how positive the first steering group meeting had been.

### **Pathways App Meeting:**

CF: A meeting has been scheduled on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June for the Pathways Groups to give Board members and update on how the new app is progressing.

#### **Thain Road:**

TF visited Thain Road with CF and Robin Fraser (RF) from Environmental Health. RF stated that the land is currently an “eye-sore” and Environmental Health do not have the capacity to enforce any actions. The presence of a rat was noted, and residents have been advised of this. TF also noted that progress is being made and residents have been co-operative.

The question of residents having prescriptive rights over the land was raised by KS. TF confirmed that no residents have prescriptive rights.

#### **Inverfarigaig Men’s Shed & Garage:**

- 1) The **Board agreed in principle** to adopting the **Inverfarigaig Men’s Shed & Garage** as a Trust project, without any commitment to funding in recognition that it would be beyond the scope of the IRG to manage.
- 2) The **Board agreed** to support the IRG to progress their proposal with the architect and bring it back to the Board prior to seeking planning permission.

#### **Communication:**

CF brought to light an email received from a local resident who has developed a group to assist the Board in their duties.

The **Board agreed** that there is ample opportunity for individuals within the community to join the Board as a Director where their ideas and skills can be utilised to benefit the community as a whole.

#### **Members:**

The Board welcomed one new Ordinary member.

#### **Dynam Paper Update/Presentation:**

Due to time constraints, the Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

### **(I) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7pm, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024, Wildside Centre/MS Teams

*Meeting closed at 22:45*

Signed by Chair (CF): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_