



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 2 April 2025

Present	Maire Brown (MB); Ken Sinclair (KS); Craig Lightbody (CL); Susan Greer (SG); Peter Faye (PF); Michael White (MW); Chris Gehrke (CG).
Apologies	Maureen McGuire (MM); Malcolm Stewart (MMS); Stewart MacPherson (SM); Mark Sutherland (MS)
Non-attendance	
Chair	Maire Brown (MB)
In Attendance	Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Rob Butcher (RB) – Clarendon Financial Services; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) – SFCT Administrator.
Minutes	Kirsteen Campbell (KC)

1. Declarations of interest:

Susan Greer – Grant application

2. INTRODUCTION

MB welcomed the Board and staff members to the meeting and introduced Rob Butcher (RB) from Clarendon Financial Services who attended the meeting to provide an update to the Board.

3. CLARDENDON UPDATE

RB provided an overview of the SFCT investment portfolio advising no significant changes were required at the moment. He will return in the autumn to provide a further update.

CG left the meeting a 19:20 due to technical issues.

Action: JL to circulate RBs portfolio summary and recommendations when received.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Fiona Mustarde circulated the following documents prior to the board meeting:

- Board Cashflow Feb 2025
- Draft 2024-25 mid-year review
- Finance Report 2 April 2025

CL **PROPOSED** and MB **SECONDED** the Board Cashflow for February 2025. The Board **AGREED** as correct and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

CL **PROPOSED** and MB **SECONDED** the April 2 Finance Report. The Board **AGREED** as correct and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

KS **PROPOSED** and MB **SECONDED** the draft 2024-25 mid-year review. The Board **AGREED** as correct and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

Action: Board to consider options for bringing a Treasurer onto Board. Board members will approach qualified individuals in the community who may be suitable for the position.

Action: KC to liaise with JL/Calum Martin (CM) to advertise for a suitably qualified treasurer to be co-opted onto the Board. PF or KS to be the main points of contact.

Action: JL to approach SSE regarding grant payment dates.

5. MINUTES

CL **PROPOSED** and MB **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 5 February and MB **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 5 March. These were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

6. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

MB/JL went through the list of actions from the previous minutes:

- FM to prepare Treasury Management policy – Ongoing
- FM to investigate Corporate Liability Insurance – Closed
- KC to send grant award letter and acceptance forms to all recipients – Closed

- JL to provide analysis of student grant allocations over the previous five years to the Board – Closed
- JL/KC to prepare the Minutes from the February Board meeting – Closed
- KC and CM to update the community via email and social media re the delayed Minutes from January & February - Closed
- KC to locate and circulate the Lead Directors roles for 2025 – Ongoing
- JL to seek clarification on what is included within each of the building phases for Errogie Church to be circulated to the Board – Ongoing
- JL to investigate the current heating system at Errogie Church – Ongoing
- JL to seek written recommendations from Mike Lawson (ML) re Errogie Church – Ongoing
- JL to contact both the former CEO and Chair of SFCT regarding the Dodds Park Quantity Surveyor – Closed
- JL to arrange an additional Director’s meeting with an external facilitator. This will focus on planning, including staffing, budgets and funding needs – Ongoing
- MB to contact the former SOSA Treasurer to determine what funds remain – Ongoing.
- Chair and Vice Chair positions to be ratified at the April Board meeting – Ongoing.

SG left the meeting at 20:50.

7. GRANTS

The Board **APPROVED** the following grants:

Large Group Grant:

Boleskine Community Care:

£124,428.63 minus the interim payment of **£12,348.00** received in January 2025, to be paid six monthly over a three-year period from May 2025 to October 2027.

Non-constituted Group Grants:

Wildside Baby & Toddler Group: **£1000.00**

Anna Peterkin (Highland Dancing Group): **£1000.00**

Student Grants:

Jessica Main: **£500.00**

Daisy Ferguson: **£500.00**

Susan Greer: **£500.00**

The Board reviewed the following grants and requested further information prior to approving them:

Constituted Groups:

Stratherrick & Foyers Clay Target Club

Non-constituted Groups:

Monadh Liath a Capella Singing Group

Stratherrick Woodcutting Group

Action: KC to send grant letters to all recipients.

Action: JL to contact unapproved grant applicants to discuss their applications.

8. CHAIR/CEO REPORT & PROJECT UPDATE

The Board reviewed the CEO report prior to the Board Meeting. No questions had been submitted to JL prior to the Board Meeting.

As per the actions of the previous Minutes, the Board are to elect a Chair and Vice Chair. MM had previously notified the Board that she is stepping down as interim Chair and will continue as a director. The Board members present **AGREED** to meet independently to elect a Chair and Vice Chair and JL will be notified of the outcome by Friday 11 April.

A maintenance schedule, including a budget, for all buildings owned by SFCT is currently in development and necessitates bringing in a new staff member to support the current Facilities and Buildings Manager.

JL gave a breakdown of her grant analysis which highlighted how much has been spent to support the community. During the period between 1 July 2020 and 19 February 2025 the SFCT has distributed £448,232 in grants.

A proposal for the CEO interface with the Board was circulated prior to the Board Meeting. Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Action: JL to liaise with Sharon Ferguson, SFCT Fundraiser, to update the community on the proposed purchase of the shop by BCC.

9. COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS REPORT

CL emailed his report prior to the Board Meeting.

He noted that rumours were circulating in the community in relation to Foyers Primary School and advised that care should be taken when talking about a possible temporary license to occupy. The Board confirmed that no discussion about the purchase of Foyers Primary School had ever taken place or even considered by SFCT. It was noted that discussions concerning the ongoing “mothballing” of the school were held at a meeting on 25 March between the Highland Council Education department, teaching staff, and SFCC, and representatives of SFCT. Local parents were invited, however, none were in attendance.

The Board **AGREED** that PF will confirm with Mark Hindley, SFCC Chair, that SFCC are happy to support a temporary license to occupy the Foyers Primary School. If agreement is reached, PF will liaise with the Highland Council.

10.AOCB

Knockie Fund

JL and Calum Martin, SFCT Marketing Officer, met with Ian Bateman, Knockie Fund, to discuss the Knockie Fund de-coupling from SFCT. Subsequently, the application form for hardship grants has been removed from the SFCT website and signposting to their contact details is complete. JL recommended that a grant is allocated, via the small grant scheme, to cover the cost of the Christmas Vouchers.

The Board **AGREED** that an application from the Knockie Fund for a grant to cover the cost of the Christmas Vouchers could be submitted.

MW requested to view the Knockie Fund GDPR Policy. JL stated she had helped them define their policy but does not have or need a copy. The Board expressed no support for SFCT to make this request of another organisation and MW was advised he contact them as an individual member of the community if he wished to see the Policy.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7 May 2025, Wildside Centre/MS Teams

Meeting closed at 22:47

Signed by Chair (MB): _____

Date: _____