



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 30 April 2025

Present Peter Faye (PF); Maire Brown (MB); Mark Sutherland (MS); Michael White (MW); Chris Gehrke (CG)

Apologies Maureen McGuire (MM); Ken Sinclair (KS); Susan Greer (SG); Craig Lightbody (CL); Stewart MacPherson (SM); Malcolm Stewart MMS)

Non-attendance

Chair Peter Faye (PF)

In Attendance Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administrator.

Minutes Kirsteen Campbell (KC).

Declarations of interest:

None

1. INTRODUCTION

- I) PF welcomed the Board and staff members to the meeting. The meeting started at 19:10.

2. MINUTES

The Board acknowledged receipt of the meeting minutes from April 2, 2025, and matters arising from these were discussed.

- I) MB **PROPOSED** and MW **SECONDED** that given the wider community may not be aware of SFCTs de-coupling with the Knockie Fund, a joint SFCT/Knockie Fund post should be prepared and posted on social media to publicise the change. All documents relating to the Knockie Fund should also be removed from the SFCT website. The Board **AGREED**.
- II) MB **PROPOSED** and MW **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on 2 April 25 and these were **AGREED** as a correct record and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

- III) It was also noted that, should SFCT Directors or Staff wish to make enquiries to an external organisation, that is outwith Trust remit, they should do so using a personal email account rather than an SFCT account.

Action: JL to liaise with the Knockie Fund to prepare a social media publication.

Action: JL to ensure all Knockie Fund documents are removed from the SFCT website.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Fiona Mustarde, Finance Officer, circulated the finance papers prior to the Board meeting. These included the following:

- I) Finance Report 30 April 2025.
- II) Income & Expenditure Accounts for the period to 31 March 2025.
- III) Cashflow March 2025

No questions were raised by the Board regarding the finance papers.

4. CHAIR/CEO REPORT & PROJECT UPDATE

The Board noted the CEO and Project reports circulated prior to the meeting.

I) Forest School

All responses received in relation to the purchase of the Forest School at Inverfarigaig were positive and a new business case and budget has been drafted. No significant changes to the original business case were made. The Board **AGREED** for JL to talk to SSE about moving forward with the project.

II) Errogie Church

Concerns were raised about the potential level of costs. However, these have yet to be firmly established via a tender process with further discussion and decisions being made thereafter.

III) Staffing

JL raised the point that Staff capacity is at a maximum. PF requested that any tasks given to Staff by Director's must first go through the CEO. The Board **AGREED**.

Queries arising from the reports were discussed by the Board and the following actions were **AGREED**:

Action: JL to talk to SSE for approval to progress with the Forest School at Inverfarigaig.

Action: JL to contact Andrew Fleming of Fairhurst Engineering, Inverness, to clarify any concerns he has in relation to the septic tank at Errogie Church and to ascertain capacity.

Action: JL to obtain quotations for the works outlined in the plan for Errogie Church.

6. COMMUNITY LIAISON DIRECTOR (CLD) REPORT

- I) The CLD was not in attendance and will send his report following the next SFCC meeting. This was due to the SFCT Board meeting being brought forward by a week.
- II) Prior to the Board meeting, the CLD had requested that the Board discuss the draft role description. It was **AGREED** that this be addressed at the next board meeting.

7. AOCB

I) Loch Kemp

The need within the community for a Compliance Officer to ensure that planning permission is being adhered to was identified and discussed briefly by the Board. This is in relation to Loch Kemp and other large-scale projects and should be in conjunction with SFCC and the Highland Council.

II) Highland Gathering

The Board were notified that everything is going to plan, and all Directors agreed they are happy with their roles.

III) Foyers School

South Loch Ness Heritage Group remain interested in using the school as a base. PF has been in communication with the Highland Council to arrange terms and conditions and has discussed a license to occupy the building for an initial period of 12 months, with a 1 month notice period determinable by either party. PF to investigate costs to be incurred by SFCT including utilities, insurance, and maintenance. Highland Council will remain responsible for the exterior structure and property insurance.

IV) Dodd's Park payment

A grant has been made available to the two new tenants of Dodd's Park to support the lack of flooring, kitchen units, cooking facilities and other basic fixtures and fittings.

This was decided upon following an SFCT visit to the properties, where the lack of any facilities was noted.

Following communication with the Communities Housing Trust on this matter, rather than SFCT purchasing and being responsible for ongoing maintenance, a grant would be awarded, and the tenants would be personally responsible.

This brought about a wider discussion on how much monetary support SFCT should provide new tenants and all Directors present **AGREED** that an improved specification for SFCT Housing properties may be appropriate in the future.

V) CEO Interface

Directors were reminded that the Interface between the Board and CEO has yet to be ratified. Any suggestions or amendments to be sent to the CEO asap.

Meeting ended at 21:39

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8 May 2025 – DTAS Training
9 May 2025 – SFCT Strategy Evening
21 May 2025 – IT Training
4 June 2025, Wildside Centre/MS Teams

Meeting closed at 21:39

Signed by Chair (PF): _____

Date: _____