

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

Wednesday 3 September 2025 at 7pm

Present	Peter Faye (PF); Maire Brown (MB); Lewis Fraser (LF); Michael White (MW); Chris Gehrke (CG); Ken Sinclair (KS); Craig Lightbody (CL); Susan Greer (SG).
Apologies	Stewart MacPherson (SM); Mark Sutherland (MS)
Non-attendance	
Chair	Peter Faye (PF)
In attendance	Jewels Lang (JL) - SFCT CEO; Kirsteen Campbell (KC) - SFCT Administration and HR Officer
Minutes	Kirsteen Campbell (KC)
Declarations of interest	None

1) INTRODUCTION

PF welcomed the Board and Staff members to the meeting which commenced at 19.03.

2) MINUTES

- I) MB noted that Motorcycles should be included in the Driving Lessons section of the previous minutes. KC to update to reflect this change. Application forms and guidelines will be available imminently.
- II) KS **PROPOSED** and CL **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board meeting held on 6 August 2025 and these were **AGREED** by all Board members present as a correct record and were APPROVED by the Chair.

3) ACTIONS

- I) PF and JL went through the SFCT Action List. The following items were discussed and actions updated:
 - 1. JL/PF to action improving the floodlights at Wildside.
 - a. JL to provide quotations received to all directors.
 - 2. MB to contact the former SOSA Treasurer to determine what funds remain.
 - a. PF, MB and KC have all contacted the most recent SOSA President and Treasurer in relation to funds due to be returned to SFCT. To date no response has been received. All directors present **agreed** that a final letter will be sent to the SOSA President and

Treasurer requesting that the funds are returned to SFCT. The funds will then be shared between BCC and the Knockie Fund.

3. JL to investigate the current heating system at Errogie Church.
 - a. MW raised the issue of fuel storage at Errogie Church, and all directors present **agreed** that this should be checked, and any fuel will be removed.
 - b. Tenders have been issued to potential contractors for works to make the building Health and Safety compliant.
 - c. MW raised questions about a recent valuation of Errogie Church that identified some alleged defects including safety concerns with the mezzanine and missing roof slates. These are to be investigated.

II) The following actions were marked as completed and are now closed:

1. KC to seek out any relevant building certificates in the SFCT SharePoint files.
2. JL to arrange a meeting with community stakeholders to discuss how the minibus will be used and what pricing structure will be adopted.

Action: JL to identify if there is any fuel stored at Errogie church, and if so, to arrange safe drainage.

Action: JL to draft letter to be sent to the SOSA President and Treasurer.

4) FINANCE REPORT

- I) LF went through the Finance papers that had been prepared by Fiona Mustarde (FM), SFCT Finance Officer.
- II) PF suggested that the Board further specifically meet to go through the draft Management Accounts and all those present **agreed**. LF to facilitate and KC to arrange.
- III) LF went through the cashflow, and this was **APPROVED** by all Board members present.

5) FOYERS SHOP UPDATE

- I) All directors present **agreed** that SFCT supports the purchase of the shop in principle. However, there are concerns about gaps within the current business plan. To assist Boleskine Community Care (BCC) in their due diligence, all directors present **agreed** to offer funding for a professional business consultant with retail experience to examine the current business plan and identify any shortcomings and improvements that could be made to enable a more informed decision. All directors present **agreed** that a meeting between SFCT Directors, BCC Directors and a representative from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) should be held as a priority.

Action: CL, as a member of Foyers Stores Steering Group, to arrange a meeting between SFCT Directors, BCC Directors, and Carol Masheter, SSE. CL to request BCC share the most recent business plan with attendees prior to the meeting.

- II) JL has been approached by BCC to assist in preparing their SFCT grant application to support the purchase of Foyers Stores. All Board members present **agreed** that this would be a conflict of interests and JL should remain uninvolved in this process.

SG left the meeting at 20:56.

6) SFCT STRATEGY GROUP (SSG)

- I) The SSG, consisting of JL, LF, CG and KS, held their first meeting in August which included a general discussion on SFCT strategy covering the following topics: Financial sustainability; Assets; and social sustainability. A strategy document is currently being prepared and will be circulated to all directors in due course. The next meeting is to be held on 17 September 2025.
- II) MW had previously circulated a Quality Management System (QMS) document with the Board for consideration. The Board discussed engaging such a process and all directors present **agreed** that JL will contact Carol Masheter (CM), SSE, to seek her professional opinion on the document; ascertain if she has worked with other organisation who have implemented such a system, and, if so, are these proportional to the size of SFCT.

Action: JL to contact CM in relation to SFCT engaging in a Quality Management System and to share MWs QMS document with her.

7) EVENTS

- I) Holding regular events throughout the year, such as ceilidhs and informative talks, was discussed by the Board. PF mentioned the upcoming Christmas Ceilidh at the Wildside Centre which is due to take place on 20 December, and all directors present **agreed** that local businesses should be used where possible to provide catering etc.
- II) The number of free events was discussed, and it was **agreed** by all present that these need to be closely monitored, particularly financially.

8) HOUSING

- I) In relation to the bund at Dodd's Park, it was **agreed** by all directors present that no action could be taken.

9) COST OF LIVING AWARD

- I) All board members present **agreed** to a 3.5% pay increase for staff.

10) GRANT GUIDELINES

- I) SFCT grant guidelines have been updated and all directors present **approved** the changes. These will be published along with the updated grant applications forms in due course.

Action: KC to update all grant guidelines and application forms on the SFCT website.

11) COMMUNITY LIAISON DIRECTOR REPORT

- I) CL to provide his report in due course.

12) PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE

- I) All directors present **agreed** to provide personal information requested by the Highland Council (THC) in relation to the Public Entertainment Licence (PEL) for the upcoming Fireworks event. Concerns were raised by some directors in relation to how this information is processed (and was it proportionate) by THC and all directors present **agreed** that JL will contact THC's Compliance Officer in relation to this.

Action: KC to find out THC Compliance Officer details and JL to write to them in relation to the information requested on the PEL form.

13) AOCB

I) SFCT POLICY UPDATE

MW highlighted that the two contact persons on the SFCT Data Protection Policy are out of date. KC and JL are currently reviewing all SFCT policies, and these will be updated on the SFCT website asap.

II) CORKSCREW COMPOUND SITE

Concerns were raised about the management of the SFCT owned Corkscrew Compound site in Inverfarigaig. Suggestions on how this site could be utilised more effectively were floated by the board including the erection of garages or social housing for example. This will be discussed at the next SFCT Strategy Group meeting.

There are currently multiple vehicles being stored without consent from SFCT at the site and all directors present **agreed** that JL will contact the Chair of the Inverfarigaig Residents Group (IRG) in relation to these.

Action: JL to write to the the IRG Chair in relation to the vehicles stored at the Corkscrew compound site.

Meeting ended 22:30.

14) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

SFCT Strategy Group meeting - 17 September 2025 at 7pm.

SFCT Board Meeting - Wednesday 1 October 2025 at 7pm.