



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

Wednesday 5th August 2026 at 7pm

Present	Peter Faye (PF); Maire Brown (MB); Lewis Fraser (LF); Ken Sinclair (KS); Neil Farnham (NF); Tracy McWilliam (TM); Eileen Martin (EM);
Apologies	Graham Bain (GB); Chris Gehrke (CG); Mark Sutherland (MS); Gary McGowan (GM) - SFCC Representative.
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

- a) PF welcomed the Board and Staff members to the meeting which commenced at 19.00.

2) STRATHERRICK & FOYERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SFCC) UPDATE

- a) As no SFCC meeting had taken place in July, GM was not in attendance. The following item was raised for the next SFCC meeting:
 - i) The Aberarder payment is currently on hold because both Strathnairn and Strathdearn Development Trusts' who have to co-sign the MOU are in discussions with SSE over funding conditions. The Board hopes the situation will be resolved in the near future so as to release funding to SFCT.

Action: JL to look at relationship agreement between SFCC and SFCT.

3) MINUTES

- a) KS **PROPOSED** and NF **SECONDED** the Minutes from the Board meeting held on 1 July 2026 and these were **AGREED** by all Board members present as a correct record.

4) **FINANCE REPORT**

- a) LF **PROPOSED** and KS **SECONDED** the Finance Report and these were **AGREED** by all Board members present.
- b) In terms of how SFCT manage cash, LF has now received a proposal from Robert Butcher, Perspective Financial Management and will update the Board at the September meeting.

5) **GRANTS**

a) **Constituted Groups for Community Benefit**

- i) **Stratherrick & Foyers Community Council** - £10,195.00 for Administration and running costs for one year.
 - (1) **Pre-payment Conditions:**
 - (a) Supply signed and independently examined annual accounts.
 - (2) **General Conditions:**
 - (a) That the grant to meet the above purpose will be spent within twelve months of the date of grant award.
 - (b) Any unspent funds to be returned at the end of the period.
 - (c) The applicant will complete and return an SFCT grant spend tracker at the end of the period.
 - (d) Articles(s) and photographs be made available for Stratherrick and Foyers News/Website and social media.
- ii) **Farr Nursery & Primary Parent Council** - £1300.00 for extra-curricular activities for children who reside in the SFCC area and attend the nursery or primary school.
 - (1) **General Conditions:**
 - (a) That the grant to meet the above purpose will be spent within twelve months of the date of grant award.
 - (b) Any unspent funds to be returned at the end of the period.
 - (c) The applicant will complete and return an SFCT grant spend tracker at the end of the period.
 - (d) Articles(s) and photographs be made available for Stratherrick and Foyers News/Website and social media.

b) **Non-constituted Group/Individual for Community Benefit**

- i) **Gary Fentiman** - £639.00 to cover the 'Radioking' subscription cost to allow live broadcasting on Foyers radio.
 - (1) **General Conditions:**
 - (a) That the grant to meet the above purpose will be spent within twelve months of the date of grant award.

- (b) Any unspent funds to be returned at the end of the period.
- (c) Articles(s) and photographs be made available for Stratherrick and Foyers News/Website and social media.

- ii) A grant application received from Rosy Conner on behalf of Creative Ness arts and crafts group has been approved in principal but requires further clarification before final approval. Assessors are to meet with the applicant to discuss further.

c) **Student**

- i) **Roxana Elgar** - £500.00 to support course costs.
- ii) **Alexander MacKay** - £500.00 to support course costs.
- iii) **Lianne McNiven** - £500.00 to help with course costs.

d) **Driving and Motorcycle Lessons**

- i) **Thomas Gilchrist** - £300.00 towards the cost of driving lessons.

e) **Sporting and Excellence**

- i) **Annie Butterworth** - £250.00 towards entry to the Grampian Forest Rally on 7th and 8th August 2026.
 - (1) **Special Condition:**
 - (a) SFCT logo to be displayed on rally car.

6) **SALARY BENCHMARKING**

- a) Salaries have been reviewed against current industry benchmarking and will be adjusted accordingly if necessary. The Board Members present **AGREED** and JL to update Staff members.
- b) The Board members present **AGREED** that salary benchmarking should be undertaken every 3 to 5 years in order to ensure Staff were paid acceptable and appropriate salaries.

7) **COST OF LIVING**

- a) The Board members present **AGREED** to review salary levels annually, based upon September CPI figures, following Central and Local Government practice.
- b) The Board members present **AGREED** to JL looking into a Staff reward system that measures output and performance in a meaningful way.

8) **BONFIRE NIGHT**

- a) Given the outcome of the recent SFCC survey into fireworks, the Board members present **AGREED** that for this year funding transportation to the firework display

in Inverness would be instigated, in lieu of holding the display in Foyers, for community members wishing to attend. Details to follow.

9) **OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT**

- a) KS **PROPOSED** and LF **SECONDED** that JL investigate options for an individual or organisation to devise an Operational Manual for an organisation the size of SFCT. The Board members present **AGREED**.

10) **WILDSIDE CENTRE GYM FACILITIES**

- a) The Board members present **APPROVED** a budget increase of £24,000.00: £22,000.00 for equipment and £2000.00 for running costs for one year. It is hoped that the facility will be operational in September, with usage being monitored to assess demand.

11) **HIGHLIFE GYM MEMBERSHIP SUBSIDY**

- a) The Board Members present **APPROVED** a spend of £7500.00 to subsidise 27 passes for community members to attend the High Life gym in Inverness. If there is a large demand, the Board members present **AGREED** to revisit. Again, uptake will be closely monitored to assess the level of benefit.

12) **ERROGIE CHURCH**

- a) A draft Licence for the Friends of Errogie Church to assume responsibility for the day to day running of the building is currently being prepared. Details to follow and it is hoped to have an agreement in place during August.

13) **FOYERS STORES COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY (CBS)**

- a) A condition of the grant received by Boleskine Community Care (BCC) in February 2026 to purchase Foyers Stores and Café as a community acquisition, which was subsequently transferred to the CBS, includes that Quarterly Reports be submitted covering: Management Accounts; Use of the building; Community Benefit delivered; Any income generated; maintenance undertaken or planned, be supplied.
- b) JL noted that the above were due on 30th June 2026 and to date no Management Accounts have been received.

Action: JL to contact the CBS to seek further clarification on why the Management Accounts have not been provided.

14) **FOYERS BAY**

- a) JL noted that there is £17,000.00 left in budget to finalise works to the slipway. Sorin Bogdan (SB), SFCT Project Co-Ordinator, is currently receiving quotations for the work required and an update will follow in due course.

- b) JL noted that the fence has now been fixed and strimming undertaken.

15) RIVERSIDE FIELD

- a) JL notified the Board that Mike Lawson (ML), SFCT retained Architect is currently creating plans with various options including an informal growing area and flat walking/running track in line with the local environment.

16) CORKSCREW ROAD

- a) JL updated the Board that following a meeting with the Inverfarigaig Residents Group, the vehicles have now been removed from the compound.

17) SFCT VAN

- a) JL notified the Board that the current van lease is up for renewal.
- b) The Board members were informed that the present hire company would charge £18,000.00 (cost for three years) to hire an electric van. JL to investigate alternative hire companies to establish comparable options and establish best value.

Action: JL to investigate and compare the current van hire company with alternative options.

18) THAIN ROAD

- a) SFCT has entered into a pre-contract agreement with MAKAR solely for the management and completion of the site-specific surveys and the preparation of a generic architectural proposal based on the findings of those surveys.
- b) As part of the agreed fee of **£1,000.00** MAKAR will prepare a site-specific design proposal and options, based upon survey results, subject to Board approval.
- c) SFCT will retain ownership of both the survey information and the architectural design produced by MAKAR, allowing these documents to be used as part of any future planning, procurement and tender process.
- d) MAKAR has not applied any markup to the costs of the specialist surveys (Ground conditions, Topographical, Tree and Wildlife) and will pass these costs on to SFCT at cost. These surveys are necessary should the Board contemplate making application to the Rural Housing Fund for grant support.
- e) SFCT has no agreement or commitment of any kind to appoint MAKAR beyond the survey and design stages.
- f) It remains SFCT's intention to procure the subsequent stages of any proposed project through a fair and transparent tender process, in accordance with the Trust's Procurement Policy and the requirements of any external funders.
- g) The total approved cost of the surveys and fees is **£7,005**.

19) **AOCB**

- a) The Board welcomed 2 new Ordinary Members.

20) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- a) Wednesday 2nd September 2026.

Meeting closed at 22:41