

Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council Meeting Hand out
Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council - Public Meeting – 5th August

The Trust agreed at the AGM to listen to the views of the Community and has stated on several occasions since then that a public meeting will be held (please see overleaf). Once the Trust has had a chance to consider the final report which is being prepared from the recent community survey, which is part of this process, a date will be widely published.

We are disappointed that the 21 people that signed the petition do not seem to recognise and understand that the Trust is continuing to evolve in the way it operates and as such there will be further changes to the Articles. Until now, the monies which have been received, although not insignificant, are very small compared to the funds which could be received by the Trust from further developments in the future. We are working strategically preparing the Trust for this eventuality.

The Trust is now a member of the Development Trusts Association Scotland which has over 200 members. A Development Officer, who is providing us with help, advice and support, attended the July meeting and will again be in attendance at the September meeting. In addition to support, our membership also entitles us to e.g. discounts on DTAS publications and training materials, access to the members Insurance Scheme, access to members Legal Advice and access to the Bulk Energy Buying Scheme.

The Trust wants to work with DTAS to ensure that best practice is adopted with respect to how the company is run and how it operates as a community development trust – for example, developing a membership and by improving the openness and transparency through a number of avenues. The Trust has recently received a number of applications for membership which will be considered at the meeting in September when the new Community Council nominated Directors will be present. It has already improved the openness and transparency by placing the minutes on the website, on noticeboards and in key locations, starting a monthly e mail distribution list, taking a full page in the Boleskine Bulletin (we would like more if the Boleskine Bulletin were willing) and working with the wider community by seeking views through the community survey.

As background information to assist the community, Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee and as such must comply with the terms of the Companies Act 2006.

At the present time, the only member of the Company is the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council. Membership of the Company entitles members to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting or to submit a resolution to the Trust, but it does not entitle them to attend monthly Trust Board meetings or to have a say in operational decisions on e.g. grant applications. Under the Companies Act 2006 this is the function of the Directors.

The Directors are attending this meeting as a gesture of goodwill as under the Companies Act 2006 there is a process which should be followed if members want the Trust to consider any item of business. If the current sole member (the Community Council) wants the Trust to consider any item of business, in terms of the Companies Act and under the Articles of Association, it should submit a written resolution to the Trust. The Trust must then within 21 days call a meeting and then hold the meeting within 28 days of the notice.

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The following are extracts from various written communications between March and June 2013. **All** make reference to the public meeting and/or the review of the Articles of Association.

Minutes of March meeting

There was also a discussion on the proposed new Articles of Association. It had been decided over a year ago to review the current Articles as they were difficult to interpret and did not meet the needs of the Trust moving forward. The Review had been a long and difficult process and it was felt that the Trust now had a set of Articles which were fit for purpose at the present time. **Consideration would be given to the view of the community in future changes, particularly the desire for the Trust to be seen as more democratic in the appointment of Directors.**

March Boleskine Bulletin article

At the AGM there was an open discussion about the Articles of Association and the lack of communication about the work of the trust. Therefore a number of actions will be taken forward.

1. The Trust will look at how it can improve its communication and use a variety of methods to ensure everyone is well informed
2. a survey will be sent to every member of the community seeking views on what type of projects should be considered for future funding and
3. **the Trust will hold an open meeting and a lawyer will be present to answer questions about the Articles of Association**

Minutes of April Meeting

It was also **AGREED** that the Secretary would put together a Notice to be placed on the website, on noticeboards and in other appropriate locations to update the community on the plans which were being made for the community survey **and the open meeting.**

Public Notice April 2013

Immediately following the return date of the survey, an informed analysis of the findings will be carried out, allowing the Directors to identify community priorities.

These will be shared and then presented **at a public meeting/forum, as agreed at the AGM,** with opportunities for the community to ask questions of the Directors, their advisers and other organisations such as the Community Development Association.

The Trust will then revise its Action Plan and Strategy in order to develop a new Business Plan **and change other supporting documentation including the Constitution/Articles of Association** if required.

Minutes of May Meeting

It was also **AGREED** that a Logo competition be organised for the **Open day**

Written response to a member of the community in May

The Trust is moving forward on the survey, as you have seen from the public notice and it will also **hold an open meeting to give the Community the opportunity to air their views on the constitution.**

June Boleskine Bulletin article

Over a year ago we began a review of the Articles of Association as they were difficult to interpret and didn't meet the needs of the Trust. This was a long, difficult process but we now have a set of Articles which are fit for purpose at the present time. **The views of the community will be considered in future changes, particularly the desire for the democratic appointment of Directors.**