

Minutes of Trust Meeting 26 5 10

This was a special meeting primarily to consider the new Wade Bridge, Whitebridge application for a lesser programme of repairs to their last application.

1. Present: A. Sutherland, F. Ellam, M. Bateman, S. Ferguson, A. Holt, and Bob Main described the proposed works to the structure on behalf of the applicant. W. Fraser attended the meeting after the main item had been dealt with.
2. The applicants are seeking £9000 towards a total estimated cost of £18,000 to carry out temporary stabilisation of the damaged bridge by pouring or pressurising the inner structure of the bridge with grouting material. There is a degree of uncertainty about the operation until exploratory drilling has taken place into the structure via the upper road surface. The operation will reduce the cost of the larger scale works planned to achieve the total repair package. The bridge will still not be safe to reopen to the public and again neither landowner is prepared to offer any meaningful support. The works have been approved by Historic Scotland and Crudens the consultant engineers for the project.
3. M. Bateman abstained from discussions because of his involvement with the applicant organisation. Following discussion the remaining Directors approved the application and a cheque for £9000 was handed over to the applicants.
4. **Other Matters.** A cheque for £250 was issued to the Boleskine Bulletin for services rendered to the Trust and one for £4 to Stratherrick Hall Committee for hire of the meeting room.
5. S. Ferguson will take the Energy Trust's thermal Imaging Operators one day course.
6. Strathnairn's Care in the Community organisation is interested in expanding its operation following at least 16 enquiries from residents in our area. It would make sense to use an existing organisation to develop the service and I have indicated that the Trust would be interested in supporting this initiative subject to further information.
7. M. Bateman raised the question of the South Loch Ness Trail route choice as contained in their recent planning application for a link between Knockie and Ardoch. He pointed out that the cost of a bridge over the Cumnack burn would be very high and that the alternative through the Knockie/Dell side of the main road might be more feasible although again there would be path construction costs. It was agreed that the final decision regarding costs, practical considerations, and value for money were really matters for the route promoters. Any other concerns regarding the choice of route should be made known by concerned individuals during the planning application process either directly within the time frame for consultation or through Highland Councillors who sit on the Planning Committee. The very interesting point was raised as to the balance between the roles of Trust Directors as guardians

and distributors of funds and the need to reflect local sensitivities regarding submitted projects.

8. It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for the 15th. of June should be deferred given that this meeting had brought us up to date on outstanding matters.

Alex. Sutherland
(Secretary)