



**Subject:** Steering Group Meeting Minutes

**Venue:** Annie's House

**Date:** 22nd January 2026 **Time:** 19:00

**Present:** Jan Dawson - Chair (JD), Jeremy Osborne (JO) - Vice Chair, Ann Wildman (AW) - Treasurer, Andy Sandilands (AS), Bob Gibbons (BG),

**Apologies:** Janie Thomson (JT)

**Issued by:** JO

**Circulation:** Attendees, Apologies

Item	Subject	Action by	Due Date
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies / Introductions</b>		
1.1	JT sent apologies. Catherine Tweedie of CAL cancelled.		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>		
2.1	Previous meeting (dated 11th December 2025) agreed by those present		
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Review of Actions to Date</b>		
3.1	The current Action Log was reviewed and updated. Refer to the action log for status.		
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Treasurers Report</b>		
4.1	It was agreed that we are now mature enough as an organisation to add Treasurers Report as a standing Item. AW will develop a template for use in subsequent meetings	AW	19/02/26
4.2	The balance today is £290.39. This includes the seed fund provided by committee members and the donations received during the drop in event of 16th January 2026. Only expense to date is the costs associated with the website launch which were reimbursed to JT		
4.3	JO will have invoices relating to the drop in event including room hire and printing for leaflets and posters, expected at the end of January - £80.33 for the room and £70.83 for printing (incl).		
4.4	AW to provide support to JO in accessing the on-line banking system.	AW/JO	19/02/26
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Item - Review of S&amp;GCC Collaboration</b>		
5.1	Margot McDonald (MD) has provided her comments on the initial collaboration meeting. JO has reviewed the comments and provided a response to this. All agreed that JO would re-word the 3 minutes such that they would be acceptable to Margot.	JO	19/02/26
5.2	MD provided a meeting record from the last meeting in January. No-one had any material objections to the record. Points to note: The survey was April 2023 and the costing undertaken September 2024. Margot has wrong dates but this is not material.		
5.3	Actions from the meeting: JD to arrange future dates for the collaboration meeting	JD	19/02/26

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5.4	Actions from the collaboration meeting: JO to provide digital copy of full survey and costing documents to S&GCC	JO	22/01/26
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Item - Review of Drop in Event</b>		
6.1	<p>FoSC held a drop in event at Strathaven Library (Powmillon room) on Friday 16th between 1pm and 7pm. The event was a wall display of all the castle defects as identified by the Fairhurst report of April 2023 presented with the cost estimates developed by Armour Cost Consultants in September 2024. Costs had been inflated by CPI of 3.8% to end 2025 prices. The display included a status of the FoSC as well as a plan to conserve the castle remains.</p> <p>The event was very well attended by a complete cross section of the Strathaven community and included people with stories to tell, people wanting to get involved and people who have funds that they are thinking of sharing with us. It was very rare for the venue to be quiet for any period of time.</p> <p>We ended up with over 80 signatures on our supporters register on the night. The register stayed at the library last week and there are now more sheets filled with supporters' names.</p>		
6.2	JO provided a summary of contacts and conversations he had during the day (that he could remember). All present to do likewise and provide to JO for integration into a file note.	All	15/02/26
6.3	JO to scan existing signature sheets for a digital copy and to review all names and comments to provide the group with a summary	JO	19/02/26
6.4	Supporter Signing sheets will be held at the pubs in Strathaven for a week or so, ideally on clip boards with a captive pen. JD to approach the Weavers and The Strathaven for this. AS to approach the Drum.	JD/AS	26/01/26
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Item - Funding Opportunities</b>		
7.1	<p>BG updated the group on the recent Funding Workshop coordinated by Mairi McAllan. This was not really applicable to the Strathaven area but he and AS managed to speak to people and made useful contacts and gained useful information.</p> <p>They spoke to Renewable Energy Fund (REF) contact - Sheila - who advised that FoSC needs to establish the ownership details of the castle and develop sustainable development objectives (a long term plan) to support funding applications. Sheila is not the SLC coordinator for REF but her comments are likely to be reflected by SLC.</p>		
7.2	JO Advised that S&GCC, through Margot McDonald (MD), were pursuing funding through REF at SLC following the drop in event (this through the collaboration agreement). The funding was for the initial project of tree and sapling removal only. MD had established that REF may be able to provide part of the funds with "Kype Muir" providing matched funds for the remainder. BG was sceptical about this and took an action to contact Sheila of REF for clarification of a) if the initial funding application would preclude FoSC applying to REF for a bigger application later and b) how Kype Muir (as a sustainable development fund) provided the funds	BG	19/02/26
7.3	BG to develop a plan to apply for funding and determine if FoSC should apply to REF (and others) to provide the full funding requirement in one go, rather than piecemeal. Following the successful drop in event, this decision is important and urgent.	BG	19/02/26

Item	Subject	Action by	Due Date
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Item - Community Action Lanarkshire</b>		
8.1	Catherine Tweedie of CAL had arranged to join the meeting via Teams but notified us at the last minute that she was not able to join us tonight. CAL has funding to develop Make Your Way maps of local areas which provide walking routes taking in areas of local significance or history. The intention was to advise FoSC about the MYW project and discuss any ways that CAL and FoSC could work together.		
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Item - Website Update</b>		
9.1	JT was not present so no update was available		
9.2	Note that Website is up and running at <a href="http://friendsofstrathavencastle.org.uk">friendsofstrathavencastle.org.uk</a>		
9.3	JT requires a report on the Drop in Event for the news/blog section of the website. JO has drafted something and distributed it for review/comment/edit by the group. Please respond to JO ASAP	All	ASAP
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Item -</b>		
10.1			
11.0	Item -		
11.1			
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Any other Competent Business</b>		
12.1	JD and JO recorded another piece for Les Hogan for his radio show earlier today. This will be broadcast on Saturday. Les has offered to make available the audio files of our interviews for inclusion on our website. JT to advise how to how we do this.		
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Next Meetings</b>		
6.1	The date of the next FoSC committee meeting is Thursday 19th February 2026 at Annie's house. JO to confirm that this date is suitable for his current schedule.	JO	

Agreed and Approved by Jan Dawson, Chair