

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Isla Cuthbert (Zoom)
Robert Kay
Lesley McDade
Ann McKay
Brenda Nicolson (Zoom)
Joan Philip (Zoom)
Rob Polson (Zoom)
Irene Robertson

In

Attendance: Donna MacLaren (for Item 4a)

Apologies – Linda Bailey, Brian Devlin, David Hannah and Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were as noted above.

2 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

3 MINUTE OF 27 JANUARY 2025

The Minute of 27 January 2025 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Seconder: Ann McKay

With regard to the discussion that took place at Item 4(a) about sources of funding, the Chair informed the Board that HSCN was not eligible to apply for the transformation funding held by Highland Council to address adult social care issues.

4 MATTERS ARISING

(a) NHS Funding 2025 - 2026

The Chair reported on his meeting with the Coordinators on 3 February 2025 when they had discussed the financial situation and the possibility of redundancy. The Board acknowledged that the Coordinators would need an indication of when they might be made redundant so that they did not take on work commitments for HSCN beyond that date. Having considered the financial projections prepared by Donna, and taking cognisance of the uncertainty around securing additional funding and of meeting its employer responsibilities, the Board agreed that it had no option other than to issue letters of redundancy to the Coordinators, their last working day with HSCN to be 31 July 2025. The organisation would be able to continue to provide a modified service for a short period of time with the funds that remained after the redundancy payments were made. The business and administrative support services provided by Donna would need to be reviewed once the financial situation and the future operation of HSCN were clarified. HSCN's members, along with partner organisations and statutory bodies, would also need to be informed about the position.

The Board then discussed making an application to one of the National Lottery Community Fund's new funding programmes (Community Action). It was agreed to arrange a further meeting at which the Trustees would consider the key issues with a view to developing a proposal that would meet the objectives of the programme and how it would be delivered, recognising the potential implications for the Coordinators' posts should the application be successful.

5 HSCN Membership

The latest membership figures were noted.

6 TRUSTEES

There were no new applications.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

There were no new issues.

8 NEWS-SHEET

The dates for the production and distribution of the next edition were discussed.

9 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS

No issues were raised.

10 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board noted the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for February 2025. Anne's report outlined the new Zoom and hosting arrangements for the tea-breaks, three of the four monthly chats now being facilitated by a volunteer, while Anne or Jo would facilitate the fourth week, with a guest. Her report also provided a snapshot of the wide-ranging topics of conversation that came up at the tea-breaks. The Board noted the various partnership activities during February including the Toll Project: Remembering Together in Highland Region, and events planned for March among which was the re-launch of the Inverness OpenArts Project.

Jo's report gave details of topics discussed on the Community Connections Radio Show, one of which was the Annat Village Project Exhibitions. She had attended a meeting of NHS Highland Lochaber Redesign Stakeholders following which she had circulated an update on the Moss Park Nursing Home situation to all older people's groups in Lochaber; she would also circulate a progress report on the Belford Hospital replacement project once this was available.

11 TEA-BREAKS – ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

As noted at Item 10, the new arrangements for the tea-breaks were now in place and working well.

12 MEETINGS ATTENDED

There were no meetings attended by Trustees in February.

13 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 17 February 2025.

14 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT

No further talks were planned at present.

15 FINANCE REPORT

The financial report to end February 2025 was noted.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 31 March 2025. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The meeting closed at 11:00