

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,  
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 24 JUNE 2024 AT 10:00**

**Present:** Ian McNamara, Chair  
Linda Bailey (Zoom)  
Isla Cuthbert (Zoom)  
David Hannah (Zoom)  
Lesley McDade  
Ann McKay  
Brenda Nicolson (Zoom)  
Joan Philip  
Irene Robertson

**In Attendance:** Jo Cowan, Coordinator (Zoom)  
Anne McDonald, Coordinator

**Apologies** – Brian Devlin, Robert Kay, Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie, Rob Polson and Councillor Morven Reid

**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 MAY 2024**

The Minute of 27 May 2024 was approved subject to the date of the next meeting being amended to read 24 June 2024.

Proposer: Joan Philip  
Seconder: Isla Cuthbert

**4 MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA**

**(a) Red Chair Highland**

Linda had drawn the Board's attention to a newsletter produced by Red Chair Highland, a social enterprise based in Inverness which ran a digital hub and operated digital outreach services, aiming to provide solutions to issues of digital exclusion in Highland. Noting the various projects on which Red Chair had worked in partnership with other organisations to achieve its aims, the Board agreed that the possibility of HSCN collaborating with Red Chair on a piece of work around digital inclusion, in an area where there was an unmet need, should be explored. Linda undertook to pursue the matter with Red Chair. She also proposed networking with other organisations to discuss the potential for partnership working and exploring avenues for joint funding.

**5 HSCN Membership**

The Board noted the latest membership figures.

**6 TRUSTEES**

The Chair informed the Board of a potential new Trustee.

## **7 MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) Policies and Procedures**

The Chair reported that the review group had met on 6 June 2024 and finalised the outstanding policies, all of which were now available on Google Drive. Trustees should contact Donna if they wished to have a hard copy or an email copy of a policy.

### **(b) 'Time Out' Meeting 10 May 2024**

The Board noted Ann's circulated summary of the discussion that had taken place at the second 'time out' meeting on 10 May 2024 together with a copy of HSCN's Strategy Plan 2022 – 25 which Jo had amended to reflect the points raised during the discussion. The Board approved the revised document.

It had been decided at the meeting that in order to maximise the Coordinators' time, they would only attend every third Trustees' meeting and submit written activity reports to the other two meetings. It was agreed this arrangement would take effect from the next meeting on 26 August at which the Coordinators would be present. Consideration would also be given to alternative venues for meetings provided the necessary technology and support for the Zoom facility was available. With regard to the website, Jo confirmed that she had spoken with Rob and he had agreed to assume responsibility for maintaining and updating it. Isla would continue to put minutes and news-sheets on the website, as at present.

## **8 REGULAR REVIEWS**

### **(a) Risk Register**

There was nothing to report.

## **9 NEWS-SHEET**

The next news-sheet would be issued in early August and would carry details of the AGM. It was noted that the date of the AGM had been changed from Wednesday 11 to Thursday 12 September 2024 and would be held at Inshes Church.

## **10 FUNDING UPDATE**

The Chair reminded the Board that Robert would be preparing some Key Performance Indicators to present to NHS Highland. He advised that a date had not yet been confirmed for the meeting with NHS Highland officers to discuss continuing funding for HSCN beyond March 2025.

## **11 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS – ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

No issues were raised.

## **12 COORDINATORS' REPORTS**

The Board received the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for June. Jo highlighted the well attended Café to Connect gathering held in Newtonmore on 2 June in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland and Badenoch Shinty Memories, and the Highland Pride parade which had taken place in Inverness on 22 June. Anne advised that the tea-breaks had now stopped for the summer, however she would be keeping in touch with some of the regular attendees over this period. The tea-breaks would resume on 15 August. Discussion followed on the possibility of identifying a volunteer to take over the planning and running of the tea-breaks from Anne. Consideration would need to be given to the process that would require to be put in place, including applying for PVG for the volunteer, before any changes could be implemented. Anne then reported on the event held at the University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI) at which the findings of the NHS Past, Present and Future research project had been shared. She had noted some issues with accessibility within the venue and would be following these up with UHI.

## **13 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Reports were received on the following meetings:-

- Joint Monitoring Committee 19 June 2024 (Chair).
- Adult Social Care Planning Group Meeting 20 June 2024 (Chair). The Group had discussed a report about care home collaborative support in North Highland and the resource implications associated with

collaborative care home support arrangements. It was noted that the funding allocated by the Scottish Government for this initiative was on a 12 month basis only.

- Social Prescribing Group (Ann). The Group had held its inaugural meeting, a second meeting was planned for August.

#### **14 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

The circulated minute of the meeting held on 10 June 2024 was noted. As reported at item 9, the AGM and gathering would now be held on Thursday 12 September 2024 at Inshes Church. The Group had considered the format for the day and had suggested an in-person tea-break type of event to which representatives of organisations that had participated in the online tea-breaks, such as Police Scotland, Red Chair, Men's Sheds, would be invited. The Group had also given some thought to potential themes for an event to mark HSCN's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2025, one suggestion being HSCN's Past, Present and Future.

#### **15 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT**

Joan advised that the scams awareness talk planned for today in Skye had been postponed. She hoped to be able to reschedule it for September.

#### **16 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board received and noted the circulated financial statement for June 2024. The annual accounts had now been prepared and sent to our Examiner for scrutiny. Once verified, they would be submitted to OSCR as part of our annual report.

#### **17 AOCB**

##### **(a) Great Wilderness Challenge 17 August 2024**

Reminding the Trustees about the Challenge, the Chair advised that it was still possible to sign up for one of the walks.

##### **(b) Reports/Issues raised by Trustees**

- Linda reported on the HTSI Conference which she had attended on 13 June 2024. Among the speakers at the event was a representative of Morrison Construction. Linda had been interested to hear about the work that the company did in the community to help improve people's lives and had subsequently arranged a meeting with them to learn more about the types of projects they undertook. Anne, who had met previously with Morrison Construction, would join Linda for the discussion with a view to clarifying how they might be able to help older people in the community.

With regard to raising HSCN's profile, Linda suggested producing an article for publication in local magazines. Jo would provide Linda with a snapshot explaining who we are and what we do.

#### **18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 26 August 2024. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

**The meeting closed at 11:15**