

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

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

In Attendance: Jo Cowan, Coordinator
Anne MacDonald, Coordinator
Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie

Apologies – Brian Devlin, Robert Kay

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 28 OCTOBER 2024

The Minute of 28 October 2024 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip
Seconder: Ann McKay

4 HSCN Membership

Reporting the latest membership figures, the Chair was pleased to inform the Board that several new individual and group applications had been received.

5 TRUSTEES

There were no new applications.

6 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Policies and Procedures

The Board noted the pieces of work still to be completed.

7 NEWS-SHEET

Arrangements were in hand for the printing and distribution of the Christmas edition of the news-sheet in early December. Dates for the production and issue of the January 2025 news-sheet were agreed.

8 THREE YEAR PLANNING - FUNDING UPDATE

The Board considered a letter to NHS Highland which the Chair had drafted in response to their offer of funding beyond March 2025. Before finalising the letter, the Board discussed the potential impact that the reduced amount of funding offered for the shorter period of 12 months would have on HSCN's core work of representing older service users and engagement and involvement, taking the NHS to people and people to the NHS through the Get-togethers and other events organised by the Coordinators. The Board also took

cognisance of its responsibilities and obligations as an employer to its paid members of staff and agreed that the funding proposed by NHS Highland would be insufficient to ensure the continuing viability of HSCN. Discussion followed on the vital role played by Third Sector organisations in supporting the statutory bodies to provide and maintain services, and the need for them to be adequately funded. It was acknowledged that there was also an issue with regard to lack of volunteers. In light of the discussion, several amendments and additions were made to the response to be sent to NHS Highland.

9 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS – ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion took place about older people's issues in terms of the health and financial difficulties they might experience and the services they required to meet their changing needs. Councillor MacKenzie stressed the importance of such issues being brought to the attention of the Older People's Champions and had found the Silver Sunday event in the Eastgate Centre in October useful in this regard. Acknowledging older people's contribution to the economy, it was suggested that HSCN approach BID about engaging with local businesses to consider how HSCN might work with them to the benefit of older people. Further consideration would require to be given to this proposal to ensure clarity around what HSCN and local businesses would be aiming to achieve.

10 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board received the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for November 2024. Anne gave details of the interesting topics discussed at the Tea-breaks during the month. She reported on events and meetings attended including the Fortrose Academy Community Café, Dementia The Musical at Eden Court Theatre, and a discussion with the National Trust for Scotland Engagement Officer, Walk with Wellbeing Group in Torridon regarding HSCN membership, scams talks, Tea-breaks and future links. On 7 November the Mid Ross Community Partnership had held a networking event which had provided Anne with an opportunity to speak to many different organisations. She had also had a conversation with pupils from Dingwall Academy regarding the Youth Philanthropy Initiative and their bid for funding on behalf of HSCN. She confirmed that a new coordinator for the Royal Highland Hotel Sunday Lunch Club had been appointed.

Jo highlighted a successful Café to Connect in Kingussie on 17 November. She also referred to discussions that were taking place around the need for a Dementia Meeting Centre in the area. The Lochaber Get-together on 18 November had been well attended, and representatives from various organisations including Police Scotland, Highland Council Tenant Participation and NHS Highland Technology Enabled Care had also been present.

11 TEA-BREAK ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

The Chair outlined the revised arrangements for the Tea-breaks to take effect from January 2025. It was intended that each month one Tea-break would be facilitated by a Coordinator and a guest speaker would be invited to participate, while HSCN members would facilitate the other three Tea-breaks. Anne confirmed that she would be pulling together a rota for this purpose; she would also ensure that the forms consenting to data access were signed.

12 MEETINGS ATTENDED

Reports were received on the following meetings:

- Strategic Planning Group 12 November 2025 (Chair).
- Joint Monitoring Committee Development Meeting 15 November 2024 (Chair).

13 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT

No presentations were planned at the present time.

14 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board received and noted the circulated financial statement for October 2024.

15 AOCB

(a) Moss Park Care Home Update

Jo advised that the action group LAMP (Lochaber Action for Moss Park) would remain active pending a decision on the future of Moss Park Care Home.

(b) Care Home Olympics

The Board noted that the three prizes had now been presented to the winners of the photographic competition.

(c) Great Wilderness Challenge

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked the Great Wilderness Challenge for their generous grant.

(d) HSCN Festive Break

The dates proposed for the festive break, 20 December 2024 - 6 January 2025, were agreed. A notice to this effect would be included in the Christmas news-sheet.

(e) Trustee Activity

Joan reported that she and Linda were participating in a research project looking at patient and public involvement. They would keep the Board informed of developments.

(f) Warm Spaces

Linda reported briefly on progress with this initiative. She would provide a fuller update at the next meeting.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 27 January 2025. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The meeting closed at 11:40