

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH, INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 26 JUNE 2023 AT 10:00**

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

**In**

**Attendance:** Jo Cowan, Coordinator (Zoom)  
Anne McDonald, Coordinator  
Councillor Bill Boyd (Zoom)  
Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie (Zoom)

**Apologies** – Brian Devlin, Bet McAllister, Donalda Mackenzie and Brenda Nicolson

**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 NEW MEMBERS**

The Board approved the 10 new individual applications received.

**4 NEW TRUSTEES**

There were no new Trustees.

**5 MINUTE OF 29 MAY 2023**

The Minute of 29 May 2023 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip  
Secunder: Isla Cuthbert

**6 MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Policies Review**

Isla reported on the current position with regard to the review of HSCN's policies. It was agreed that a small working group comprising of the Chair, Isla, Irene and Robert would now go through each of the documents and make any further amendments as necessary.

**(b) Members' Survey of HSCN Priorities 2023 - 2025**

It was agreed that the survey would be issued separately rather than including it in the next news-sheet mailing.

## **7 REGULAR REVIEWS**

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

Robert undertook to maintain the risk register and update it as and when existing issues were resolved and any new risks were identified by the Trustees.

### **(b) Highlights and Success Stories**

It was remitted to Robert to draft a document for the purpose of recording HSCN highlights and successes.

## **8 NEWS-SHEET**

The Board agreed the dates for the production of the next news-sheet which would carry details of HSCN's Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held on 13 September 2023. The news-sheet would be issued in the week beginning 14 August in order to comply with the requirement to give at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting.

## **9 FUNDING UPDATE**

There was no progress to report with regard to identifying sources of funding.

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

Further to the issues raised at the last meeting regarding bus travel in Highland, Councillor Boyd updated the Board on his ongoing discussions with the bus company. In considering how to take the matter forward, the Board agreed in the first instance to include an item in the next news-sheet inviting members to let HSCN know of their experiences of bus travel and any difficulties they were encountering. It was felt that there was a need for an integrated transport system for the Highland area, and that service sustainability and reliability were key. Councillor MacKenzie informed the Board that she had been invited to attend a meeting being run by Transform Scotland, a registered charity based in Edinburgh that campaigned on issues regarding sustainable transport and encouraging improved transport policies and practice. She would have an opportunity to speak at the event and could highlight the issues discussed on behalf of HSCN.

## **11 COORDINATORS' REPORTS**

The Coordinators' circulated activity reports for June 2023 were noted. This had been another busy month, with a growing number of get-togethers being held. Anne reported on the volunteering event that had taken place on 6 June. While attendance had been low, the event had provided a useful opportunity for networking with other organisations. The challenges in recruiting volunteers at the present time were acknowledged.

## **12 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Reports were received from Trustees on meetings attended as follows:

- End of Life Care Together 31 May 2023 (Chair)
- Joint Monitoring Committee 15 June 2023 and 21 June 2023 (Chair)

## **13 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

The Board noted the circulated minute of the Communications Group meeting held on 19 June 2023.

## **14 HSCN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 13 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Arrangements for the event had now been finalised.

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

Joan reported on the scams awareness presentations that she and Robert had given to date to a range of groups. The presentations continued to be very well received and people attending the sessions were willing to share their experiences of scams. Other issues were also being raised and it was suggested that some earlier pilots, for example Stay Safe, might usefully be revived. It was agreed to seek members' views on the topics they would like to be covered.

## **16 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board received and noted the circulated financial statement for May 2023. Referring to the increase in expenditure, the Chair explained that the Coordinators were incurring more costs now that the get-togethers had resumed.

## **17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(a) Great Wilderness Challenge 12 August 2023**

The Chair reminded the Trustees that anyone wishing to support HSCN's Team could now donate online. Paper sponsorship forms were also available.

### **(b) Promoting HSCN**

Discussion took place on ways of promoting HSCN during which a suggestion was put forward to provide pens bearing the HSCN name at events such as get-togethers and the annual conference. Funding would need to be identified for the purchase of the pens and their branding. There was also some discussion on the provision of cold caller stickers. It was agreed to give further consideration to these issues at a future meeting.

## **18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 28 August 2023. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.