

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 26 MAY 2025 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Robert Kay
Lesley McDade
Ann McKay
Joan Philip
Rob Polson
Irene Robertson

In

Attendance: Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie

Apologies – Linda Bailey, Isla Cuthbert, Brian Devlin, David Hannah and Brenda Nicholson

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 APRIL 2025

The Minute of 28 April 2025 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Seconder: Robert Kay

4 MATTERS ARISING

(a) National Lottery Funding Application

The Board gave further consideration to the two key questions on the funding application – (i) how will the project be managed, and (ii) what resources will be required. Discussion followed on line management arrangements for new employees and reporting mechanisms to ensure the project remained on track. The Board then discussed a revised budget sheet detailing estimated project costs. Some suggestions for reducing the project costs were put forward; the Board would also need to commit to finding funding to meet other costs and would continue to explore potential sources.

5 HSCN Membership

The latest membership figures were noted.

6 TRUSTEES

There were no new applications.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

No new issues had been identified.

(b) Highlights/Success Stories

Covered in the Coordinators' reports at Item 10.

8 NEWS-SHEET

The news-sheet - the last issue pending the outcome of our funding applications - would be ready for distribution within the next few days. The Chair reported that he had submitted an application to the Henderson Logie Trust for a grant to support the continuation of the news-sheet. Rob also undertook to look at

software packages to assist in the production of a news bulletin to help keep HSCN's members informed and connected.

The Chair confirmed that a Civic Reception would be held in the Town House, Inverness on Friday 20 June 2025 from 14.30 – 16.00 to mark HSCN's 30th anniversary. It was agreed that an invitation to attend the reception would appear in the news-sheet. Brian and Councillor MacKenzie kindly agreed to speak at the event.

9 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS

Councillor MacKenzie referred to changes being made to the existing joint integrated care arrangements between the Highland Council and NHS Highland following which the Joint Monitoring Committee would become an Integrated Joint Board. It was noted that the new Parklands care home would be opening on 13 June 2025. Discussion took place on the cost of placements in care homes and the various means by which people paid for them, including the use of personal assets and Self Directed Support.

Councillor MacKenzie updated the Board on the switchover to digital telephones and the potential difficulties that some clients in receipt of telecare services might experience. She also referred to the Radio TeleSwitch Service (RTS) switch-off scheduled for 30 June 2025. Concerns were being raised that electricity suppliers would not be able to replace all RTS meters by this deadline resulting in a considerable number of customers' heating and hot water services not functioning as normal.

10 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board noted the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for May 2025. Jo's report highlighted the first Café to Connect in Carrbridge, arranged by Badenoch Shinty Memories Group in partnership with HSCN, and the Community Connections Radio Show broadcast on 2 May 2025. The report gave details of meetings with a range of groups and individuals supporting participation and making connections, including Lochaber Action for Moss Park. The care home was now operating under Highland Council ownership with NHS Highland responsible for running it. A public meeting was planned for 30 May 2025 to feedback to local residents and allow for questions. On 21 May 2025 Jo met with a representative of the Care Inspectorate to discuss engaging with relatives and residents around ambivalent noise/sounds in care homes.

In her report, Anne confirmed another successful round of tea-breaks with guest speakers from Inverness Openarts and Home Energy. A Highland based podiatrist would be joining the tea-break on 29 May 2025 to answer questions on foot care and when to seek help. On 20 May 2025 a Mid Ross Older People's Get-together had been held in Dingwall in partnership with Age Scotland and Highland Council Tenant Participation to discuss activities for older people, and it was hoped that further such events could be arranged. It was noted that HSCN was to be given two of the Covid memorial bells bearing inscriptions written by HSCN members.

11 MEETINGS ATTENDED

There were no meetings attended during the month.

12 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Board noted the minutes of meetings of the Communications Group held on 19 May and 9 June 2025, the National Lottery funding application being the main topic of discussion.

13 FINANCE REPORT

The Board noted the circulated financial report which set out the drop in HSCN's income over the next 12 months without additional funding being secured.

14 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(a) HSCN Annual General Meeting 2025

It was agreed that the arrangements for the AGM would be finalised after the summer break.

(b) HSCN Equipment

The Board discussed the various pieces of equipment used by the Coordinators. It was agreed that Anne should hold onto the audio loop system meantime provided HSCN could access it as and when required. It was also agreed that Anne should continue to use the printer until its lease expired in March 2026. Arrangements would need to be put in place for handling all the phone calls coming in to HSCN which the Coordinators currently dealt with.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 30 June 2025. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The Chair reminded the Board that the meeting will be followed by a buffet lunch, hosted by Joan, to thank Anne and Jo for their commitment and dedication to HSCN over the years and their invaluable contribution to the work of the organisation.

The meeting closed at 11:10