

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,  
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2025 AT 10:00**

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

**In**

**Attendance:** Councillor Morven Reid

**Apologies** – Brian Devlin, Lesley McDade, Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie and Councillor Thomas MacLennan

**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 25 NOVEMBER 2024**

The Minute of 25 November 2024 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Secunder: David Hannah

**4 ELECTION/RE-ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

The current Office Bearers were all re-elected for the year 2024 – 2025 as follows:

*Chair:* Ian McNamara

*Vice Chair:* Joan Philip

*Treasurer:* Robert Kay

*Media & Communications Officer:* Brian Devlin

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) NHS Funding 2025 - 2026**

Reporting on the meeting that had taken place with NHS Highland officers on 13 January 2025, the Chair informed the Board that there was no change to the original offer of reduced funding for the shorter period of 12 months. After discussion, the Board agreed to accept the offer and would continue to seek additional funding from other sources. The Chair referred to transformation funding that was available from the Highland Council to address adult social care issues. Councillor Reid undertook to clarify whether HSCN would be eligible to apply for this. The Chair reported on his correspondence with a representative of the National Lottery Community Fund about two new funding programmes – Community Action and Fairer Life Chances, which HSCN might consider pursuing. The Board agreed that these options should be explored and remitted to the Chair to take this forward. Approaches to other organisations for support such as Age Scotland, Community Partnerships and local businesses were also suggested. The Board then discussed the financial projections prepared by Donna for the next financial year which took into account HSCN's responsibility for employee redundancy payments should these require to be made during 2025 – 26. The Chair advised that he would be meeting with our Coordinators on 3 February to discuss the impact of the financial shortfall on their posts. In the event that HSCN was unable to fund the Coordinators' posts beyond 2025, the Board would

need to consider its future operation and whether it could continue to provide an effective voice for older people and represent older service users. HSCN's membership would also need to be informed about the financial position and the implications for the viability of HSCN beyond 2025.

## **6 HSCN Membership**

The latest membership figures were noted.

## **7 TRUSTEES**

There were no new applications.

## **8 MATTERS ARISING**

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

Robert reported that there were no new issues to be added to the Register.

## **9 NEWS-SHEET**

The January edition was being finalised and would be available shortly for printing and distribution.

## **10 COORDINATORS' REPORTS**

The Board noted the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for December/January detailing meetings and events attended. Anne's report also highlighted the change to the Tea-break format commencing in January.

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

There were no issues raised.

## **12 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

There were no meetings attended by the Chair in November. He reminded the Board of the meetings he had participated in during December; these were the Strategic Planning Group meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the Joint Monitoring Committee Development Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. He reported that the Joint Monitoring Committee was evolving into a Joint Integrated Board. Robert confirmed that he would be happy to stand in for the Chair at meetings of this group as required.

Ann updated on the work being done by the Social Prescribing Group which had developed a publicity video and was now looking for appropriate channels through which to let people know about it and promote social prescribing. It was agreed that an item would be included in a future news-sheet.

## **13 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 13 December 2024. A date for the next meeting had not yet been set.

## **14 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT**

Joan reported that a talk had been confirmed for 1 April 2025.

## **15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 24 February 2025. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

**The meeting closed at 11:00**