

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Isla Cuthbert (Zoom)
Robert Kay
Lesley McDade
Ann McKay
Brenda Nicolson
Joan Philip
Irene Robertson

In

Attendance: Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie

Apologies – Linda Bailey, Brian Devlin, David Hannah, 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 31 MARCH 2025

The Minute of 31 March 2025 was approved. With regard to the closing date for submission of the National Lottery funding application, the Chair explained that as he had been editing the document on a regular basis keeping it live, the deadline had been extended to early August.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Seconder: Ann McKay

4 MATTERS ARISING

(a) National Lottery Funding Application

The Board considered the paper prepared by Jo detailing the discussion that took place at the Communications Group meeting on 21 April 2025 around the two substantive questions on the Community Action Fund application –

- (i) what would HSCN like to do and why?
- (ii) what outcomes does our project achieve?

Along with Jo's paper, the Board also discussed a budget sheet drawn up by Anne setting out the estimated costs of the proposed project and general running costs incurred by HSCN. Further work required to be done to ensure the project and its aims were clearly defined. Consideration also needed to be given to projected costs and how these could be managed within the amount of funding that the Board was seeking. The Board also discussed a proposal to offer Anne a part-time consultancy role, tapping into her extensive knowledge and experience, to support both the Board and the new members of staff to be recruited to facilitate the project. The Board agreed in principle to the establishment of a consultancy role.

5 HSCN Membership

The latest membership figures were noted.

6 TRUSTEES

The Chair reported that there were two potential new Trustees.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

No new issues had been identified.

8 NEWS-SHEET

The copy date for the next news-sheet was 19 May 2025, to be ready for distribution around 26 May 2025. This would be the last issue to be produced pending the outcome of our National Lottery funding application.

9 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS

Councillor MacKenzie highlighted several issues including the shortage of accommodation for key workers, particularly those in the care sector, coming into the area. The impact of growing numbers of holiday lets on the availability of affordable housing was acknowledged, and it was suggested that there was a need to review current legislation to address this issue.

10 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board noted from Jo's circulated report for April 2025 that Talk Lochaber, Lochaber's Talking Newspaper service, was fully operational again, new volunteers having been recruited. She also referred to the NHS Highland Technology Enabled Care Roadshows taking place across Highland which were providing opportunities for networking and sharing information. Anne's report gave details of various activities with partner organisations during the month and some forthcoming events. It also highlighted Inverness Openarts input to the Tea-breaks.

11 MEETINGS ATTENDED

There were no meetings attended during April 2025.

12 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 21 April 2025.

13 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT

Joan reported on two recent presentations she had given.

14 FINANCE REPORT

The financial report to end March 2025 was noted.

15 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(a) Highland Pride 2025

The Board confirmed that HSCN would be pleased to participate in this year's Highland Pride event which was scheduled for 7 June.

(b) HSCN Annual General Meeting 2025

It was suggested that the AGM be held in June along with an event to mark HSCN's 30th birthday. Further discussion would take place at the next Communications Group meeting with regard to organising and publicising the event.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 26 May 2025. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The meeting closed at 11:15