

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2024 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Linda Bailey (Zoom)
Robert Kay
Lesley McDade
Ann McKay
Joan Philip
Rob Polson (Zoom)
Irene Robertson

Apologies – Isla Cuthbert, Brian Devlin, David Hannah, Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie, Brenda Nicolson, and Cllr 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 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Minute of 30 September 2024 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip
Seconder: Ann McKay

4 HSCN Membership

The Chair was pleased to report that several new membership applications had been received following the Silver Sunday event on 6 October 2024 at the Eastgate Centre, Inverness.

5 TRUSTEES

No new applications had been received.

6 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Policies and Procedures

There were still a couple of forms to be produced along with a Trustees Handbook.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

Robert advised that no new risks had been identified. Funding limitations and succession planning remained the two major issues.

(b) Highlights and Success Stories

- The Annat Village gathering on 9 October 2024 had been a resounding success. The Project Group had expressed their thanks to Jo for her involvement, and had acknowledged HSCN's support for their venture. A report would be included in the news-sheet.
- The Silver Sunday event on 6 October 2024 in the Eastgate Centre, Inverness had also been successful, providing an excellent opportunity to attract new members and network with a range of organisations.

8 NEWS-SHEET

The dates for the production and issue of the Christmas edition were agreed. Arrangements for the first issue in the new year were discussed.

9 THREE YEAR PLANNING - FUNDING UPDATE

The Trustees expressed concern that a decision had not yet been received from NHS Highland regarding HSCN's request for continuing funding beyond March 2025, particularly as the last tranche of NHS funding had now been received. It was agreed that the Chair would write to NHS Highland to ask for an update on the position. It was noted that Third Sector organisations who had submitted applications for NHS funding had hoped to have a decision by the end of September but they were also waiting to hear the outcome of their bids.

The Board then considered Parklands Care Homes' invitation for funding applications to work in partnership with local charities, starting in 2025 with the potential for longer term collaboration, with a view to strengthening its support for good causes across the North and North-East. The closing date for applications was 22 November 2024. After discussion the Board agreed to seek further information about this initiative and clarify whether the kind of projects that HSCN might undertake aligned with Parklands' values and aspirations.

10 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS – ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

No issues were raised.

11 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board received the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for October 2024. Anne's report gave details of the tea-breaks held during the month. Alternative arrangements were under consideration for volunteer hosts to facilitate the tea-breaks in order to free up Anne's time for her core work. The issue of data sharing and protection needed to be addressed and Anne had drafted a procedure for this purpose. Her report also provided details of meetings and events attended during October and planned activities in November.

Detailing the various meetings and events she had attended in October, Jo highlighted the Annat Village gathering as a very special event, making happy memories for over 100 older people. Her report also gave details of the work being undertaken by the action group LAMP (Lochaber Action for Moss Park) which was campaigning to save Moss Park Care Home in Caol from closure. With regard to get togethers, it was noted that an event had been planned to take place in Lochaber on 18 November 2024.

12 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The circulated minute of the meeting held on 21 October 2024 was noted.

13 MEETINGS ATTENDED

There were no meetings attended by Trustees during October.

14 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT

Joan was looking into the possibility of giving a presentation to a group on Skye. Rob highlighted some recent scams relating to cost of living and winter fuel payments.

15 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board received and noted the circulated financial statement for September 2024. The Chair confirmed that the final tranche of funding from NHS Highland had been received.

16 AOCB

(a) Care Home Closures including Moss Park, Caol

Further to Jo's report at Item 11, the Chair noted the meetings that were taking place with the Minister and MSPs about the imminent closure of Moss Park Care Home. He advised that LAMP would be holding a rally outside Highland Council Chambers in Inverness on 31 October which he invited Trustees to join in support of the Action Group. There was also an online petition raised by LAMP which Trustees could sign as a further indication of HSCN's support in this matter.

(b) Community Celebration Event, Town House, Inverness – 23 November 2024

An invitation had been received from Glynis Campbell-Sinclair, Provost of Inverness and Area for a representative of HSCN to attend a civic buffet in the Town House, Inverness on 23 November 2024. The event would be hosted by the Provost and members of the City of Inverness Area Committee in recognition of the contributions made by local people to the communities in which they live or work. It was agreed that Irene would attend on behalf of HSCN.

(c) Care Home Olympics

Arrangements were in hand with Scottish Care for HSCN to present the prize-winning Care Homes in the Olympics Photo Competition with their cheques. The dates for the presentations had been agreed and Trustees were nominated accordingly to present the prizes at each of the three venues.

(d) Warm Spaces

Linda spoke to her proposal for a Warm, Safe Spaces initiative providing free, accessible places specifically for older people aged 60+ to go and spend time during the winter months. Setting up the warm spaces would involve engaging and collaborating with local businesses and other local organisations, and using a mix of communication channels to publicise and promote the warm hubs. Linda indicated that she would be willing to act as the main contact for the initiative in terms of organisation and coordination. An evaluation could be undertaken at the end of the project to assess its impact on the health and wellbeing of those who made use of the service as well as potential benefits to participating organisations. The Board confirmed its support for Linda in taking this initiative forward.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 25 November 2024. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.