

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 10:10**

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

In

Attendance: Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie

Apologies – Linda Bailey, Brian Devlin, David Hannah and Rob Polson

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 ELECTION/RE-ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2025 – 2026

Ian was unanimously re-elected as Chair. He informed the Board that he had canvassed the current Office Bearers, noted below, prior to today's meeting and they had all confirmed their willingness to continue in post during 2025 – 26:

- Vice Chair: Joan Philip
- Treasurer: Robert Kay
- Communications Officer: Brian Devlin

4 MINUTE OF 25 AUGUST 2025

The Minute of 25 August 2025 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Seconder: Isla Cuthbert

5 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Funding Applications

The Chair summarised the position regarding the funding applications HSCN had submitted, all of which had unfortunately been unsuccessful. The National Lottery Community Action Fund had directed us to their Awards for All programme, however the amount of funding available under this initiative would be insufficient to support our proposed project. HSCN had also looked into SSEN's funding programmes but it was felt that what we were seeking to do did not fit with their aims and we would not therefore be making an application. The Board would now need to consider how to spend the funds it had left, including the second tranche of funding from NHS Highland. It was suggested that continuing to produce our news-sheets would maximise the use of this funding, enabling us to keep our membership connected and informed. The Board would also need to consider whether the organisation could continue to be an effective advocate, engaging with and involving its membership and the wider Highland population, without paid employees. In the short term, it was agreed to ask our former Coordinator, Anne MacDonald, to produce news-sheets for us at an appropriate level of remuneration. Tea-breaks would also continue to be held, and the scams talks would remain available to groups. It was further agreed that the next Board meeting, on 27 October, would be devoted to discussing the

way forward for HSCN in terms of what it could realistically deliver on its own/working in partnership, acknowledging the difficulties it and other charities were facing with regard to funding and recruitment of trustees and volunteers. Ann agreed to chair the session and asked all Trustees to submit their views to her in writing in advance of the meeting. An invitation would be extended to both our former Coordinators to attend.

6 HSCN Membership

The latest membership figures were noted.

7 TRUSTEES

There were no new applications.

8 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

There were no new risks identified, funding and succession planning remaining the major challenges for the organisation.

9 SERVICE USER REPRESENTATION

There was discussion on the changes being made to working arrangements between NHS Highland and the Highland Council and the need to ensure effective older service users' representation on the emerging Joint Integrated Board.

10 HSCN POLICY REVIEW

The Board noted the current position.

11 TEA-BREAKS UPDATE

The Tea-breaks had resumed after the summer break. Numbers participating were variable from week to week.

12 MEETINGS ATTENDED

The Chair and Joan reported on the Intersectional Stigma of Place-based Ageing meeting held on 15 September 2025 at which Councillor MacKenzie had been one of the speakers.

13 SCAMS PEER TALKS

There were no further talks booked for the rest of the year. To date, one presentation was planned for the new year.

14 FINANCE REPORT

The Board noted the circulated financial report to end of August 2025.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 27 October 2025. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The meeting closed at 11:35