

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH, INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 29 MAY 2023 AT 10:00

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Isla Cuthbert
Brian Devlin (Zoom)
Lesley McDade
Ann McKay
Joan Philip
Rob Polson (Zoom)
Irene Robertson

In

Attendance: Jo Cowan, Coordinator
Anne McDonald, Coordinator
Councillor Bill Boyd (Zoom)
Councillor Isabel MacKenzie

Apologies – David Hannah, Robert Kay, Bet McAllister, Donalda Mackenzie and Brenda Nicolson

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 NEW MEMBERS

The Board approved the five new individual applications received.

4 NEW TRUSTEES

There were no new Trustees.

5 MINUTE OF 24 APRIL 2023

The Minute of 24 April 2023 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip
Seconder: Isla Cuthbert

6 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Policies Review

Isla gave a brief update on the position and confirmed that work was continuing on the policies requiring further amendment.

(b) Members' Survey of HSCN Priorities 2023 - 2025

It was noted that some additional questions were to be included in the survey.

(c) Three Year Work Plan

The Chair fed back on the Trustees' meeting held in the Merkinch Community Centre on 9 May 2023 to consider the way forward for HSCN. There was discussion around HSCN's role, its aims and objectives, and risks and their impact on the organisation's ability to achieve its goals. Reference was made to

HSCN's relationship with Age Scotland. The importance of working in partnership with Age Scotland and other organisations was acknowledged, particularly with regard to opportunities for sharing good practice and learning, and complementing each other's work.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

Further work required to be done on the risk register to identify actual and potential risks, assess their severity and consider the action to be taken to resolve/mitigate them.

(b) Highlights and Success Stories

It had been agreed that a document would be created to record HSCN's highlights and successes. In this regard it was noted that three scams awareness presentations had been delivered to groups which had been well received. Joan and Robert were following up on a number of issues and questions raised at the meetings. An article had appeared in the last news-sheet to inform HSCN's membership about the pilot. Other means of publicising it more widely were discussed.

8 NEWS-SHEET

Following a very interesting discussion at a recent tea-break on unused medicines and their disposal, it was agreed to include an article on this topic in the next news-sheet. It was also put forward as a potential subject for a future awareness raising initiative.

9 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS – ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Issues raised included cold calling and bus services. The effectiveness of cold caller stickers was noted, but it was also felt important to continue to get the message out to vulnerable people on how to deal with cold callers and be able to verify that they were genuine representatives of the organisations they claimed to work for. With regard to bus travel, it was agreed to include an item in the next news-sheet inviting members to share their experiences of the service and any issues they had encountered. Further consideration would then be given as to how to take the matter forward.

10 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Coordinators' circulated activity reports for May 2023 were noted. Anne and Jo gave details of various events and meetings they had attended during the month, and the range of topics discussed/issues raised. It was acknowledged that people were still hesitant about attending in-person gatherings, and it was difficult to predict whether or not there would be a good turn-out at such events.

11 MEETINGS ATTENDED

Reports were received from Trustees on meetings attended as follows:

- End of Life Care Together 26 April 2023 (Chair)
- Age Scotland Expert Friends 10 May 2023 (Chair)

12 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Board noted the circulated minute of the Communications Group meeting held on 15 May 2023.

13 HSCN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Key speakers had been confirmed, and the programme for the conference would shortly be finalised. Some further discussion took place regarding reception/registration arrangements on the day.

14 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board received and noted the circulated financial statement for April 2023.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Great Wilderness Challenge 12 August 2023

The Chair reported that donations to support HSCN's team could now be made online.

(b) Highland Pride 22 July 2023

Jo confirmed that HSCN would run a stall jointly with Age Scotland at this event.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 26 June 2023. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.