

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 30 JUNE 2025 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
David Hannah
Robert Kay
Lesley McDade
Ann McKay
Brenda Nicolson
Joan Philip
Irene Robertson

In

Attendance: Jo Cowan, Coordinator
Anne MacDonald, Coordinator

Apologies – Linda Bailey, Isla Cuthbert, Brian Devlin, Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie 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 MINUTE OF 26 MAY 2025

The Minute of 26 May 2025 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Seconder: Robert Kay

4 MATTERS ARISING

(a) National Lottery Community Action Funding Application

The Chair informed the Board that he and Irene had completed and submitted this application. HSCN would be notified of the outcome around the middle of September, in the meantime we would continue to explore other funding opportunities. In this regard the Chair reported that he and Irene had applied to the People's Postcode Trust for a grant to support the production of the news-sheet. A decision on this application would be made at the end of July.

5 HSCN Membership

The latest membership figures were noted.

6 TRUSTEES

There were no new applications.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

No new issues had been identified.

(b) Highlights/Success Stories

The civic reception held in the Town House, Inverness on 20 June 2025 to mark HSCN's 30th anniversary had been a successful and enjoyable event.

8 NEWS-SHEET – FINAL CUT

The Coordinators had agreed to pull together a final edition of the news-sheet for issue at the end of July highlighting the activities they had been involved in over the past decade on behalf of HSCN.

9 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS

The Chair raised the issue of imminent changes to certain bus routes and timetables and the impact of these changes on people who depended on the bus service, for example, for getting them to work, attending appointments and social activities.

10 HSCN POLICY REVIEW

The Chair updated briefly on the meeting of the Policy Review Group held on 17 June 2025. There were still a few pieces of work outstanding.

11 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board noted the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for June 2025. Referring to the civic reception to mark HSCN's 30th anniversary, Anne highlighted the presentation given by two members of the Dingwall Academy team who had been successful in securing funding under the Youth Philanthropy Initiative with HSCN as their nominated charity. She updated on the arrangements for the Tea-breaks/Brew & Blethers which were now being facilitated by HSCN volunteers (trustees and members). She confirmed that one of our members would receive a Covid memorial bell, the second bell would go the Highland Folk Museum.

Jo reported that two successful Highland Pride marches, supported by HSCN, had taken place. With regard to Lochaber Action for Moss Park, Jo confirmed that a public meeting had been held on 30 May 2025 to provide feedback to local residents on the current position and future arrangements for the care home. Jo then reported on several pieces of ongoing work, including the Café to Connect (Badenoch Shinty Memorial Group) initiative, and suggested ways in which HSCN could have continuing input into these projects. The replacement of Belford Hospital was now into the final design stage for completion by 2028.

Further to the discussion at Item 8 about the content of the final news-sheet, it was also proposed to include a list of contacts for organisations and individuals with whom the Coordinators had worked significantly to ensure HSCN members had access to relevant information and support. It was noted that Highland Citizens Advice Bureaux were running a project to raise awareness and uptake of pension credit and other allowances to which people in receipt of pension credit were entitled. In this connection reference was made to dementia services and support for carers of people living with dementia. Details of the dementia resource centre in Inverness which ran monthly group meetings would be included in the news-sheet.

The Coordinators agreed to amend HSCN's information leaflet, including removing their contact details. Arrangements for responding to telephone calls and emails after 31 July 2025 were discussed and agreed. With regard to assets, the Board agreed that the Coordinators be gifted the pieces of equipment they currently held, on the understanding that HSCN could access these if required. The lease for the printer would expire on 31 March 2026 and the company would be contacted 30 days prior to that date to arrange handover.

12 MEETINGS ATTENDED

There were no meetings attended during the month. It was noted that the Joint Monitoring Committee meeting scheduled for 12 June 2025 had been cancelled due to problems with the IT system.

13 SCAMS PEER TALKS

No new requests had been received. It was agreed to include a reminder about the talks in the news-sheet.

14 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Board noted the minute of the Communications Group meeting held on 9 June 2025.

15 FINANCE REPORT

The Board noted the circulated financial report to end May 2025.

16 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(a) HSCN Annual General Meeting 2025

The Chair was preparing his annual report for the Annual General Meeting which it was proposed to hold in September, the date to be confirmed.

(b) SOPA (SCOTTISH OLDER PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY)

Brenda, who along with Jo was HSCN's contact with SOPA, reported that the organisation had recruited more new trustees and would shortly be up and running again. It was agreed that Brenda would continue to act as our contact while Jo would let SOPA know that her last working day with HSCN would be 31 July 2025. Other organisations with whom our Coordinators had been involved would also need to be informed about their departure and alternative contact arrangements.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 25 August 2025. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The meeting closed at 11:20