

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 31 MARCH 2025 AT 10:00**

Present: Ian McNamara, Chair
Isla Cuthbert (Zoom)
David Hannah
Lesley McDade
Ann McKay
Brenda Nicolson
Joan Philip
Rob Polson (Zoom)
Irene Robertson

In

Attendance: Jo Cowan, Coordinator
Anne MacDonald, Coordinator

Apologies – Linda Bailey, Robert Kay, Brian Devlin, Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie 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 24 FEBRUARY 2025

The Minute of 24 February 2025 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip

Seconder: Ann McKay

4 MATTERS ARISING

(a) National Lottery Funding Application

The Board considered a paper prepared by Jo to aid discussion on the way forward for HSCN following the redundancy of the two Coordinator roles and the need for clear plans for continued interaction with its members, stakeholders, planners and decision makers. Detailed discussion also took place on the funding application currently being worked on for submission to the National Lottery Community Action Programme, the closing date for which was 12 May 2025.

5 HSCN Membership

The latest membership figures were noted.

6 TRUSTEES

The Chair reported that there was one potential new Trustee.

7 REGULAR REVIEWS

(a) Risk Register

There was nothing to report.

8 NEWS-SHEET

The news-sheet for April/May had just been issued, the dates for the production and distribution of the next edition were agreed.

9 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS

There were no issues raised.

10 COORDINATORS' REPORTS

The Board noted the Coordinators' circulated activity reports for March 2025. Jo highlighted the Toll: Remembering Together Project about the impact of Covid 19 on Highland communities. She had attended a showing of the film made about the project in Caol Community Centre on 14 March, and was promoting the event to groups in Lochaber. She was pleased to report that the local talking newspapers service would be continuing, volunteers having been identified to take it on.

Anne had also attended a showing of the Toll Project film in Wick and noted that HSCN would house one, and possibly two, of the engraved bells. Detailing the topics discussed at the tea-breaks during March Anne reminded the Board about the new arrangements whereby three tea-breaks were facilitated by a volunteer and the fourth tea-break was hosted by a Coordinator or Trustee with a guest. As Anne now had a list of guests, the Board agreed that they could be invited to take part in tea-breaks facilitated by volunteers. Inverness Openarts were restarting their creative sessions at Inverness Creative Academy and were introducing a new online access option to enable those who were unable to attend in person to join in the activities. Anne then reported on her meeting with residents and relatives at a care home in Wick to discuss the impact of ambivalent noise on people with advanced dementia. The results of the consultation had been shared with the Care Inspectorate who had subsequently designed training for staff to support this issue.

11 MEETINGS ATTENDED

Joan had attended the Joint Monitoring Committee held on 18 February 2025 on behalf of the Chair.

12 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The Board noted the minute of meeting of the Communications Group held on 17 March 2025.

13 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT

Joan advised that a talk was planned for 1 April 2025.

14 FINANCE REPORT

The financial report to end March 2025 was noted.

15 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(a) Dingwall Academy Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Anne informed the Board that the team who had put forward HSCN for the £3,000 funding available under this initiative had been successful. They had suggested that the donation be used to hold an event in Dingwall to celebrate HSCN's 30th birthday. Other options would also be explored. The Board was grateful to the team for its support.

(b) HSCN Blog

One of HSCN's members had contacted Anne about the possibility of creating a Blog to provide a platform for older people to share views and voice concerns. The Board supported the proposal and agreed to include an article in the next news-sheet to gauge members' interest. Anne would update the member accordingly.

(c) Printer

The contract for the printer which Anne currently used would expire in March 2026. As she would not require the printer after July 2025 she agreed to look into possible uses for it beyond that date until the contract expired.

(d) HSCN Information Leaflet

The information leaflet would require to be amended as it contained references to the Coordinators. Anne agreed to make the necessary changes to the document.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 28 April 2025. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The meeting closed at 11:40