

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND SENIOR CITIZENS NETWORK HELD AT INSHES CHURCH,  
INVERNESS AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 10:00**

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

**In**

**Attendance:** Jo Cowan, Coordinator  
Anne McDonald, Coordinator

**Apologies** – Councillor Bill Boyd, Brian Devlin, Robert Kay, Donalda Mackenzie, Councillor Isabel MacKenzie, Councillor Thomas MacLennan

**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**

No new applications had been received.

**4 NEW TRUSTEES**

There were no new Trustees.

**5 MINUTE OF 30 JANUARY 2023**

The Minute of 30 January 2023 was approved.

Proposer: Joan Philip  
Secunder: Isla Cuthbert

**6 COORDINATORS' REPORTS**

Anne and Jo gave details of their activity during February. In person meetings were picking up again, however attendance at events remained low as people were still reluctant to go out. It was noted that younger people had also been significantly impacted by Covid. Several new, mostly community-led, organisations were starting up. Issues arising for groups included transport and funding. The tea-breaks were proving very successful, with a wide range of topics being discussed.

**7 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

The Board noted the circulated minute of meeting held on 20 February 2023 at which the Communications Group had discussed HSCN's website and information leaflet. Work was ongoing to simplify the website and make it easier to navigate. The information leaflet needed to be updated and the Chair asked the Trustees to give some thought to its format and content.

## **8 HSCN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023**

The Chair was pleased to report that a contribution had been received from the Common Good Fund to help towards the costs of the event.

## **9 RISK REGISTER**

The Board agreed to set up a small working group to develop a risk register covering, for example, succession planning, gaps in Trustees' skills and experience, and funding. It was remitted to the group to draft an outline for discussion at the next meeting.

It was suggested that it might also be useful to have a document recording HSCN's performance against its work plan and positive outcomes achieved.

## **10 POLICY REVIEW**

Isla gave an update on progress with the policy review. She then explained the process that had been developed to enable Trustees to access the policies, and other relevant documents, online, on a read only basis. An Employee Handbook had been produced, a handbook for Trustees was also being developed.

Robert had undertaken to review the policies on a regular rolling basis. He felt that several of the policies needed further revision to ensure they were fit for purpose and he would make arrangements for the necessary work to be done.

## **11 NEWS-SHEET**

The next news-sheet would be issued at the end of March 2023. To help inform future work planning, it was agreed to send a survey out with the news-sheet asking members what mattered to them and what they felt HSCN's priorities should be.

## **12 THREE YEAR WORK PLAN 2022 - 2025**

Funding opportunities were continuing to be explored.

## **13 OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS – ISSUES TO DISCUSS**

There were no issues raised for discussion.

## **14 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Reports were received from Trustees on meetings attended as follows:

- Community Partnership Meeting 7 February 2023 (Robert).
- Community Justice Third Sector Forum 23 February 2023 (Robert). It was noted that the Community Team would be holding a conference on 17 March 2023 which Trustees may wish to attend.
- Joint Monitoring Committee 24 February 2023 (Chair).

## **15 SCAMS AWARENESS PEER SPEAKING PILOT**

Joan confirmed that the presentation was ready, and arrangements now needed to be made to roll it out. It was agreed to put an item in the news-sheet to publicise the initiative.

## **16 FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

## **17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(a) Great Wilderness Challenge 2023**

The Chair reminded the Board that this year's event would be held on 12 August.

### **(b) Highland Pride 2023**

Jo informed the Board that Highland Pride would be taking place in Inverness on 22 July 2023, after a three year break. She raised the possibility of HSCN doing something jointly with Age Scotland and would explore this proposal further.

**(c) Mental Health Act – Compulsory Treatment Orders**

Lesley brought the Board's attention to changes to the Mental Health Act in relation to compulsory treatment orders (CTOs) and the length of time an individual could potentially remain on a CTO.

Discussion followed on care provision in general. It was suggested that the Board have an online meeting specifically to consider the issues and how they might be addressed.

**18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be held at Inshes Church, Inverness on Monday 27 March 2023. The Zoom facility will be available for members who cannot attend in person.