

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of AGM held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Iain Thomson, Chair (IT), Andrew Mackay, Treasurer (AMK), Jamie Dick, Vice Chair (JD), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), Sandy Allison (SA), Catherine MacDonald (CM), Steven Maclean (SM)

Apologies: Louise Skinner (LS), John Sutherland (JS), Donna Gilchrist (DG), Kaye Hurrion, Chair LDCI (KH), Alison Magee and Robert Johnstone, LDCI

Also attending: Highland Councillor Michael Baird

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above.) Chair Iain Thomson opened the meeting.

Item 2. Adoption of minutes of last AGM. The minutes of the AGM held on 4th May 2022 were adopted as a true and accurate record; proposed: Iain Thomson, seconded: Andrew Mackay.

Item 3. Chairman's report. (IT) **Bird Hide** – thanks to Steven for pushing forward with this after the disappointing outcome with SSEN. Thanks also to Michael Baird for securing funding from the discretionary Ward fund which will enable the bird hide and paths to be maintained in the immediate future. Perhaps the CC can look at more secure long-term funding for the maintenance programme. We have managed to remove the rates liability for this building so at least we don't have that cost each year.

Website. thanks Jamie for continued maintenance of this and all seems to be working fine.

Lairg CC Logo – thanks to Kirsten and all others involved that we finally have our new logo!

New Contract with FS Thanks to Chris, Andrew and Stephen we have a more flexible agreement with Foundation Scotland that should allow us to provide more support to young people who are trying to live and work in the community.

Care and Wellbeing Project – at last work has started on this project. Although it is very much a building site it already looks better than what has been there in the past years, and I am sure this project will bring many benefits to the local community. Well done and a big thanks to Kaye and her team for all their hard work over the past few years.

Thanks to all community council members for their work and support.

Thanks to Donna for keeping tabs on our spending.

Thanks to our elected members and ward manger and staff who have provided support to us throughout the year.

Thanks to Mary for all her help again this year. After many years of helping to keep us in check and making sure that Lairg Community Council operates correctly, efficiently and legally Mary has decided to hang up her laptop and have a bit more time for herself. Mary has been a rock to Lairg CC and our neighbours and has made meetings and processes very easy for us amateurs to get through. Even though she may have had to give us a wee push sometimes to get things done on time, she has always done this in a way that has made it easier to respond to – I can think of a few bosses I've had who could have learned a thing or two about people management from Mary!

Item 4. Secretary's report. As an elected member JY has been secretary but with the duties mostly carried out for the CC by MG who was thanked for this. MG confirmed her previously stated decision to retire from working for the CC after this meeting is completed. In his report the Chair recorded the CCs thanks to her for her help and support over the years, since 2009, but especially during his Chairmanship. This was echoed by the previous Chairs present and the members. It was agreed that between now and the next meeting, currently scheduled for August, that the CCs must find a replacement to take over from that meeting. MG indicated her willingness to meet her replacement to aid the handover if requested.

Item 5/6. Treasurer's report/Adoption of accounts. The annual Lairg CC accounts have been audited again by Ashley Poole who was thanked for conducting the audit and preparing the accounts in the manner required by THC. The current figures were presented at the monthly meeting immediately following the AGM.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Andrew Mackay, seconded by Iain Thomson. The accounts will now be submitted to the Ward Manager to trigger the payment of the annual admin grant. **DG Action.**

Item 7. Election of office bearers. The outgoing office bearers stepped down and Cllr Baird assumed the Chair to conduct the elections, the results of which were as follows:

Position	Proposer	Seconded
Chair: Iain Thomson	Andrew Mackay	Sandy Allison
Iain Thomson accepted the position.		
Vice Chair: Jamie Dick	Jackie Young	Catherine MacDonald
Jamie Dick accepted the position.		
Treasurer: Andrew Mackay	Iain Thomson	Jackie Young

Andrew Mackay accepted the position but with /Donna Gilchrist continuing to undertake the day-to-day handling of the accounts under the supervision of the Community Council.

Secretary: VACANT – see Item 4 above.

Donna Gilchrist was asked to remain in post as the day-to-day **Treasurer** responsible to Andrew Mackay. Donna Gilchrist had accepted the post by email.

Catherine MacDonald was reinstated as a co-opted member with Steven Maclean as an Associate. Iain Thomson then assumed the Chair to conduct the rest of this and the following monthly meeting.

Item 8. Any other competent business relevant to the AGM.

Iain Thomson then assumed the Chair to conduct the rest of this and the following monthly meeting. MG raised the question of the Lairg CC files in her possession, dating back to before her involvement in 2009. It was agreed to confirm with the Ward Manager how far back the records must be retained and what arrangements can be made for their archiving. There being no other relevant business this meeting closed at 7.50pm.