

# **Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Benefit Organisation (SCIO)**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022 held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

### **Present:**

**Trustees:**                    **Gordon Robertson (Chair)**                    **Lynne McSherry**  
   **Margaret Robertson (Treasurer)**                    **Douglas Fraser**  
   **Jenifer Walker (Secretary)**                    **Steven Webster**

**Members:**                    **Pauline Fraser (Minutes)**                    **Phillip Arkell**  
   **Jacqueline Brodie**                    **Carlo Cabrelli**  
   **Beryl Cabrelli**                    **TJ Baird**  
   **Fiona Leiper**                    **Victor Laidlaw**  
   **Alastair MacGregor**                    **Joanna MacGregor**  
   **Suzanne MacDonald**                    **Iain Munro**  
   **Clive Moore**                    **Jenny Moore**  
   **Peter Peacock**                    **Robin Pope**  
   **Alex Rennison**                    **Alex Rose**  
   **Lizzy Rose**                    **Jenny Nalder**  
   **Hugh Robertson**                    **James Wallace**  
   **Donna Wallace**

**Joined 8.00 p.m.**                    **James Cook**                    **Jimmy Craigie + 1**  
   **Jean Ford**                    **Sandy Ford**  
   **Barbara Hartwell**                    **Cawdor Toddler Group (2)**

**Item 2 Apologies:**                    **Jim Docherty**                    **Suzanne Docherty**  
   **Jamie MacLaren**                    **Alison Innes**  
   **Charlie Flett**                    **Bob Thomson**  
   **Cathy Meredith**                    **Rowena MacWilliams**  
   **Anne Rennison**                    **Vanessa MacGregor**

Chair Gordon Robertson welcomed all to the meeting.

### **Item 3: Minutes of Previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous meeting held via Zoom on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved, proposed by Margaret Robertson, seconded by Alastair MacGregor.

### **Item 4: Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

There were no Matters Arising.

### **Item 5: Chair's Report**

‘A very warm welcome to everyone who has come to the AGM of the Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Benefit Organisation tonight. The Trustees meet formally four times a year to appraise applications, but we hope it is clear to all members, that we are happy to advise and guide whenever the need arises.

Our website is in the process of being upgraded to ease its use, and to provide news in a timely manner. The opportunity of an informal get together following this short meeting is a positive move and I am sure it will be productive and fun.

Margaret Robertson our Treasurer will give you details of all the awards Winds of Change have made in the last relevant financial year, and the funds that are available for new applications. I will not duplicate what she is about to tell the meeting, but I can confirm that we have continued to support many worthwhile projects at Cawdor Primary School, equipment for the Cawdor Bowling Club and local children's play parks.

Happily we are aware of further applications which will feature the school, connectivity, access routes and more, and we are grateful to all potential applicants for carrying out the necessary financial appraisals before their submissions. We continue to encourage worthwhile community projects.

We still await the final details of the Tom Na Clach wind farm extension. We will of course share this news with you as soon as we have it, and will value your thoughts on the best use of the funds available.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for giving their time and continued commitment. Thank you also to Pauline Fraser for her continued excellent minute-taking.

#### **Item 6: Treasurer's Report – Year 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Small Awards made during the period above:

Cawdor Primary School (Total: £3,406.30)

- Nine small awards were made which included badminton/multi-sports/football training, equipment, help with the cost of swimming buses, theatrical production, artist workshop, the Singing Kettle, orienteering and early level garden

Other Small Awards (Total: £2,381.54)

- £120 to Community Council for play park
- £300 to two junior footballers for training
- £450 to three junior rugby players for a trip
- £812.94 for village plants and also village upkeep
- £500 to Cawdor Tots
- £198.60 to C&WNCC for defibrillator signs

Large Awards made during the period above: (Total: £14,457.68)

- £730 to Kilravock Estate for paint for the play park
- £2,102 to Cawdor Community Council for play park
- £2,000 to Cawdor Primary School to assist with Loch Inch trip 2022
- £9,625.68 to Cawdor Bowling Club for equipment

Other expenditure during the period above: (Total: £810.42)

- £300 donation in lieu of Minutes Secretary wages
- £54 for advertising
- £45.99 for purchase of recorder for meetings
- £104.74 for accountancy fees
- £271.03 for Zurich Insurance payment
- £34.66 for administration costs

**Income from Nanclach Ltd for Community Benefit to year end September 2021: £63,207.61**  
(Paid 04/10/2021)

**Income from Nanclach Ltd for Community Benefit to year end September 2022: £67,009.29**  
(Paid 28/09/2022)

**Bank balance at the end of the above period: £148,328.67**  
**Bank balance at 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023: £134,359.17**

Formal Audited Accounts for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 will be posted on the Scottish Register of Charities (Charity Commission) site once they have been audited and approved by Ritson Young, Chartered Accountants, Nairn

### **Item 7: Election of Office Bearers**

Trustees are required to stand down, but are eligible to stand for re-election. All agreed to do so and remain in place as Trustees; Office Bearers will be elected at the next Trustees meeting. Gordon said there are currently six Trustees; if anyone is interested in becoming a Trustee there is space for one more.

Meg Robertson nominated by Gordon Robertson, seconded by Lynne McSherry;  
Gordon Robertson nominated by Meg Robertson, seconded by Steve Webster;  
Jenifer Walker nominated by Meg Robertson, seconded by Gordon Robertson;  
Dougie Fraser nominated by Jenifer Walker, seconded by Steve Webster;  
Lynne McSherry nominated by Steve Webster, seconded by Gordon Robertson  
Steve Webster nominated by Gordon Robertson, seconded by Jenifer Walker

### **Item 8: AOB**

Members were invited to ask questions or make comments.

Gordon explained the role of the Trustees is to encourage applications, assess and assist with them where required, not to make applications themselves. The Organisation is well-funded and those present were invited to make large scale applications to make use of the current funds, and also future funds which will become available following the wind farm extension. There is one ongoing, with the provision of improved internet access for the Rigoul area. The Trustees have a duty of care to provide a balance between awarding funds and long-term retention and possible investment of funds. Fiona Leiper said an overhaul and upgrade on the website will enable more information to be readily available to members and the community. Richard Jones said there has always been a vision to retain or invest some funds to ensure the longevity of the scheme beyond the 25 year span of the agreement. Peter Peacock commended the extensive help given to the school, but also raised the subject of long term sustainable housing to enable those young people to remain in the area in the future. Perhaps funds could be used to assist with ‘topping up’ other forms of help and funding for affordable housing. Trustees agreed that it is an important point and certainly one which should be considered as funds increase; however it would need the full co-operation of Community and local Councils, and Cawdor Estate for example as the local land owner. Joanna MacGregor, whilst agreeing that of course local housing was essential, it was also imperative that local infrastructure – schools, roads, medical facilities, emergency services etc, all of which are under intense pressure - must improve before any further building can be encouraged. Steve reminded the meeting that there are strict limitations on what the funds can be allocated to; it cannot be used for projects which should be the responsibility of the Highland Council for example, and it has to benefit the community within the Benefit Organisation’s boundaries. Alex Rennison praised the provision of the new foot and cycle paths around Croy and Clephanton. He enquired about the possibility of their extension from Cawdor to Nairn, possibly in conjunction with Nairn River Community Council. Alex Rose said there is scope

for extending the paths, but it all takes time. Currently there is work ongoing to link the play parks in Croy and Clephanton. It is feasible to connect to Nairn, and it can be done with considerably smaller budgets than building new roads. The leverage benefit fund awards can provide to procure matched funding, such as from Paths for all, is invaluable. Alex also stated that apart from the funds, he would like to highlight the hours of hard work donated by volunteers; in particular he mentioned Sandy MacLean from Clephanton who worked unstintingly on the footpaths, and two students from Nairn Academy who volunteered their labour as part of their attainment of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Alex Rennison suggested the possibility of a path through the fields following the B9090 rather than along the river, the line of which can eat into paths as previously noted. It was agreed that the road is the busiest it has ever been and impossible for pedestrians; Steve said there was no reason why the organisation would not support a path scheme application, but there would be a lot of work co-ordinating the project application and liaising with landowners

There being no further business, Gordon closed the meeting at 8.00 p.m. and invited all present to enjoy the refreshments.