

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held at
Elphin Community Hall
Saturday, 3rd August 2024 at 19:00

Present: Ann O'Keefe, Andy Venters, Lynn Jeffreys, Simon Jeffreys, Linda Leith, Gemma Leith, Helen O'Keefe, Gabriel Moyne, Kay Charlton, Stuart Charlton, Chris Rothnie, Tessa Dorrian

Quorum required is a minimum of 5% of the members which is 6 so that was achieved.

Proxies Received: Ingo Syllwasschy, Josie Rothnie, Rosie Christmas, Will Curwen, John Sanders

Apologies: Hilda Van der Vinne, Russell Pursey

Welcome and Introduction:

Andy Venters welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending, then declared the meeting open at 19:07.

Approval of Minutes of last AGM: The minutes of the last AGM held 29th April 2023 were unanimously accepted.

Activities Report: Presented by Andy Venters

Here are the activities of ELKCAL and the hall 2023

It was a slow start to the goings on at the hall, without the usual Burn's Supper or Curry nights.

Once again this year had its share of losses in the community with the passing of Susan's dad Jimmy. Jimmy and Jeanette were regulars at our events with Jeanette helping out with the stalls. Also, sadly we lost Helen McQueen. Helen was one of the original board members when we started in 2010 and was quite a character and a regular at our events and the craft market. Helen was followed early in 2024 by her partner Steve. They will be missed by everyone in the community.

Susan and Craig Ross left the area when Craig headed to Lewis to start a keepers job out there. Susan was on the board for 10 years and famous for her pates and running the children's activities with Jeanette.

The craft group made good use of the hall throughout the year. Craft group and other community members also made the woollen wall hanging you can see in the hall.

The summer and ELKCAL's annual events kicked off with the Summer Fete which was a great day with lots of activities to get everyone going. The activities were entertaining to the locals, visitors and participants alike.

The markets started up again in April on a weekly basis and most weeks had a full uptake of tables. All in all, it was a good year for the stall holders and as such extended well into October again. The 2-day Elphin Winter Festive Fayre was well attended by vendors and patrons.

Chicken Day was another great day, even without live chickens. Great turn out of people with plenty of entries for the competitions and was not too shabby weather wise. We had all the usual activities Chuck a Chicken (not real), throw an egg, toss a coin, tombola, egg competitions, etc. We also had different competitions such as photos of chickens and hand-

made chicken models to replace the live chicken competitions and we had chicken costume competitions and as a finale we had the human 'Chicken Race' which was an interesting spectacle! We had Tessa's and Jane's trailer for the burgers which worked well and had the teas, coffees and cakes inside with some seating for people to sit and relax.

The Grampian Speleological Club (Cavers) had a weekend of displays and talks with an opportunity to experience a trip into some of the local caves.

We had our well attended Christmas Dinner at the start of December with excellent food and company. We then had a music/ceilidh night at the end of December with some wonderful music from local musicians and lots of merriment and chat to see the year out.

The outside lighting has been replaced with a grant from Energy Saving Trust. We had a day of general maintenance with painting and other small repairs. Heating is the main item on the agenda for improvement and possibly some solar PV in the future. We are continuing with our endeavour to buy the hall and grounds under the Community Asset Transfer, which is making progress but will be a while until completed.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and look forward to the year ahead.

Andy Venters
Chair of ELKCAL

Financial Report:

The financial report has been examined by an independent auditor and was passed unanimously.

Election of Directors:

Directors stepping down from the Board are Sian Curley and Kate Woodsford, both of whom have indicated that they are unwilling to stand for re-election.

Nominations for the post of Director were received for Josie Rothnie, Noelle Pierce and Richard Brown and they were approved unanimously so they will join the current members of the Board.

Amendment of the Constitution

As part of ELKCAL obtaining full legal ownership to the Community Hall, Highland Council require us to qualify as a community body in their terms.

The Formal resolution is

“To add as new clause 12A to the Articles of Association as follows:-

12A Minimum Number of Members

12A.1 The minimum number of members is 20.

12A.2 In the event that there is a reduction in the number of members to 19 or less, the directors may not conduct any business other than to enable the admission of sufficient business to ensure that there are 20 or more members once more or, failing that, to apply to wind the Company up.”

This special resolution was passed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of members taking part in person or by proxy vote.

Any other Business:

- Hall Purchase
There was discussion about the purchase of the hall. Simon asked about funds to pay for the legal expenses and Stuart reminded the meeting that there was a promise by Highland Council, at the time of the initial leasing, that they would pay for any legal costs incurred in getting the land titles organised. This will be investigated up by the Board.
- Simon proposed a “vote of thanks” to the Board for the work they have done, which was supported by the meeting.

Andy then thanked everyone for attending the meeting

Meeting closed at 19:25