

SLCVO Annual General Meeting 2022

DRAFT Meeting Notes

15th November in person and online meeting

Present

Directors: Peter Urquhart (Chair), Clive Pearson, Jryna Batters (Treasurer) Julie Mace, Diane Van Rutienbeek, Calum Munro, Siobhan Barker, David O'Donnell

Staff: Jo Ford (Chief Officer), Sammy-Jo McArthur, Claire Nairn

Member groups in attendance:

- Broadford and Strath Community Council,
- Broadford and Strath Community Company.
- Church of Scotland Mission and Ministry Development
- Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh, Skye Stroke Friends,
- Eilean Ban Trust,
- Isle of Skye Ferry CIC,
- Kilmuir Community Trust,
- Lochalsh Community council,
- Lochalsh Youth Community Trust,
- Portree Community Centre,
- Rag Tag and Textile,
- Sluggans Woodland Park,
- Skye Bible Church
- Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel,
- Skye Stroke Friends,
- Skye for All,
- Viewfield Garden Collective,

Others in attendance: HLH Youth Development Officer

Apologies: Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle club, Portree Youth Club

AGM Opened: The Chair opened the AGM by welcoming everyone present.

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising: The minutes of the 2021 AGM meeting were agreed as being a true record.

There was one matter arising. The quorum for an AGM was not changed from 10 members to 5 as per the 2021 AGM. This will now be part of the regular review of the memorandum and articles of association.

Proposed by Clive Pearson and seconded by Julie Mace.

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Presentation of Annual Report:

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all and thanking the office staff for all their hard work throughout this year. He noted Jim Towers has stepped down from the Board and Siobhan Barker is a new trustee.

Jo Ford, Chief Officer, gave an overview of the annual report and highlighted the following:

- The befriending service has grown, supporting the settlement of three Afghanistan families in the area as well as starting a community re-engagement project with Trust Housing in Portree to connect residents of Shulishader Beag with each other and the wider community
- The team continued to deliver the Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) commissioned services providing 218 instances of support to 150 third sector groups. We worked alongside NHS and the Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Community Partnership to bring the voice of the third sector to the planning and development table as well as launching our third sector profile for the area which details the numbers and types of groups registered with OSCR and Companies House operating across the area
- We have launched two third sector bulletins for the area one for Skye and Raasay and one for Lochalsh and Wester Ross. We hope these will lead into in person activities next year.
- Volunteering has been very slow to recover after covid and have seen more groups struggling to get volunteers

Presentation and Adoption of Annual Accounts:

All those present received a copy of a balance sheet for the year ending 31 March 2022 and Jo Ford confirmed the full accounts are now on the website.

Jo Ford, gave an overview of SLCVO finances. Designated funds are £85,000 to cover 6 months operating costs and redundancies as the HTSI contract remains on an annual rolling basis. We have received funding from the NHS and Highland Council for the befriending service.

CP commented that the HTSI funding is typically short term and what SLCVO need is a longer term funding package to enable us to make plans. J Ford supported this saying if we had 3 to 5 year funding we would be able to look at getting more staff and probably a part-time development office in Wester Ross but annual funding restricts this.

PU stated SLCVO are in a lucky position with our reserves and property however it does not take long for this situation to change.

The Chair welcomed questions from members of which there were none.

The Annual Accounts were adopted, proposed by Clive Pearson and seconded by Calum Munroe

Appointment of Accountants:

It was agreed SLCVO will remain with Donald Rankin.

Retirement, Election and Appointment of Directors:

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Jo Ford, explained every year board members are required to step down however can stand again for appointment. Everyone was happy to stand again and all were unanimously voted as trustees including:

Peter Urquhart
Clive Pearson
Dr Di van Ruitenbeek
Jryna Battersulie Mace
Calum Munroe
Siobhan Barker
David O'Donnell

Any Other Competent Business:

SLCVO Chair asked groups attending if they would be happy to give an update of their activities.

Liz from Skye Bible Church SCIO stated they have used SLCVO a lot however, in the next year they will cease being a SCIO in their own right and will merge with the main church body. As it is quite challenging being a small church SCIO to take on all the responsibilities of employment and they will probably benefit from being part of a larger organisation.

[Skye Bible Church](#) | [Portree](#) | [Facebook](#)

Jim from Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel explained they are a very small group but the work they do is very important. Most of the work is done by their auditor Dr Caroline Gould. They have find it hard to recruit new volunteers but, are still active due to SLCVO helping with administration services
<https://www.disabilityscot.org.uk/organisation/skye-lochalsh-access-panel/>

Helen from Rag Tag and Textile noted the group are doing well with funding for two new tutors and expansion to the NHS contact so they are able to offer more places. They have completed a fashion show in collaboration with Counselling care Skye and Lochalsh and the board want to take this forward as an annual event. The Rag Tag Board are looking to work closer with other charities in the area and are looking for more secure funding as they too are an annual contracts
<http://www.ragtagsskye.org/>

Di from Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh stated they are fortunate to have funding from NHS and a contact with Highland Council to provide a schools based services. There has been an increase in demand for services and they have seen people needing support for more complex issues. The group predict this need will increase next year. They are returning to face to face work and as remote working has been successful and some people prefer it, they will keep it as an option going forward. Di sees SLCVOs role of helping to bring groups together very useful and this will be more important as we move to 2023/24
<https://counsellingcaresl.org/>

Sara from Skye for All look gave an overview of the group which reviews accessible walks and activities people can do in the area. She said they have not been very active lately due to weather but are hoping that in the next year they will check out the new accessible routes at the fairy pools and Old man of Storr. J Ford noted SLCVO have worked with Skye for All on an accessibility project and that Sara won Volunteer of the Year from Paths for all for her work on the project and with the group

<http://skyeforall.co.uk/>

Calum from Kilmuir Trust explained that the Trust has been operating for two years. They have funding to look at facilities for tourist but their main ambition is to create a hub for the community. CM noted SLCVO have an important role in the year ahead especially with the cost of living crisis. JF noted the HTSI are producing a document to signpost to help in relation to cost of living

<https://www.kilmuircommunitytrust.co.uk/>

Clive from Isle of Skye Ferry CIC noted the group has have had a very good making around £250,00 and giving somewhere in the region of £100,00 in wages and salaries to local people. This is partly due to opening of a new take away café. Have had a good recovery from covid.

<https://skyeferry.co.uk/>

Norma from Broadford and Strath Community Company agreed that five year funding would help a lot. She gave an over view of the projects currently managed by BSCC including, community allotments, school and youth growing projects, the men's shed, Flourish the horticultural therapy group, outdoor learning. They are also involved in the Skye Cycle Way from Kyle to Broadford and building new toilets in Elgol and Broadford which they hope will bring in an income. Norma explained that the group hope the community owned campsite will ease reliance on funding but this year the electricity bills have had a big impact on this. They are trying to further develop Camping Skye as camping facilities are very much needed with 4,319 being turned away in the last year. Looking ahead the group are considering taking over the Broadford Toilet building which may become a food hub, and the group are trying to organise a sharing event such as clothes via the waste project. Norma made a special mention about the success of the community fridge which is well supported by volunteers.

Norma Morrison

Community Coordinator

Broadford and Strath Community Company

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<https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/>

Peter from Portree Community Centre advised the community centre in Portree is once again open with the help of Portree and Braes Community Trust.

<https://www.facebook.com/portreecommunitycentre/>

Yvonne Boa HLH Youth Development Officer, explained how SLCVO have helped to get Ullapool District Youth Group reinstated. They have a dedicated a youth space in Ullapool which has been open for over a year and have lots of different activities including cooking classes, life skills the youth forum.

[Ullapool Youth Space | Facebook](#)

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David from Lochalsh Youth Community Trust told meeting participants of the difficulties the group has had however, they are now seeing more activities take place due to the Lighthouse Centre Drop in Space for youth clubs. Four new trustees have just come on to the Board and David is hoping this will enable the group to find a youth worker as without that cannot do what is needed for youth in Lochalsh, a space between home and school which a youth club can be.

<https://www.lochalshyouth.org/>

Ann from Church of Scotland Mission and Ministry Development explained that in her three year post she is helping to setup activities and work with community groups to meet CoS priorities of helping people and the environment. Part of this is working with SLCVO to see how their Befrienders Service can work with the church. .

<https://www.sschurch.co.uk/>

Jryna from Viewfield Gardan Collective and Sluggans Woodland Park advised Sluggans are working to become a SCIO with the support of SLCVO. VFG collective going from strength to strength and have funding for services and some reserves. They have run a training programme for volunteers and are working to their end of year show

<https://www.viewfieldgardencollective.org/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/sluggans-woodland-park/>

Marjory from Skye Stroke Friends noted the group work close with SLCVO participating in volunteers week. The group is volunteer led, with 16 people supporting peer support activities and respite trips. Going forward, the group want to look at how they can develop a service in South Skye and Lochalsh

<https://www.facebook.com/Skyestrokefriends/>

Siobhan from the Lochalsh Girls Group and Lochalsh Community Council noted the group has started again however there is lots of work to do to get it back up and running after covid. She also noted the great work by the Balmacara Fundraising group who are raising funds for the restoration of the Old Mill Hall.

<https://www.facebook.com/LochalshCommunityCouncil2022/>

Julie from Eilan Ban Trust told participants about closing the Brightwater centre in Kyleakin partly due to costs and there being so few volunteers to run it on a regular basis. The volunteering for looking after the island is still popular however the group need more board volunteers.

<http://www.eileanban.org/>

The Chair said it is great to hear updates from groups from around the area and reiterated the difficulty of getting young volunteers and how this will be a challenge going forward. He thanked participants for joining the AGM, SLCVO Board for all their support and SLCVO staff team Claire, Sammy-Jo and Jo for their work in the year.