Held virtually via Zoom videoconferencing software

on 27th October 2021

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Present

Anne McDonald, Isla Mackay, Margaret Rhynas, Freida McKenzie, Simon Cole-Hamilton, Wilma Halley, Megan Mackenzie, Jenye Monckton, Wanda Mackay, Diane Agnew, Steve Bramwell, Cai MacIver.

Anne McDonald welcomed everyone to Black Isle Cares virtual AGM. Anne introduced herself as a Trustee of BIC; all those present subsequently introduced themselves.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Brian Devlin and Ian McNamara.

1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting dated 15th September 2020

Approval proposed by F McKenzie and seconded by S Cole-Hamilton.

1. Opening Address by Chairman

Anne McDonald, Vice Chairperson, welcomed everyone to this Annual General Meeting of Black Isle Cares. She acknowledged apologies from Chairperson, Brian Devlin who sent a message to explain his need to step away from the organisation due to health reasons. Brian talked about the work that BIC has undertaken since drawing up the foundational document with close friend, Donald Macleod who recently passed away. Brian thanked BIC for their amazing work.

Anne continued to describe the purpose of Black Isle Cares; to stimulate the development of practical actions, to address community needs and to undertake small, focused and kind activities. In the past year Black Isle Cares has delivered 2,605 meals to 40 clients with 30 volunteers and a number of local food providers involved.

Black Isle Cares has intergenerational input, a shading shed with over 7 volunteers and a pet shared adjoined, a community garden regular maintenance is completed through volunteers and where benches were installed this year. The new befriending service has 10 clients and 3 volunteers who have recently had their first meeting. There are talks with Eilean Dubh care home about future plans. Anne thanked everyone who has been involved over the past year in every project we have undertaken; no matter how small.

1. Presentation of Report & Accounts for year to 31.01.21

Isla Mackay, Secretary, had distributed electronic copies of the Annual Report & Accounts to all those present.

The accounts to the end of January 2021 were completed using the OCSR template this year as it is an easier format and have been independently examined by Mackay & Co.

The accounts show £5,469 surplus which puts Black Isle Cares in a satisfactory position financially. There are restricted funds for specific projects (MoW, garden and sharing shed) and Simon explained this.

The accounts show £53,589 in the bank with donations of £11,000 to note from donors/fundraisers including ARK Estates and Freida McKenzie. Grant funding of £10,000 was received for the Meals on Wheels shielding scheme during the first lockdown where Black Isle Cares provided a free service for several months. Meals on Wheels income was £11,000.

The Report and Accounts were approved by M Rhynas and seconded by J Monckton.

1. Election of Trustees

Brian Devlin is standing down as a Trustee.

Anne McDonald, Jenye Monckton, Margaret Rhynas, Isla Mackay, Wilma Halley, Frieda McKenzie, Simon Cole-Hamilton and Ian McNamara were approved as Trustees by F McKenzie and seconded by S Cole-Hamilton.

1. Diane Agnew – Ward Manager

Di expressed heartfelt & sincere thanks to Black Isle Cares and remarked that without Black Isle Cares the Black Isle would not be such a good place. She described the efforts of Black Isle Cares during the pandemic as touching, noting that relationships are what make things happen. Sharing sheds are vital currently and it is great to see the initiative continue. The garden project is valued as a place to go which is safe and where people can enjoy the fresh air.

Di described the intergenerational work of Black Isle Cares as heartwarming, noting that the organisation is modest. During the height of the pandemic there were hundreds of calls a day and the hub returned all calls. The Dingwall have used Black Isle Cares as a point of check in for locals during lockdown. 300 meals per week were delivered during the height of COVID and when the council reduced service Black Isle Cares were asked to step up and deliver meals and did so with no barriers restricting the service.

Di expressed thanks from all of the hub team and Dingwall and took the opportunity to welcome Cai MacIver to her team. Cai will be based in Dingwall but is happy to come and meet anyone she can help. Cai knows that sharing sheds are increasing in demand weekly and can organise food or funding for meals on wheels in the future for vulnerable clients. Cai would like to attend a Trustee meeting in future.

1. Wanda Mackay – Youth & Community Work

Wanda told the story of the development of intergenerational work from its beginning with ‘Getting to know your Techno’ in 2011. She has a very active facebook page for anyone who would like to follow her multitude of activites such as techno, lunches, games afternoons, trikes and rowing. Wanda’s highly effective practice for intergenerational work was recognised at the Scottish Learning Festival and she has involved 138 young people this year.

A number of intergenerational initiatives have been able to continue despite COVID; letters, Christmas cards, robins, hampers, feeding families, choir, St Andrews bags, young people gritting the pavements in Cromarty, young people delivering newspapers, a young person piping and recording a tune a day during lockdown… All of which means the pupils can record their hours for Saltire, and leadership awards through HighLife Highland.

Wanda is proud to be part of everything that is done on the Black Isle and is currently studying for a diploma in Intergenerational work. ‘Acts of Kindness’ are ongoing this month and pupils are currently planning for Christmas hampers.

Black Isle Cares extended thanks to Wanda for her hard work and speech tonight.

1. Steve Bramwell – Black Isle Men’s Shed

Black Isle Men’s Shed is a community initiative which has recently created the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Chapter of Cycling Without Age Scotland. The vision was a community initiative which would draw people together in the long term, involve young people and aim to combat social isolation and mobility issues. From ideas in November 2021, the project has gone through market research, created a steering group and in March 2021 was partnered with Cycling Without Age Scotland (CWAS).

CWAS help other groups start up, and by becoming part of their charity there are benefits such as more affordable access to equipment. CWAS are the parent charity. The fundraising target was £19,000 and the group wanted to involve the community in the fundraising. Funding has come from Baxters, Co-op, local firms, the amenities group, fundraisers and donations. Community awareness has significantly increased and £18,000 has been raised to date. One trike has been purchased so far, 9 ‘pilots’ have been certified with 6 awaiting assessment and 5 ready for training.

The project is now looking at how best to reach clients, using a booking system and operating a pick-up service for clients.

1. Questions & Answers

Questions about the CWAS project were put to Steve and he explained that trikes are £8,500 each and have motors of a certain specification which would make journeys such as Feddon Hill easier. There are currently posters circulating but no leaflets; Margaret offered to get Admin pupils to design these. Agreed to place in next BIC Newsletter. Wanda could book bike slots as transportation to and from the games afternoon when they return.

1. Close

There being no further questions, Anne McDonald thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.