

Minutes of AGM

Held on Tuesday 12th November 2024

At Fort Augustus Village Hall

Board Directors present	Catriona Watson (CW) – Chair, Helen Clay (HC) – Vice chair, Lorn MacKay (LM), Chris Nelson (CN), , Michael Alvey Anderson (MA), Patrick Ungless (PU), Frances Mansell (FMM), Kelvin Hill (KH), Paul McIntosh (PM)
Apologies	Fiona MacCormick (FM)
Also in attendance	Karen Edwards (KE) - Operations Manager, Donna Green (DG) – Finance Manager, Jan Mansfield - Ricard Luckin (JM) Jackie Buckley (JB), Sarah McPhee (SM)
Minute Taker	Simon Canning (SC) – Admin Officer

Item	Minute	Action
1.	Welcome and Apologies CW opened the meeting and presented apologies from FM. CW thanked everyone for attending.	
2.	Chairs report CW presented the Chair's report, expressing gratitude to the Board for their efforts over the past year. Highlights included a summary of grants received and a special acknowledgment of the Community Caretakers for their ongoing work in maintaining public spaces, often under challenging conditions. CW also thanked Robert Ramsay for his voluntary work to maintain the Kirkton Memorial.	
3.	Directors Elections KE announced the election process, confirming the following: PM (currently co-opted) stood for election. MAA, CW, and PU stood down and sought re-election. KE proposed the election of all candidates, and the members voted in their favour in the majority.	
4.	To adopt the accounts of the Company for the financial year ending 31st March 2024 DG introduced JM, who presented the company accounts via Microsoft Teams. JM delivered a 'clean' audit report, confirming the accounts as an accurate representation of the Company's financial health. No members posed any questions. DG then sought their approval of the accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2024. Proposed by: HC Seconded by: LM	

	<p>The accounts were accepted. DG presented a video explaining how the accounts operate in a simplified format.</p>	
5.	<p>To appoint the Reporting Accountant for the financial year ending 31st March 2025 DG proposed the appointment of Ricard Luckin as the reporting accountant for the financial year ending 31st March 2025. Proposed by: CN Seconded by: HC The appointment was approved by the members.</p>	
6.	<p>Operations Manager's Report KE provided an update on operational activities, highlighting the following: The Show and Tell event successfully showcased local groups and clubs to the community. An increase in grant applications, alongside an explanation of the grant application process. Updates on the progress of Glentarff House and the Memorial Hall, with a new initiative to consider taking over the Janitor's House. KE encouraged attendees to sign a petition in support of this. The ongoing Housing Need Analysis, urging members to complete the associated survey and share feedback on the draft CAP. Questions from Attendees: <i>Financial Support for Tarff Trading</i> The Board was asked if the Company could confirm the level of financial support for Tarff Trading. <i>Response:</i> KE advised that the Community Company has extended a loan to Tarff for items such as the fridges. This is being re-paid. <i>Soup and Sandwich Days</i> Members asked for confirmation that these are open to families with young children. <i>Response:</i> HC confirmed that they are open to all. It was suggested that perhaps play materials might be made available if a volunteer can be found to organise this. <i>Community Larders Stocking Baby Items</i> A request was made for the Community Larders to include items like formula milk and nappies. <i>Response:</i> CW agreed to explore this further. <i>Extending Compost Heap Availability</i> A request was made to keep the compost heap open until late November. <i>Response:</i> KE agreed to discuss the matter with the Caretakers' Supervisor. <i>Ensuring Decisions Reflect Community Interests</i> Members asked how the Board ensures its decisions align with community needs. <i>Response:</i> CW and KE explained that surveys, such as the Community Action Plan (CAP), are carefully analysed before major projects are undertaken. <i>Delivering CAP Actions</i></p>	

	<p>Attendees inquired about who would implement actions from the CAP.</p> <p>Response: KE confirmed that the Company will research potential working groups to assist in trying to move these actions forward.</p> <p>Community Support for Projects</p> <p>Members asked how the community can assist in advancing projects.</p> <p>Response: CW emphasised the importance of community feedback and encouraged more participation in consultations.</p> <p>Online Accessibility of Meetings</p> <p>A suggestion was made to make AGMs and other meetings accessible online to boost attendance.</p> <p>Response: KE agreed this could be a helpful step and will explore it further.</p> <p>Handrail Installation on Bunoich Path</p> <p>A handrail for the Bunoich path was requested.</p> <p>Response: KE confirmed this is under research but noted that Highland Council and neighbouring landowners' approval is required.</p>	
7.	<p>Grants in Action – talks by grant recipients</p> <p>Guest speakers JB (Nourish and Flourish group) and SM (Life Drawing Club) shared insights into how recent funding from the Company has positively impacted their initiatives. Both expressed their gratitude to the members and highlighted the tangible benefits for their respective groups.</p> <p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>CW concluded the meeting by thanking attendees for their participation, feedback, and constructive suggestions. CW reiterated the Board's commitment to addressing community needs and encouraged ongoing engagement.</p>	