

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO AGM 2023

Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 28 September 2023

1. Present

Karen Baird (Chair), Eva Paterson (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon MacInnes, Carol Watt, Lynda Syed, Sarah Nixon, Phil Nilsson, Louise MacKellar, Kenneth MacKellar, Dorothy Hodgkin, Peter Hogbin, Ruth Tott, Sue Campbell, John Campbell, Ronnie Dodd, Mark Boston, Martin Wilson, Edith MacKellar, Barbara Stout, Wilf Stout, David Campbell, Dominik Eschborn, Lynda McPhail, Calum McPhail.

2. Apologies

Adele Sinclair, Gill Telfer

3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

Agreed. Proposed by Sharon MacInnes and seconded by Carol Watt.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Financial Statement for the year ending 31 March 2023 was audited and signed off on 1 August 2023 by Nevis Accountancy Services Ltd.

The Cash and Bank Balances at 31 March 2023 were £24,041 (£10,801 for 2022).

Receipts £37,936 (£21,223 in 2022) and Payments £24,696 (£45,907 in 2022)

The main reasons for the difference between 2023 and 2022 being due to covid related reduction in grants and fundraising activities, along with major maintenance and repairs in 2022.

Since the accounts were finalised, £8,000 has been received from the Social Club.

5. Chair's Report 2022 -2023

The Village Hall is once again in regular use for community events such as Keep Fit classes, regular coffee mornings, indoor bowls, fish teas and monthly bingo. It is also hired on a regular basis by outside patrons wishing to use the space for private functions. The Social Club within the Hall continues to operate on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays each week. New membership cards are being issued to all those who have filled in an updated form. Also, SCIO membership forms were recently issued to all permanent householders within our area. This will allow us to keep in contact with members more easily.

In December we held our Christmas lights switch on, followed by mulled wine, mince pies and music in the Hall. We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles with a village tea party. Once again we were lucky enough to have a nice day and the event was well attended by the community. We had a village picnic and an 'Open Mic' night in July, with one or two local singers contributing their voices to an enjoyable event, and Robbie Bell hosted a music quiz for us this month. A dance to ceilidh band Gunna Sound is planned for 6 October. This will celebrate the centenary of Furnace Shinty Club winning the Camanachd Cup without conceding a single goal, a feat not repeated until 2013.

We were chosen to be one of the Co-operative's local community projects for the year. This will provide extra funding for us via Co-op members' cards. When I was last in the Co-op we had raised over £500.

Over winter 2022/23 we were able to run a local warm hub – the Heat and Greet. This was open to all members of the community and provided a warm space to congregate, along with soup and tea and biscuits or baking. Funding was provided by Ridgeclean Energy and the Church of Scotland's Faith in the Community fund.

We were awarded money by the CORRA Foundation to help our community with energy costs. This was distributed to as many families as possible by way of an electricity top-up, a bag of coal or vouchers for the Co-op to an equivalent value.

The three bridges on the Leacainn Walk have been refurbished to ensure safety of users and remedial work on the stairs and other areas is being undertaken or organised at present. Due in part to forestry operations, the entire Leacainn Walk now needs refurbishing. Funds are being sought to allow us to employ an outside company to undertake this work. Our biggest problem is the lack of vehicular access to the Walk and the shortage of local companies to approach with a view to quoting for the work.

New village noticeboards are planned for the Hall and the Shop to ensure news of events reaches as wide an audience as possible, bearing in mind that many of our residents are elderly and do not use social media.

The current shop management will be offered a new 5 year lease on the premises, ensuring the continued running of the village shop.

6. Election of Office Bearers

The Chair, Karen Baird, explained that the office bearers must resign at each AGM but can be re-elected. However, she is standing down after 5 years as Chair. She was thanked for her work and achievements during her period of office.

Karen passed on the information that Gill Telfer is resigning from the Board of Trustees.

Office bearers proposed and elected for 2023 -24 are:

Chair - Phil Nilsson, proposed by Sharon MacInnes and seconded by Andy Henderson.

Treasurer - Eva Paterson, proposed by Sharon MacInnes and seconded by Carol Watt

Secretary - Andy Henderson, proposed by Carol Watt and seconded by Mark Boston

It was agreed that Karen would continue to chair the AGM and the following meeting and that Phil would chair subsequent meetings.

7. Change of name to 'Furnace Fyne Folk SCIO'

Karen explained that a change of name would involve time and work to make changes to the bank account, the electricity account, the constitution and to get the agreement of OSCR. She proposed that the vote should be on whether we keep the current name 'Furnace Community SCIO'. The majority voted to keep it. Ruth explained that the suggestion to change the name was because

The next AGM will be on 26 September 2024

many people didn't know what being a 'SCIO' meant, but the inclusion of the word 'Community' helps.

8. AOCB

None.

9. Date of Next AGM.

The 2024 AGM will be held on Thursday 26 September 2024.