

Nether Lochaber Community Association

Annual General Meeting, Saturday 1st March 2025, 16:30

Nether Lochaber Parish Church Hall

Minutes

1. **Attendees:**
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chris Boles | Fiona MacCallum |
| Roger Barnett (Treasurer) | Gordon Macintyre |
| Lisa Glaze | Gordon Milne |
| Jack Hewlett | Brian Pearson |
| Iain Jenner (Chair) | Sharon Pearson (Secretary) |
| Becky Jury | Karl Spierling |
| | Dave Wrigglesworth |

Apologies:

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| Clara Barnett | Evan Cohen |
| Sarah Boles | Lucy Cooke |
| Chaela Carrell | |

2. **Minutes of Previous AGM – 29th February 2024**

The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed pending one amendment. The NLCA did not pay any funds for taking ownership of the water tank. The minutes were proposed by B Peason and seconded by G Macintyre.

The meeting was confirmed as quorate (3 members or more in attendance in person).

3. **Report from the Chair**

The chair thanked all the attendees for coming to the AGM. He wished to thank C Barnett, who was chair for the first half of the year. Thanks were given to C Boles for his endeavours with the NLCA website, and to B and S Pearson for being trustees. Thanks also went to L Cooke, the Inchree Barn Project Officer, for all her efforts in fundraising for the Barn.

The Chair referred to page 3-5 of the Accounts, which contained information on the activities of the NLCA.

Normal activities have been challenged by the weather. Last weekend, the beach clean was cancelled, as well as the joint Gaelic week event.

It is a challenge to manage the growing portfolio of projects that the NLCA has. The Inchree Barn project has gone up several gears, and the planning process should start next week. The newly acquired water tank area needs some input and ideas, as well as fundraising. The Association is taxed in terms of volunteer time and funds are already stretched. It is also challenging to communicate with residents of Nether Lochaber generally because of the linear geography and not many residents are connected to the internet.

More broadly, NLCA are relying on public grants for bigger projects. There is significant competition for funds. It is therefore likely that projects will take longer than planned. The NLCA needs to consider other options, e.g. investment, community share scheme.

The Project Officer post could become a Development Officer post, which would be for NLCA as a whole rather than only Inchree Barn activities.

It has been a challenge arranging social events, not only because of the weather, but also in the absence of the village hall. Finding an alternative venue for the ceilidh is challenging. The church hall is too small, and the Roam West configuration is not suitable. The Alltshellac Hotel is the ideal venue with a sprung floor and big hall area. It is hoped that the ceilidh can be organized with Alltshellac further in advance for the winter.

NLCA needs to recruit more trustees and can recruit up to 15. Two new members signed up at the open afternoon today.

The planning application for Inchree Barn is due to be submitted next week. It can take 12-14 weeks as standard for planning approval, if there are no issues. There is the potential the application could get sent back for clarifications, which would mean a longer wait. The Project Officer is exploring funding options. This should be discussed at the next trustees' meeting.

The NLCA may need to phase the development of Inchree barn because of pressures of finance. However, initially, the fullest planning application will be submitted. This would allow the association to raise funds for certain sections of the project at a time, initially getting something straightforward developed. Then, other phases can be tagged to different applications. It is essential that this is discussed over the next few months.

4. **Report from the Treasurer**

The accounts presented at the meeting are of the association's financial year to June 2024. There was great success in gaining grants for the Inchree Barn project. The 500 club raised over £500 after taking account of prizes. The main expense for NLCA is the Project Officer salary. While some of the totals are big in the accounts, it should be noted that they are mainly restricted funds. Unrestricted funds available to the association at June 2024 was £659. This represents a deficit over the year so £400 overall was lost. The main expenses from unrestricted funds are tubs and flowers.

NLCA need to apply to the community council for a share of the hydro funds. The Community Council has about £1,300 remaining of these funds at present and will soon receive a further £600. A proposal for the use of the funds needs to be prepared for the Community Council. It was noted that the Community Council created the Community Association to be able to buy assets, which the council is unable to do. This should be communicated again to the Community Council at its next meeting. Any proposals/information should be sent to K Spierling in time for the next meeting. This should include costing and information on what the funds will be used for.

S Pearson suggested sharing the Easy Fundraising link to people to try and get more people to sign up. It doesn't cost anything, and any purchases made online through retailers, who are signed up to the programme, automatically raise funds for the association. Full instructions on how to sign up are available on the Easy Fundraising website:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nether-lochaber-community-association/>

C Boles informed the attendees that he can now absorb the cost for website maintenance and design. This was a very welcome announcement and C Boles was thanked for this.

5. **AOCB**

L Glaze asked if people could approach businesses to ask if they will sponsor flower tubs. She has a list of those already contacted. 11 large tubs need to be replaced.

6. **Election of Trustees**

All trustees must step down as per the Constitution.

All previous trustees confirmed that they were happy to be re-elected as trustees, except for B and S Pearson who will be leaving Nether Lochaber and thus not eligible.

The full list of trustees as of 1st March 2025:

Roger Barnett

Evan Cohen

Lisa Glaze

Jack Hewlett

Iain Jenner

Becky Jury

Hayley MacCallum

Gordon Macintyre

Gordon Milne

Karl Spierling

Office bearers are due to be elected at the next Trustees meeting on Monday 3rd March 2025.

7. **Meeting close**

The meeting closed at 17:17