

NAIRN IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE(NICE)

Company No: SC388110; Charity No: SC042118

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 20th September 2022

at the Nairn Community & Arts Centre

Directors Present

Alastair Noble, Sam Hey, Mandy Lawson, Hamish Bain, Hazel Clark, Magnus Swanson

Apologies from Directors

John Hart, Steve Westbrook

Attendance 40 NICE members, plus 2 guests

13 Members Present

7 Directors as above, plus Val Springett, Liz and Danny Bow, Tessa Williams, Brian Stewart, Joan Noble

Members of Public Cllr Michael Green, Tibor Bandula

27 members by Proxy

NICE directors John Hart, Steve Westbrook

Ordinary members as follows:

Dick Youngson, Yvonne Cotter, Alison Hart, David Shillabear, Jock Scott, Isobel Kerr, Elizabeth Grant, Matilda Millar, Robert Rawe and Mrs Rawe, David Henderson, Shona Henderson, Dorothy MacPherson, Linda Bissett, Alison Footitt, Pamela Gordon, Lynsey Milne, Chris Milne, Haeseoun Grant, Michael Barnett, Fiona and Clive Rowland, Sylvia Alexander, Ruby Hicks, Pamela Thame

1. Chairman Alastair Noble welcomed all present to the first face to face General Meeting since COVID and declared the meeting quorate.

2. The Minute of the last Annual General Meeting was approved

3 Accounts were presented for the year ended 30 November 2021. These have been posted on the NICE website.

4 The Chairman presented his annual review, also to be published on NICE website and shared via other local media.

He noted that NICE stands ready to facilitate development of a Local Place Plan for Nairn and Nairnshire as soon as possible, and as Nairnshire's community development trust is an appropriate local body to act as 'lead community body' to take a community led Local Place Planning process forward. It has the required legal

structure, and a large local membership and 'reach' (including Team Hamish supporters since that charity was brought under NICE's legal 'umbrella').

NICE envisages that the Local Place Planning process will be a collaborative effort with local residents, community and business groups working closely with the Highland Council's development planning team with backing from the Nairnshire Committee which comprises the Nairn and Cawdor Ward Manager and Nairn's four newly elected Highland Councillors, chaired by Cllr Michael Green.

NICE can also help to coordinate 'joined up' funding bids with key stakeholders to deliver the significant public and private investment needed to make things happen in Nairn, once priorities for action for the wider Nairn/Nairnshire area are agreed by local people and set down in a Local Place Plan.

NICE has experience in overseeing local community led ventures, from supporting community input to the 2015 Town Centre Plan, to preparatory work to set up the Nairn BID in 2018 and in merging with Team Hamish to enable delivery in conjunction with Highland Council and Highlife Highland, of the first phase of the 2018 Links Development Plan, which has led to replacement of the old paddling pool with the new Splashpad.

Key priorities of a Local Place Plan for Nairn must include:

securing investment in key 'infrastructure first' in the area, to improve roads/transport network, (including A96 bypass), upgrade drains, sewerage and flood defences, increase water, electricity and renewable energy supply, access to faster broadband, and capacity of local community amenities including building a new Academy, before further local development can happen.

protecting Nairn's existing natural assets and amenities for future generations, including Fishertown, seafront, riverside and Harbour area, wetlands and woodlands, and other Nairn Common Good green spaces.

sustainable, 'green' low carbon development, giving priority to regenerating existing buildings and sites over building new ones.

supporting local and incoming businesses and key industries to create more local green sustainable jobs to attract and retain a younger population and boost the economy.

The Chair also paid tribute to retiring NICE founding Directors, Iain Fairweather and Michael Barnett, who have both done so much for Nairn and thanked them for all their support over the years.

5. Team Hamish Update

Sam Hey gave an update on plans for Team Hamish phase 2– the revamp of the putting green area. Plans will shortly be publicly available for review when they go to the Highland Council's Planning Committee. They will involve local community input in design of new benches, installing tiered seating into the existing slope at 'James's Café' end of the putting green and upgrading the putting green and crazy golf (also with ideas and input from local community, schools and businesses including expertise from local Golf Clubs.)

Sam celebrated the fantastic success of the Splashpad, now open for two summer seasons, and gave credit to all those in the Nairn community who made it happen. Team Hamish fundraising efforts have just restarted after an 18 month 'pause' and the latest venture, Nairn County's 'rainbow' football strips, have sold out within 4 days, with more on order.

6 Appointment of Directors

The Chairman noted that in compliance with the Company's constitution a third of Directors were required to step down each year but could offer themselves for re-election.

Two Directors - Michael Barnett and Iain Fairweather had already stepped down during 2022.

It was agreed by unanimous vote, to re-elect the following 5 Directors (due to retire in line with the above rotation, but agreeable to be reappointed) :

- **Alastair Noble** (proposed by Mandy Lawson, seconded by Danny Bow)
- **John Hart** (proposed by Joan Noble, seconded by Val Springett)
- **Sam Hey** (proposed by Val Springett, seconded by Danny Bow)
- **Hamish Bain** (proposed by Joan Noble, seconded by Brian Stewart)
- **Hazel Clark** (proposed by Cllr Michael Green, seconded by Danny Bow)

7 The Chair invited all NICE members to contribute to developing a Local Place Plan for Nairn and threw discussion open.

Joan Noble welcomed a new event space at the putting green for local musicians to play. Liz and Danny Bow (key members of the Team Hamish 'family') reminded fellow NICE members that the Splashpad was achieved through sheer persistence in the face of adversity, and looked forward to closer collaboration with the local community from Highland Council during the next phase of Links Development as it becomes an integral part of a new Local Place Plan.

Brian Stewart echoed the Chair's comments that Nairn needs to secure its fair share of public funding available in Highland, which it has missed out on for two decades.

Highland Cllr Michael Green endorsed the importance of pushing forward with a Local Place Plan as a focus to draw in funding for local priorities and he offered his personal backing, as local Ward Chair, while also noting the reality of ever increasing pressure on Highland Council budgets.

Tibor Bandula who recently completed an options appraisal of town centre buildings commissioned by NICE noted that having a clear local plan in place should make it easier to attract funding, to help Nairn move forward positively.

The Chair noted that Tibor Bandula's Town Centre Options Appraisal report along with a new Condition Report on the Old Police Station Buildings commissioned from

Mackenzie Willis consultants (both with Highland Council Place Based Investment Funding) will be posted on NICE website for public access along with AGM papers.

He recommended everyone to read these reports as food for thought to help inform the upcoming Local Place Planning process.

NICE is proposing to arrange a public meeting, with support of local Highland Councillors, in October or November 2022, to invite the wider community to begin discussion on the local place planning process with Highland Council and other relevant bodies including Community Councils in attendance.

The Chair brought the meeting to a close at 8.30