

## **MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WEST LOTHIAN 50+ NETWORK**

**HELD ON SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023 AT 10.30am AT ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL,  
BATHGATE.**

Copies of the Minute of the AGM 2021/22, the Annual Report for 2022/2023, and the Treasurer's Report were available at the meeting and are available to members at the Hub on request.

### **1. Minute of AGM 2021/2022**

The Minute of the AGM held on 21st May 2022 was agreed.

**Proposed:** George Thacker

**Seconded:** Bill Collins

### **2. Annual Report 2022/2023**

Members agreed the Annual Report.

**Proposed:** Vanda Collins

**Seconded:** Christine Thacker

### **3. Treasurers Report**

As the Treasurer was on holiday, the Treasurer's Report was presented by the Convenor, Anne Webster.

In response to a question from a member about the cost of renovations for the Hub at 14 George Street in the previous year's accounts (2021/22), Anne explained that that this was due to the amount of work required to convert the premises to meet the needs of the Network. Most of these costs were met by external funding.

In response to a question about the bank charges, Anne explained that these were principally the fees paid to SumUp to take credit/ debit card payments. The Committee considered that these costs were reasonable considering that members no longer had to pay large sums for trips/ holidays etc by cash and the staff did not need to carry large cash sums to the bank.

**Proposed:** Christine Thacker

**Seconded:** Vanda Collins.

#### **4. Convenor's Summary of the Year**

Anne Webster gave a summary of the events that had taken place in 2022/2023, the Network's first full year post pandemic. She highlighted that moving to high street premises had raised the Network's profile leading to a significant increase in the membership which had brought fresh challenges. She described how these were being met by the introduction of new groups, and the development of new venues throughout West Lothian. She urged members who had ideas for new activities to represent these to the new Committee.

Anne concluded by saying that she was stepping down from the role of Convenor, and from the Committee, and thanked members for their support over her 7 years on the committee.

#### **5. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2022/23**

Anne Webster handed over the meeting to Laura Kearney.

Laura explained that Anne Webster, Mary Ferrie and Vanda Collins were not seeking re-election.

She invited all candidates for the Committee to introduce themselves, giving a summary of their careers, experience, and involvement in the Network, following which a proposer and seconder would be sought. None of the candidates would be allowed to propose or second another candidate.

##### **Office Bearers who wished to be re-elected**

###### **Treasurer - Jeanette Scott**

As Jeannette was on holiday, Eleanor Shaw spoke on her behalf.

Proposed: Anne Smillie

Seconded: Marianne Brolly

##### **Current committee members who wished to be re-elected.**

###### **Eleanor Shaw**

Proposed: Catriona Somerville

Seconded: Christine Powell

###### **Heather Waddell**

Proposed: Alison Miller

Seconded: Lesley Martin

**Sue Bedford-Visser**

Proposed: Margaret Reid

Seconded: Brenda Kilpatrick

**Tom Fairlie**

Proposed: Irene Calder

Seconded: Bill Collins

**Members wishing to be elected to the Committee.**

**Allan Dungavel**

Proposed: Jane O'Donnell

Seconded: Barbara Haddow

**Frank Ellam**

Proposed: Ian Beck

Seconded: Elizabeth Hunter

**Katie Ellam**

Proposed: Sheila Hay

Seconded: Irene Miller

**Richard Darby**

Proposed: Lesley Martin

Seconded: Anne Milne

**Sheila Linscer**

Proposed: Melanie Wilson

Seconded: Anne McGovern

In response to a question about whether couples could serve on the committee, Laura said that there is nothing in the Constitution that prohibits this, however it had been agreed that both members of a couple should not be office bearers.

**6. Appointment of External Financial Examiner**

Brian Maloney has agreed to continue as External Financial Examiner.

**7. AOCB**

Clarification was sought on the wording of the Constitution (dated 2017) which indicated that all Office Bearers were to be appointed at the AGM.

It was explained that it has been custom and practice over the last 29 years to appoint Office Bearers at the AGM only if they were existing office bearers who were staying on the Committee.

The Constitution also states that the “Method of voting shall be at the discretion of the Convenor”. The Convenor had decided that the practice should continue this year.

In the event of office bearers not seeking re-election, as was the case this year, whilst the members voted at the AGM for committee members from which Office Bearers would be selected, there was no pre-qualification for those elected to the committee. The decision as to who had the necessary skills and experience to take an office bearing role, as well as ensuring they met all the criteria to serve as a Trustee of an Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) registered charity, following the completion by each Committee member of the necessary paperwork required by OSCR, would be agreed by the new committee at their first meeting.

Some members again expressed concern that this was not what was in the Constitution, expressing the view that the AGM should be where office bearers were elected, and if this was not to be the case, the Constitution needed to be amended.

Some members also expressed confusion about which Constitution the Network is using.

It was explained that at the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2021, members had agreed that the Network become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), a legal entity specific to charities in Scotland which gives greater protection for the Network and its Trustees. The new SCIO has been registered with OSCR and a new Constitution has been signed off, which will come into force shortly when the Network begins to operate as a SCIO.

Unfortunately, the Network has not yet been able to operate as the new legal entity as a new bank account under the new entity’s name had to be opened and this had taken significantly longer than expected. However, thanks especially to the Treasurer’s persistence, the bank has now confirmed that the required new bank account has been opened and the new Committee can begin the process, with guidance from our solicitors, of making the transition, which would be done as quickly as possible.

In response to concerns that there was no end date for the transition, it was explained that while it was difficult to give a specific timescale, it was expected to be a matter of weeks rather than months.

Until a Convenor is elected at the first meeting of the new Committee, the Treasurer is able to act as Chair.

A request for an update and explanation on the process of transitioning to the new entity at the next members’ meeting was noted.

As the charity will soon be a new legal entity, with a new Constitution, further discussion on the current, outmoded Constitution was not felt to be particularly fruitful; this view was supported by the majority of members.

Laura took this as consent to close what had been a lengthy discussion and brought the meeting to an end.

### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Saturday 17 August 2024 at a venue to be confirmed.

### **9. Thanks to Outgoing Committee Members**

Sue Bedford-Visser thanked all those stepping down from the Committee – Mary Ferrie, Vanda Collins, and Anne Webster and Willie Webster – for the huge contributions they have made to the Network.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Webster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Anne Webster  
Outgoing Convenor, West Lothian 50+ Network