

MINUTES

Meeting: Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 24th April 2024

Venue: Mac Suite 1, Pavilion Stormont

Attendees: David Ferguson (Chairman), Bertie Ellison (Vice-Chairman), Michael Carson (Treasurer), Billy Gamble, Nic Leitch, David Reilly, Colin McWhirter, Dennis Millar, Stephen Sherwood, Michael Murray, Philip Kennedy, Tom May, Jim Savage and Ivan Baxter.

Other Attendees: Gerry Kelly (NICSSA CEO), Kieran Devlin (Operations & Facilities Director), Tracy Smyth (Business Change Manager) Paul McAreavey (Accountant) and Brian McFetridge (Accountant)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from, Ms Sandy Webb, Mr. Val Russell, Mr. Brian Vincent, Mr. Brian Murphy & Ms Elizabeth Tohill (Accountant)

2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 71st AGM (2023) were adopted by agreement of all present.

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Dennis Millar and seconded by Tom May.

There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Report 2023

The CEO, Mr Kelly reported on the key achievements of the Association during the year which were set out in the 2023 Annual Report. He confirmed that a full and more detailed copy of the Annual Report was available online for information.

In particular he highlighted that club grants totalling £53k were distributed throughout the year to affiliated clubs to support the delivery of activities for members throughout NI. This was in addition to the further development of the membership plus scheme to reflect the changes in the way members used their card and offers. Mr. Kelly added that a remodelling of our affiliated clubs to reflect the hybrid working patterns will be necessary to ensure that we continue to support our members using a different approach. He reported that through the new member's giveaway initiative a further £6.5k was provided to members during the year.

Under the WELL Programme the team delivered over thirty-three health check roadshows, 193 physical activity sessions, thirty-four online awareness sessions and twenty-nine resilience sessions during the year. FindOut clinic delivered 115 CardioScan assessments.

On the activities front the Association delivered 12 events to 1367 participants throughout the year.

Mr. Kelly reported on the work with strategic partners in the delivery of the capital development masterplan for the Pavilion Complex.

Mr. Kelly concluded by giving a brief overview of the Sports Club activities throughout the year.

Mr. May asked about outreach work as part of the Capital Development considering the outreach work carried out by Dundonald Ice Bowl. Mr. Kelly acknowledged the question and responded by saying that as part of the Peace Pluss application we have developed an extensive programme covering peace & reconciliation and sport. These would all be delivered by an outreach officer which forms part of the revenue funding for the programme.

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Mr. David Reilly and seconded by Mr Dennis Millar.

Mr. Ferguson concluded the report by acknowledging the efforts of everyone involved in the work of the Association through a difficult year.

4. Honorary Treasurer and Auditor's Report

Mr Michael Carson, Honorary Treasurer provided an overview of the financial performance of the Association in 2023.

The following points were highlighted by Mr Carson.

- Explanation of the Total reserves due to new accounting reporting arrangements because of charity status.
- Subscriptions are going in the right direction and that efforts to continue to recruit more members this year would be needed.
- Health works had a great year and was going well and Mr. Carson thanked the team for their work throughout the year.
- Mr. Carson acknowledged that FindOut was still continue to grow and acknowledged the great effort in its growth.

Mr. Carson concluded by saying that whilst we made an accounting loss of £5k and if you extracted depreciation, we technically showed a surplus.

The accounts were accepted on the proposal of Mr Ivan Baxter and seconded by Mr Colin McWhirter.

5. Election of Honorary Treasurer

Mr Michael Carson was re-appointed to the position of Honorary Treasurer by general acclamation

6. Election of Auditor

PGM Accountants were proposed as the Association's Auditors. Mr Carson acknowledged the work of the auditors and now as a charity plenty of work was required and that we have been well served by PGM Accountants.

The appointment of PGM was by general acclamation

7. Election of Members to Council

Mr. Kelly pointed out that there were only four nominations for the members elected reps' position that were proposed for the AGM. Mr. Kelly also noted that the positions were still open to co-option however it would be the Council decision to take forward at its next meeting,

The elections of officers were accepted by general acclamation.

Mr. Ferguson noted for the record Lynda Sloan who stepped down this year has been part of the organisation 30+ years and late husband Leslie a further period of time 40+ years. Between the two of

them they have given 70+ years. This is a remarkable record and Lynda wanted to step down as the association was changing from mutual to charity status and thought that the time was right to do so. Mr. Ferguson also added that we need to look at how the current model works in regards to governance of the organisation as we move forward. Mr. Ferguson concluded from a personal note and on behalf of the Council we have fully appreciated Lynda's contribution and support and that Lynda will be greatly missed at Council meetings.

8. Motion

Proposal to increase subscriptions.

Michael Carson briefly outlined the case for an increase in the membership subscription rate in July 2024. In setting out the context to the case he explained that since 2014 we increased subs in line with inflation. However, Mr. Carson added that, given the below inflation increases in membership subscription rates (2020, 2021 and 2023) consideration should therefore be given to increasing the 2024 subscription rate by 3.6%, slightly below the rate of inflation in November 2023 (3.9%)

Mr Carson concluded his presentation by proposing an increase in the membership subscription of 23p per month (3.6%) from July 2024.

The proposal to increase subscription was accepted by general acclamation

A query on how we are collecting Gift Aid came from the floor. Mr. Kelly responded that we are collecting subscriptions on a phased approach and that we would using all forms of method available to collect gift aid signatures.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Timing of AGM

Mr. Millar requested that more time should be allocated to the AGM as the AGM has run well over time. Mr. Ferguson noted the requested to allow longer time.

With no further business the Chair, Mr David Ferguson formally declared the meeting closed and thanked everyone for their attendance.