

MINUTES

Meeting: Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 19th April 2023

Venue: Mac Suite 1, Pavilion Stormont

Attendees: David Ferguson (Chairman), Bertie Ellison (Vice-Chairman), Michael Carson (Treasurer), Billy Gamble, Nic Leitch, David Reilly, Lynda Sloan, Colin McWhirter, Dennis Millar, Brian Murphy, Cliff Radcliffe, Alan Taylor, Tom May and Denis Hamill.

Other Attendees: Gerry Kelly (NICSSA CEO), Kieran Devlin (Operations & Facilities Director), Elizabeth Tohill (Accountant)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from, Mr. Jim Savage and Mr. Val Russell

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes of the 70th AGM (2022) were adopted by agreement of all present.

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Lynda Sloan and seconded by Chris Heatley

There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Report 2022

The CEO, Mr Kelly reported on the key achievements of the Association during the year which were set out in the 2022 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 £49k 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, 277 physical activity sessions, fifty-eight online awareness sessions and thirty-five resilience sessions during the year. FindOut clinic delivered 78 CardioScan assessments.

On the activities front the Association delivered two family events with 222 members participating in the Todd's Leap Fun Day and 520 members and their families attending the Christmas Experience at the Glenarm Castle. The reactivation of the Steps2Fitness Campaigns which involved 2200 people participating in a walking challenge was reintroduced to support members in getting active.

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

Mr. Millar requested that more information is provided for those visiting the Pavilion Complex to let them know about activities that are taking place at the premises. Mr. Millar's point was acknowledged. Mr Devlin committed to provide information on activities at the Pavilion reception.

Mr. May asked about the renegotiation of offers that were no longer part of the membership plus scheme. Mr. Kelly acknowledged the point and said that he would speak to the Membership team to get further information on the offers that had ceased and what could be done to replace these.

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Ms Lynda Sloan and seconded by Mr Denis Hamill.

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 2022.

The following points were highlighted by Mr Carson.

- Income and expenditure had increased. Mr Carson acknowledged there was a significant increase in operating costs due to increased energy costs.
- Subscriptions are in a downward trend and that efforts to recruit more members this year would be needed.
- Health works had a great year and Mr. Carson thanked the team for their work throughout the year.
- Mr. Carson acknowledged that achieving charitable status during the year provides NICSSA with an opportunity to claim gift aid, which means we can give more back to members.
- In terms of expenditure, staff costs are back at pre-pandemic levels.
- Mr. Carson highlighted that pavilion running costs increased from £83k to £169k due to higher energy costs.
- Mr. Carson also pointed out that the remaining balance of the BOI bank loan was £71k and should be fully paid by 2025. We continued to pay our loans during COVID and now we have a great history on paying our debts.

Mr. Carson concluded by saying that whilst we made an accounting loss of £37k when depreciation and deferred income are extracted, we technically showed a surplus.

The accounts were accepted on the proposal of Mr Dennis Millar and seconded by Mr Billy Gamble

5. Election of Honorary Treasurer

Mr Michael Carson was re-appointed to the position of Honorary Treasurer on the proposal of **Mr Cliff Radcliffe and seconded by Mr Colin McWhirter.**

6. Election of Auditor

PGM Accountants were proposed as the Association's Auditors. Mr Ferguson thanked Mrs Elizabeth Tohill from PGM for her support during the year.

The appointment of PGM was proposed by Mr. David Reilly and seconded by Mr Brian Murphy

7. Election of Members to Council

Mr. Ferguson (Chair) pointed out that there is a vacant post under the elected reps. He confirmed that Mr. Kennedy has stepped away from the Council, however he wanted to remain part of the Strategic Advisory group for the Capital Development Masterplan. The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) is chaired by Chris Thompson with experience in project management along with Mr. David Orr and Mr. Ciaran McGurk from SIB.

Mr. Millar asked were members of the SAG being remunerated. The Chair responded by saying yes, a very modest remuneration.

Mr. Reilly asked a question regarding the Pavilion Based Sports Rep being vacant. Mr. Ferguson responded by saying that we are giving considerable thought to the governance of the organisation based on law and how to be more efficient in the way we run the organisation/business.

It was acknowledged that the position was still open to co-option.

The elections of officers were accepted on the proposal of Mr David Reilly and seconded by Mr Tom May.

8. Motion

Proposal to increase subscriptions.

Michael Carson briefly outlined the case for an increase in the membership subscription rate in July 2023. 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 inflation last year was high and if we increased subs in line with inflation, it would be a 10.7% increase. Following a discussion with Council it was agreed to increase subs by half of current inflation rate meaning an additional 0.30p per month.

Mr Carson concluded his presentation by proposing an increase in the membership subscription of 30p per month (5.0%) from July 2023.

The proposal to increase subscription was accepted on the proposal of Mr Tom May and seconded by Mr Cliff Radcliffe.

9. Any Other Business

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