Minutes of the Transition Black Isle AGM on Saturday 21st October 2023

At Rosemarkie Beach Cafe

Present: Trish McKeggie, Anne Thomas, Julian Paren, Julie Gibson, Julie Shortreed, Roger Piercy, Penny Edwards, Martin Sherring, Jimmie Hepburn, Peter Moffatt, Marion Moffatt, Ro Scott, Crockett Cresswell (non-member), Mary Paren, Alaine Macdonald.

In attendance: Laura Donnelly (TBI employee)

Apologies: Rose Grant, Sheila Currie, Wendy Price, Helen Robinson.

Minutes of the last meeting

These were unanimously accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

Convenor’s Report

Julian Paren asked the trustees and Laura to report on their respective activities during the year.

Julie Gibson reported that the Food & Growing group had organised the 2023 Potato Day, with a return to North Kessock Village Hall after alternative arrangements due to Covid the previous two years.

Anne Thomas spoke about the continuing challenges with the Avoch – Munlochy Cycle Route (the Places for Everyone funding, and the project as a whole, are to be taken on by Highland Council, but disagreements with landowners remain). We continue to offer bike hire – currently via Black Isle Yurts, but there is scope for another outlet.

Peter Moffatt has been working on an upgrade to the website, which is anticipated to go live in the next few weeks.

Julian reported that the Active Travel Map has been reprinted, and circulated in collaboration with Black Isle Tourism. Julian produced an information pack on a “slow tourism” theme which has been distributed to tourism outlets, again working with Black Isle tourism.

Laura introduced herself as TBI’s employee with responsibility for Highland Community Waste Partnership activities. She has been working on a range of initiatives, including supporting the Black Isle Repair Café, a series of regular Climate Cafes, a recent workshop on making the best use of sewing machines, a “Re-love Pre-loved” sale and a campaign to reduce single-use cups. More activities to come are a campaign to reduce food waste, and a “library of things” to encourage sharing between community groups.

Finance

The Treasurer, Martin Sherring, gave a summary of finances for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The Income & Expenditure account shows restricted and unrestricted funds, with a surplus for the year of £4,232 arising on unrestricted funds and £22,488 from restricted funds. The unrestricted surplus arose due to a return to “in-person” events post-Covid, and the restricted amount represents an under-spend on the Highland Community Waste Partnership budget, which is expected to reverse in the coming months.

The balance sheet showed bank balances at 31st March of just over £21,000, and in addition an amount of £16,441 owed by Highland Good Food Partnership, which was settled after the financial year-end. The Highland Good Food Partnership balance arose because TBI incurred various costs on their behalf before they had opened their own bank account.

Election of Directors

Martin explained that all Trustees have to stand down at each AGM. Any who wish to stand again must be re-elected by the membership.

There were 6 Directors before the AGM, all of whom wished to stand again. There were no other candidates.

Martin proposed that all 6 individuals standing for election should be elected en-block. This was carried unanimously. The duly elected board is therefore: Julie Gibson, Martin Sherring, Julian Paren, Anne Thomas, Peter Moffatt and Rose Grant.

MS