Minutes of the Transition Black Isle AGM on Friday 29th November 2019 at Glachbeg

Present: Martin Sherring, Julie Gibson, Julie Shortreed, Anne Thomas, Peter Moffatt, Marion Moffatt, Penny Hepburn, Jimmie Hepburn, Sheila Currie, Julian Paren, Alaine Macdonald, Richard Robinson.

Non-members: Bob Neish, Caroline Eccles, Chris Lea, Doug Mainland, Susan Steven.

Apologies: Bob Bull, Helen Bull, Penny Edwards, Vanessa Halhead, Ro Scott, Kathryn Logan, Barbara Manson, Anna Scott, Duncan Scott, Trish McKeggie, Joan Munro.

Minutes of the last meeting

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

Convenor’s Report

Julie reported on activities during the year to 31st March 2019, and those which had taken place since then.

Of particular note were:

* 10th birthday activities – ceilidh, pocket orchards and planning for a Good Food Conference to be held in 2020.
* Education, awareness and campaigning – with the TBI/ Take One Action films programme, Transition Talks, and the climate talk given by Julian Paren at the Black Isle Gathering. Also ongoing activities with website, newsletter, and responses to consultations;
* Networking and resilience – we have worked with a wide range of other groups, including Black Isle Tourism Team, Culbokie Community Trust, Highland Cycle Campaign, Soirbheas, Residents’ Association of North Kessock, Highland Council, Muir Hub, Extinction Rebellion and Transition Town Forres. The strong links between these groups, and others, are a significant feature;
* A new option appraisal commissioned for an off-road cycle route between Avoch and Munlochy – and support for Culbokie Community Trust with their similar project;
* Waste initiatives, with a new “Drastic Plastic” group formed and active at various events, talks from Highland Council’s Waste Team, and a Transition Talk discussion on Food Waste;
* Markets continuing to thrive, with the Fortrose market moving to larger premises and a number of new food stalls;
* Lots of continuing activity on food and growing.

Julie observed that with existing directors committed to maintaining existing activities, the main constraint on how much we can do is the number of people confident enough to lead new projects. If any members think they may be able to help, the directors can provide support and (if necessary) suggestions for projects.

At the time of the AGM there were 170 members, compared with 165 at the same time last year.

Finance

The Treasurer, Julian Paren, gave a summary of finances for the year ended 31st March 2019.

Julian reported a sound financial result for the year showing a surplus of £2,719. TBI’s net assets at the year-end were £28,129. Community markets generated a net income of £2,094, and the annual Potato Day and associated sales £1,901. We are also grateful for donations totalling £1,551. The main areas of expenditure were website and promotions (£1,638), events (£1,285, although some of the donations income related to the same events) and £647 for bookkeeping and audit.

Julian noted that the accumulated funds represent an opportunity for TBI to take on new projects with confidence.

Election of Directors

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

There were 7 Directors before the AGM. Of these, Vanessa Halhead wished to stand down due to the pressure of other commitments, and all others wished to stand again. In addition, Jimmie and Penny Hepburn both announced they wished to stand for election.

Martin proposed that all 8 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, Sheila Currie, Penny Hepburn and Jimmie Hepburn.

Martin noted that the Board has the power to co-opt Directors between AGM’s.