



Charity No SCO37003
Company No. 376811

Lochaber Hope minutes of AGM, 11.15am, 10th October 2011, An Drochaid

Present: Mary McCulloch, Gerry Conaghan, Alyson Smith, Val Penny.
Apologies: John Penny, Brenda Grant.

Members of the public present: Jamie MacDonald, Janet O'Neil, Christine MacMillan, Tania Barnes, Jane MacLean, Laird Smith, Rachel Tonks, Marion Smith, Simon Nicholls, Liz McLure.

1. Opening Welcome
2. Co-ordinators report: Review of the last year / summary of plans for next year, Alyson Smith
3. Presentation of the Financial Statements, Gerry Conaghan
4. Any Other Business – none
5. Questions from the floor:
 - 5.1 Q: MS asked is there a date for moving out of the old building and into the new premises?
A: There is no confirmed date as yet but hopefully within a month.
 - 5.2 Q: LS asked how to become more involved with LH as a member or Director?
A: There are currently 6 Directors and other Directors would be welcomed as would advisers to the board.

Discussion: Transparency of related people being Directors and a Director receiving remuneration.

There is no issue with related people being Directors as long as transparency and good practice is shown, e.g. same family members cannot be signatories. Lochaber Hope is slightly different in that the Memo of Articles states that the co-ordinator can be a Director and receive remuneration, SN asked if this information could be made available as it may benefit other charities, MS (VAL) agreed to provide this information for the minutes.

4.2 of the Memorandum of Association states that LH can:

“pay reasonable and proper remuneration to any director or member of the company in return for particular services (not being of a governance nature) actually rendered for the company; for the sake of clarity this shall permit the payment of remuneration to any director or member who is an employee of or under any contract to the company whether this arrangement predates or postdates appointment as director or member, all subject to the terms of the law applying to charities in Scotland from time to time should the company be a charity”

- 5.3 Q: Could the constitution be available on the website?
A: Yes and this will be done.
- 5.4 Q: JO asked if there will be a ‘drop in’ again as this is missed by clients?
A: Yes, the plan is to have a ‘drop in’ day open at the plantation community centre within the month.



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5.5 Q: SN asked what is LH 5 year plan?

A:

1. To move to new easy accessible premises in town with Fort William Christian Fellowship, (HUB) providing greater resources and client support. To continue to develop the current mentoring, counselling, employment support and personal development services, developing service level agreements with statutory bodies NHS and THC.
2. To develop the current pilot Employment Assisted Programme, providing access to counselling to local employers for employees experiencing vulnerable periods and times of crisis in their lives, thus reaching a wider community and reducing costs of presenteeism and absenteeism in the workplace. (CIPD has announced this week that stress is the biggest cause of illness in the workplace)
3. Develop as a Social Enterprise.

5.6 Q: TB asked how LH sees working practice developing with Statutory bodies in the 5 year plan?

A: At this time of integration LH is currently in discussion with THC, Education and NHS, we work well with local services e.g. CMHS and will become an easier accessible service as a voluntary body.

JO stated that she accessed LH as an alternative to being on a long waiting list and how she feels she has greatly benefited by LH services. Thank you.

SN invited LH to his spot on Nevis Radio on a Sunday night to speak to the community about LH. Thank you

An official opening and launch date of the new premises will be announced.

Finally, thank you to Lochaber Rotary Club as champions of LH, to the Directors, Staff, Volunteers and Clients who have all contributed and participated in 'working together – learning together' to make Lochaber Hope a stronger and easy accessible helping resource within our community.