

LOCHALSH AND SKYE SWIMMING POOL ASSOCIATION AGM

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2026 IN KYLE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Fiona Begg, Chair (FB), Shona MacLennan (SML), Mary Gollan (MG), Paul Wood (PW), Clive Rawlings (CR), Charlene Maguire (CM), Julia Asiedu (JA), Anna Morrison (AM), Karen Kennedy (KK), Kirsty Brown (KB), Chris Brown (CB)

Apologies: Lesley Young, Abbi Knowles, Zen Maclellan, Eloise Dey, Suzie Burt

1. WELCOME

FB welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS AGM

The minute was approved by CM and seconded by CR.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. This report deals with the organisation from April 2024 to March 2025. LSSPA is the charitable organisation overseeing the management of the Lochalsh Leisure Centre (LLC). The charity currently has 5 trustees.
- b. The pivotal event in September 2024 was the Kyleakin to Kyle (K2K) swim which raised a considerable amount and contributed to the £100,000 raised in 4 months and demonstrated the belief within the community about the necessity and future viability of the LLC. Friends of Lochalsh Leisure Centre (FOLLC) was formed and we are grateful for their support and ongoing fundraising.
- c. We appointed a new manager, Paul Wood, in November 2024. PW had been chair of LSSPA at the time when he stood down to apply for the job. Together with the two members of staff who had been kept on, they cleared out, refurbished and painted the building. They were formally thanked for their tremendous efforts.
- d. Funding from HC's Community Regeneration Fund (CRF), enabled us to upgrade plumbing and electrics. The insurers paid for the fire damage and this cost was far less than had been indicated immediately after the fire.
- e. The CRF also paid for upgrade to all our policies, procedures and contracts of employment.
- f. The Centre reopened in January 2025 with the gym in operation to begin with. After a large recruitment drive and training, the pool reopened in May 2025. Lessons started shortly after and by the end of 2025, all staff were fully trained swimming teachers – a huge step forward.
- g. We reopened dialogue with HC and Highlife Highland (HLH), and have re-established a working relationship and partnership with both bodies. LSSPA have bought into the HLH booking system for some years and we continue to monitor how it operates for our users. We are in constant dialogue with HC about the level of funding we receive as it has remained static since 2011. We are exploring new funding streams to offer additional services. Our success with HC has been very limited despite talking to our MSP.
- h. There are many challenges ahead, not least the plant in the building and the upgrade of the building to comply with energy efficiency policy although the building itself is in a good state of repair. This project has already started and the community will be updated in the near future on plans and progress.
- i. Thanks are offered to the centre staff who provide a welcoming, safe and happy environment for the community and the trustees for meeting attendance, etc.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE CHARITY TO 31 MARCH 2025
 - a. MG read out the salient points from the accounts although it was difficult to compare the previous year with the one to 31.03.25 due to the closure of the centre for much of the current year.
5. ORDINARY RESOLUTION TO ENTER ACCOUNTS INTO RECORD AND APPROVE
 - a. They were approved by JA and seconded by KB.
6. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS
 - a. It was agreed to re-appoint Ritsons as our accountants.
7. ELECTION/CO-OPTION OF TRUSTEES
 - a. The current board of 5 trustees stood down.
 - b. Alistair Buchan has resigned as a trustee and was thanked by FB for his time on the board.
 - c. FB, SML, ZM and MG were all re-elected.
 - d. There was one new nomination – Suzie Burt, who has agreed to join the board and this was unanimously approved.
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
 - a. KK asked about the current financial situation as the accounts present are only until March 2025. Income generated is up which reflects the increase in membership numbers and charges. Costs have also risen, particularly staff and energy. We do not break even most months. This is due to limited opening hours due to reduced staffing levels – we currently have the equivalent of 5.5 staff as opposed to 8 when the centre closed. Pay-as-you-go is up. Most resources are taken up by swim teaching.
 - b. We are persevering with discussions with HC and although there is funding for specific projects, this would mean cutting some current classes or activities currently available to fit these in. Our main requirement from HC is for core funding (day to day running costs) which would enable us to employ more staff and be open longer.
 - c. It was highlighted that, as FOLLC is not a charity, we may be missing out on gift aid for donations. Most donations come through JustGiving which does apply gift aid but it is an area we will look at.
 - d. We had recently undertaken a Community Survey. We had 166 replies – 75% from current users, 25% from those who had previously used the centre or had never been. In general there was a really positive response to our efforts, particularly the staff. The negative comments mainly centred around the timetabling, changing room space and better quality gym equipment. These are all areas that the board are aware need addressed and some work is underway.
 - e. The main big issues to be addressed are energy costs and efficiency and the HLH booking system which continues to attract negative comment.
 - f. CR was thanked for his work on the area surrounding the centre to keep it looking attractive and tidy.

FB thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

