



People First Highland

# SPIRIT Advocacy

Strengthening People In Raising Issues Together

Incorporating HUG Action for Mental Health (HUG), People First Highland (PFH)  
and SPEAK (Stigma Prevention through Education, Advocacy and Knowledge)

## Minutes of SPIRIT Advocacy AGM held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Due to Covid19, the AGM was held via zoom

**DRAFT**

### 1. Welcome

Allan Bithell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Present and Apologies

#### Present

Alan Bithell, Bill Cook, Helena Macleod, John Gallon, Mairi Hill, Graham Morgan, John MacLeod, Jon King, Sam Maguire, Peter Todd, Mary Ramsay, Mags Macdonald, Michael Bedard, Emma Roddick MSP, Brian MacKenzie, Daniel Palombo, Taddy Chamney-Kerr, Evelyn, Ashleigh Lewis, Gavin Smith, Tricia Brown and Margaret Maclean were present at the meeting.

#### Apologies

Received from Anne Evans, Chris Evans, Richard Sutherland, Rhona Macleod, Neil Moodie, Ruth Macaulay, Linda Thompson and Daniel Mackenzie-Winters.

#### In-attendance

Sue Lyons, Jamie Bird, Marina Patience, Marion MacLennan and Christine Fletcher.

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### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Peter Todd, seconded by John MacLeod.

### **4. Chair's Report**

Allan presented his report for the year to the meeting.

SPIRIT has had a number of changes in staffing during this year and Allan welcomed Jamie Bird who was appointed SPEAK and HUG Development Worker. We said farewell to Ken Porter who retired in the early part of the year and we wish him a long and happy retirement. Congratulations are extended to Sue Lyons who has been appointed as SPIRIT Manager following Ken's retirement.

Allan passed his thanks to all staff and directors who have continued to work tirelessly on behalf of SPIRIT in challenging circumstances.

SPIRIT face another challenge as we move from having an office base to permanent home working. The decision was taken after careful consideration of SPIRIT's commitment to be more accessible throughout the Highlands and in tandem with restrictions levied as a result of the Covid19 pandemic. We look forward to adopting this new way of working and increasing our reach across all of our members' areas.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Sue presented the report to the meeting and in particular expressed thanks to Emma Roddick MSP for her donations throughout the year.

### **6. Adoption of Annual Accounts 20-21**

The accounts for financial year 2019-20 were adopted. Proposed by Bill Cook and seconded by Jon King.

### **7. Appointment of Accountants for 20-21**

Ritsons were appointed as accountants for the financial year 2020-21. Proposed by Peter Todd and seconded by John MacLeod.

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## **8. Election of Board of Directors**

Allan Bithell our Chair was the only director due to stand down this year. Allan indicated to the meeting that he would be willing to accept re-election. At this point Allan left the meeting and was duly re-elected by SPIRIT members.

Proposed by Peter Todd and seconded by John MacLeod.

## **9. AOCB**

John MacLeod raised the possibility of HUG being involved with the SMHAFF project next year. It was mooted that HUG and another organization could work collaboratively. HUG having hosted the event previously, Jon King raised a valid point that if HUG were to host again it would be imperative to understand the resource implications as this is a considerable piece of work. Clarification to be sought on whether HUG should host the event or prepare pieces as a participant. Sue took an action to speak to the HUG advisory group.

John Gallon questioned the theme of next year's event. John MacLeod clarified the theme was "The Gathering".

There being no other matters the meeting concluded the business and the floor was opened to Emma Roddick MSP who held a Q and A session on a wide range of topics. Thanks to those who raised questions.