AGM
Sunday 26th October 2025

North Kessock Community Hub
2-4pm

Members Present

Lorna Sproates (LS), Alison Collins (AC), Pete Mitchell (PM), Bea Jefferson (BJ), John Henderson (JH), Jan Adamson (JA), Rikky Beck (RB), Samantha Richard(SR), Tom Summerscales (TS), Julie Cribb (JC) Lesley McBride (LM), Mark Wallington (MW)

Apologies

Sally Kendall, Ros Wright, Jenni Coelho, Karen Meikle (KM), Jane Bregazzi, Debbie Halliday, Judith Binnie, Michael Milson, Angela Mitchell, Clea Warner

Pete Mitchell welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Approval of the minutes of the AGM from Sunday 17th November 2024 as an accurate record.

The minutes from last year's AGM were accepted as a true record. *Proposed*: PM and S*econded*: LS. Some matters arising from the minutes were discussed throughout the meeting. PM discussed the 'Ghost to Coast proposal'. When he did it, he got as far as Findhorn at about 30 miles, then was exhausted so it was not a feasible option for a future event.

A projector was used at the meeting. Matters arising are in red.

Chair's Report;

PM presented this. Please follow the link;

https://ldwa.org.uk/lgt/downloads/NorthWestGrampian/NofS_2025_Chairs_Report_V3.pdf

Treasurer's Report

LS presented the accounts. Please follow the link;

https://ldwa.org.uk/lgt/downloads/NorthWestGrampian/LDWA_2025.pdf

We have roughly the same amount of money as last year as we paid out for the first aid course and made a surplus of £1000 on the coast to coast. We pay a £4.25 monthly as a bank charge. LS and RB will look into changing banks where there is not a charge. Possibly Moray Firth Credit Union in Forres.

We still need to make a donation to Historic Churches. JC will give contact details to LS for Croick church.
LS to make a donation of £100 to Mountain Rescue. (Matter arising from previous AGM 2024.)

BJ suggested we keep a reserve policy. After some discussion it was decided that we would always keep £1000 that would be ring-fenced for challenge events.

JC reported that our group will get a percentage of profit from any North of Scotland merchandise brought through PECO. JC is still the contact person so we will contact PECO to change the contact person to the secretary. PECO to be contacted regarding the above. It was suggested that we should publicised the merchandise more on WhatsApp, Facebook and newsletters.

Social Walks Report

BJ took over the role of social walks secretary in mid 2025. The walk program had been put together by PM. We have had 23 walk this year so far with 4 more to come. Average attendance is 9 members per walk. With numbers ranging from 2 to 15. We have put on a good variety of walks. 2/3rd of the attendees are female, 1/3rd are male. Only 40% of members

come out. JC said that 40% is very good with most UK groups having 20%.
BJ is looking to plan for next year and is wanting to encourage walk leaders. She will contact them. She is planning 2 walks per month. One cafe walk which will be short and of moderate pace and a longer and more challenging walk.
BJ has drafted for us a social walk leader guidance document which is specific for our area. Here is the link;
https://ldwa.org.uk/lgt/downloads/NorthWestGrampian/walk_leader_guidance_final_oct_2025.pdf

PM has bought a shelter which will be used on remote high level walks. The start times and allowing dogs will be at the discretion of the walk leader. PM suggested that we use public transport. PM is hoping to put on challenging mountain walks.

MW suggested some afternoon and evening walks and that we should let members know about other walking events in the area, such as the Golspie 3 peaks and the 4 harbour walk. SR had recently completed a challenge at Poolewe. There was some discussion about a 30 mile loop at the Cairngorms camping at Bob Scott's bothy.

BJ said that after a walk it is mandatory that a register should be put on the website and that a walk report and Gpx file is desirable. AC asked if the strider walks would continue. PM said that some walks could accommodate a striding group. There then followed a discussion about pace. BJ said it is helpful if walk leaders put the expected pace of the walk in their walk description.

Election of Committee Officers and other committee members

PM said he would step down as chair and become the challenge walk co-ordinator. Proposed by RB and seconded by AC.
RB agreed to be the new chair, proposed by BJ and seconded by AC.
JC is stepping off the committee.
All other committee members are to stay on the committee. KM was the only one who has not been asked. AC to ask KM if she would like to stay.

Open Forum for views from members

PM proposed that the constitution should change to 10 people needed for a quorum at the AGM as we have struggled over the last 2 meetings to get 12. This was unanimously agreed.

JC said that we could contact the NEC to see if we could use their zoom licence for our AGM. AC will investigate this. It was agreed that 1 year the AGM would be in the Inverness area and the next year it would be in Moray. AGM next year is to be on Sunday 4th October in the Moray area.

The 10th anniversary walk will be on Sunday 23rd of November. AC suggested we book Edinkillie village hall where we can celebrate with tea and cake. AC to book.

The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday 27th January at 7pm.

JH thanked JC for the many years that she has helped the group grow and flourish. We have been so fortunate to be able to have the benefit of her knowledge and experience over the years. JC was presented with a bottle of Champagne.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm