

## **SENS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025**

**Held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 1700 in The Institute, Staveley**

### **PART A – FORMAL PROCEEDINGS**

Present: Isobel S, Daniel, Alasdair, Anne H, Isobel A, Wendi, Sue, Jenny, Quentin, Neil, Dave, Fran, Alistair K.

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2024 AGM and any matters arising  
Minutes were approved with no matters arising.
3. Chairs Report

Isobel expressed very grateful thanks to Sheila and Mike for their outstanding efforts in support of projects in the village. They will be sorely missed.

#### Westmorland and Furness Grant

A lot of time and effort went into managing the Westmorland and Furness Climate and Nature grant in conjunction with colleagues on the Parish Council. Progress is as follows:

- Alec Row: Anne Salisbury will be setting up an event to make the planters. We then need to sort compost/planting.
- Community notice boards: one in place at Ings, and Anne Salisbury is organising a weatherproof board to be positioned at Alec Row.
- Composting: following a meeting at the school recently, the hot compost bin project is back on track with thanks to Wendi for keeping it going through the winter. Jenny B organising a publicity campaign to encourage community contributions The outdoor centre at High Borrans would like to do something similar and have been seeking advice.
- 'I Get Around' project: a survey has been carried out via hard copy and Facebook with 60 returns flagging a wide range of issues. Report is complete. Will be shared with relevant organisations / agencies to discuss next steps
- Repair Café: has not seen much activity over the winter but will be up and running on a regular basis soon.
- Youth Project: really working well and is set to continue. Deb Michel and others have obtained funding to enable it to carry on and become a free-standing entity. Danni Chalmers from Cumbria Wildlife Trust has engaged with young people and the grant has enabled the purchase of materials to support outdoor activities with her.

- Staveley Green Gateway; trees planted at the western end of the village.
- Ebike: the grant supported the cost of insurance.

#### Other Projects

- Clean River Kent Campaign: SENS continues to support the campaign which enjoys good support throughout the river catchment. There are plans for the campaign website to be set up independently of the Sustainable Staveley website.
- Ebikes: usage is too low to be sustainable but a very generous donation covered insurance this year. There is active consideration of how best to keep the project going.
- Transport Decarbonisation project: being run by Alistair and being hosted by SENS.
- Litter Pick: the annual village litter pick is being arranged for 5<sup>th</sup> April by Isobel A. She is also interested in organising a work party to clear some disused tree guards. Jenny B to liaise with Isobel A re. promotion.
- Damson Orchard: SENS members are actively involved in care and maintenance. Anne S will be setting future work party dates shortly.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report: Accounts for 2024

Dave presented the accounts which were approved by the meeting. In due course the accounts will be scrutinised by a retired accountant.

Dave was thanked by the committee for all the hard work he has put into managing the finances in 2024.

#### 5. Proposed Amendments to Constitution

The Constitution has quoracy in General Meetings of 8 members. Propose we amend quoracy to 4 members present and voting at a meeting at para 8 c 1 of the constitution. This motion was approved – proposed by Alistair K and seconded by Dave.

#### 6. Review and update of policies

- Safeguarding policy updated. A SENS safeguarding lead is required. Dave agreed to be Safeguarding lead following Sheila's departure.

- SENS Privacy Notice review annually – no amendments.
- SENS Equal Opportunities Policy review annually – no amendments.

#### 7. Officer elections for 2025

- Chair: there were no offers forthcoming to take on the role. Isobel very kindly offered to stay on as a ‘minimalist’ chair but is seeking to actively spread the load at the next meeting. Proposed by Dave and seconded by Sue.
- Secretary: Jenny Merritt was elected. Proposed by Isobel S and seconded by Sue
- Treasurer: Dave to continue in the role. Proposed by Alistair and seconded by Fran
- Committee Members: there was some discussion about the best size of the committee. Fran, Wendi, and Alistair agreed to stand. Proposed by Dave and seconded by Isobel S. It was emphasised that all members are free to attend and participate in all committee meetings.

#### 8. Any other business

This was incorporated into Part B.

### **PART B – OPEN DISCUSSION**

Greater attention to be given to encouraging members to contribute to the core costs of running SENS. Donations will be requested at each meeting, and amendments made to the newsletter to increase profile of the donations request.

It was agreed that bringing speakers to SENS meetings/giving public talks would be a welcome idea.

The next meeting will discuss future activities and task sharing in the light of whether SENS has been successful or not at obtaining a grant to cover ongoing costs. Quentin agreed to help with funding applications to complement any grant from W&F.