



Delegate meeting (Zoom) Saturday 27 September 2020

Chair: Marjorie Wilson, Loch Yes
Minutes: Carole Inglis, Yes Skye & Lochalsh
Secretary: Alison Fraser, InverYess

SEDERUNT – 18 present, 13 member groups

Apologies: Jim Farquharson, Yes Forres

Aye Fyne: Tricia Grey, Ross Weir

Caithness : Patsy Sinclair, Mary Sinclair

Forres : Apologies

Grassroots Oban : Ruth Barratt

InverYess : Alison Fraser, Irene Stacey

Kintyre: Ron Wilson

Lochaber Aye2Aye : Jim Ramsay

Loch Yes : Marjorie Wilson, Malcolm Morrison

Moray/Elgin : Colin Watson, Suzanne Wright

Nairn : Iain Bruce

Ross Sutherland : Anne Searles, Lorraine Carson

Skye & Lochalsh : Carole Inglis

Badenoch and Strathspey: Rod Frazer

YHI SIC Rep: Alastair Macdonald

Minutes of last meeting: Proposed Alastair Macdonald, seconded Rod Frazer.

1. GRASSROOTS

Proposing 8 electoral regions with 3 from each region = 24 regional delegates with next meeting Sunday 25 October. The reps do not need to be same but each region's rep must report back to regional group. Iain Bruce will be the reporter and organiser on behalf of YHI.

ACTION: Send name to Alison or Iain if you are interested

2. YHI EVENTS CALENDAR

Alison and Carole created a calendar (sheet) on Google Drive to help avoid date clashes when organising events. Although not possible to avoid, it will help with this and also provide an at-a-glance list of what's coming up. Links will be sent to a designated calendar guru in each group.

Discussion followed on Zoom subscriptions, how groups manage and share resources.

ACTION: Send Alison a named delegate from each group if you would like access to the calendar

3. MEETING WITH MAREE TODD

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 20 October. The initiating letter sent to all MP/MSPs following up on the referendum bill has been overtaken by events and it was proposed that the meeting now be open to all YHI members as Maree is standing as MSP in 2021.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

Groups voted on one of four options per agenda.

Do nothing : InverYess, Oban, Lochaber, Caithness, YRS, YSL

No decision reached: Badenoch

Go with majority : Moray/Elgin, Nairn, LochYess

Iain Bruce pointed out initial rationale was to have structure in place to share with regional groups.

The meeting agreed we can re-visit in future if it becomes necessary. Alison Fraser suggested individual groups could choose to pick up for themselves as wished. Alastair requested options are archived.

ACTION: Ensure relevant documents are archived

5. LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

Long discussion where various experiences of the Long Walk were aired, mostly citing the lack of communication from the organising team. It was felt that the driving team were easier to deal with,

and that meant for productive outcomes, especially when the local YHI group took a high level proactive approach. Not everyone was able to do this.

The communities of Yes Moray, Yes Ross and Sutherland, InverYess and Yes Caithness had got involved and this resulted in good coverage on Facebook and the printed press including support with bridge banners, flags, pipers, soup and sandwiches, breakfasts and overnight stays. Yes Nairn responded to a late night call for accommodation. Different length walks had different needs, and were long routes.

6. BUSINESS FOR SCOTLAND

Extracts online haven't yet appeared, but expected soon including list of questions for interviewees.

7. SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE CONVENTION (SIC) UPDATE

YHI delegate Alastair Macdonald reported not much progress (again). Per September minutes, YHI withholds forward planning approval without sight of the document. Organisation running on a shoestring and will be launching a fundraiser soon.

Discussion followed re the structure and management of SIC with reservations expressed as to SIC spend to date. Maggie Chapman and Iain Black are co leaders but still internal struggles. A vote of no confidence was suggested, however Common Weal's involvement seen as beneficial, so wait and see. New document Transitioning Scotland, as cited in The National, has gone for re-write.

8. YHI GROUP UPDATES

Aye2Aye Lochaber

Keeping hub open but difficult to staff at times. Speakers programme going well – To date : Peter A Bell, Tim Rideout (Currency) and John Hutchison (Scotland's Constitution) To follow Jason Baird (Indie Ap), Robin MacAlpine, John Finnie, Angus Brendan MacNeil. All welcome. Dot Jessiman recommended as a speaker on the NEC and alternative routes to indy.

Badenoch and Strathspey

Meetings just restarted

Planning a print run and leaflet drop - no need to chap door, just deliver it

Caithness

Fairly quiet, perhaps a small table with scot brief book

Big yes signs getting made, but hard to get folk motivated so hope will help with engagement

Forres

Not in attendance

Inverness

Walkers well organised thanks to Graham Bell, bridges with banners and flags

Plan to print Stand up for Scotland leaflets by Colin Dunn

Regular Zoom meetings on Fridays

LochYes

Interest is low without campaign, few participants and not enough to commit to zoom

Have facebook page and membership drive is needed

Moray

Joining the Oban banner library – use as gazebo sides for conversation starters

Bridges for indy was successful – need to repeat maybe liaise with Yes Forres

Nairn

Had SNP focus recently with some success

Joined banner library and would like to liaise with print of IMB leaflet

Glenlivet Speyside

Not in attendance

Kintyre

Considering stall with static tables – worked well elsewhere.

Banner library been great and decided to put on trailer either side for drive rounds

Good fun, good reaction, about visibility – just get out there, as is morale boost for core group

North West Lochaber

Not in attendance

Oban Grassroots

Eight groups using banner library – Highlands only except Pensioners for Indy

Borders have some ideas for designs re border issues

Trying for a shop window rather than a hub – savings towards a trailer

Outer Hebrides

Not in attendance

Ross & Sutherland

Agm on 13/10 elected five admin and treasurer (only formal role).

New stickers agreed esp for road signs - request for 'power grab' slogan ideas

Possible light projection in Strathpeffer – they have a trailer

Skye & Lochalsh

Kenny MacAskill event went well with 60 booked but 45 attending.

Asked views on small contribution. Agreement from all, it's educational, no one is excluded.

AOCB

i) Ruth reported on Constitution for Scotland, following recent event with Bob Ingram. Project in consultation phase and looking for comment. Scot Gov showing no interest, but not essential at this stage. General discussion followed – suggestion that Zoom sub groups focus on sections for discussion with volunteers welcomed.

It is intended to be the people's constitution hence comments invited. Questions re inclusivity and complexity with acknowledgment this is first stage engagement which will improve. Individual comments are as valid, groups often struggle to reach consensus.

ii) Alison Fraser reported that the meetings with other groups all over Scotland has raised some fantastic ideas eg planting Yes logo snowdrops.

iii) Tricia reported (earlier in meeting) that pensions still a BIG issue. Could YHI put together a short letter stating the facts for press. Alastair drew attention to Pensioners for Indy is great resource.

iv) Alastair proposed Brexit as an agenda item for next meeting- how will it impact locally and what do we need to do to prepare.

ACTION: Add Brexit Impact to next month's agenda

Date of next meetng : 7 November 2020 at 10am

Organiser group: InverYess

Chair : Alastair Macdonald

Minutes : Alison Fraser