



Delegate meeting (Zoom) Thursday 07 January 2021

Chair: Alastair Macdonald, InverYess

Minutes: Alison Fraser, InverYess

Secretary: Alison Fraser, InverYess

SEDERUNT – 26 present, 16 member groups

Aye2 Aye: Jim Ramsay

Aye Fyne: Mary MacCallum Sullivan, Tricia Greig

Grassroots Oban : Ruth Barratt, Colin Morrison

InverYess : Alastair Macdonald, Irene Stacey

Loch Yes: Gordon Shanks, Lesley Findlay

NW Lochaber: Ruth and Gary Reavell

Yes Badenoch & Strathspey: Rod Frazer

Yes Caithness: Ian Sinclair, Patsy Sinclair

Yes Elgin/Moray: Colin Watson

Yes Forres: Jim Farquharson, Brian Hill

Yes Islay: Pat Farrington

Yes Nairn : Iain Bruce

Yes Orkney: Ian Carse

Yes Ross Sutherland: Anne Searles, Lisa Simpson

Yes Skye Lochalsh: Carole Inglis, Hector MacLeod

Yes Speyside Glenlivet: Danny Watson

1. Welcome

- a) Apologies - Amanda Frazer, Yes B&S
- b) AOCB - Yes Arran to join YH&I?

2. Minutes of last meeting

- a) approved by Danny, seconded by Jim
- b) matters arising - new delegate chat Whatsapp function has been set up to free other for business

3. National Yes Network

Alison felt that the NYN has been taken over by a group of activists who are putting all their energies into social media functions such as facebook and twitter with the founding idea of connecting Yes groups via email for support and inspiration having been pushed into the background.

Iain too felt that too many personalities were taking over the meetings and there was not enough collaboration. He was concerned too about the running down of a founder member at a public meeting.

Ruth Barratt, who was to be our permanent rep with NYN, was not at home with the focus on social media and the use professional jargon. This was not what she expected when she offered to represent YH&I.

Alison highlighted the Independence map on the NYN fb page and suggested we should investigate and contact other groups on it.

Peadar (YRS) is also going to meet with those from NYN who set it up and will report back.

4. Internal Market Bill (IMB)

Lisa's posters were put up by groups all over the region but in many places were taken down quite quickly. This suggests that they were at least read. Those in windows close to pavements seemed to stimulate interest and also were protected from wet weather. Ian Carse had written an article on the IMB with the poster for his local online Orkney News.]=[#
The proposed explanatory leaflet had not yet been written.

5. Scottish parliamentary election 6 May 2021

Alison said that one of InverYess' members, Monica, had compiled a voter's handbook from information available online. InverYess were going to look into whether we could become accredited observers at this very crucial election as there were doubts expressed about the legality of the counting at previous elections. Some members had been at the counts at other elections however and felt that things were scrupulously fair. The online booklet is available for inspection and various groups took up the offer.

Jim was concerned about the SNP dragging their feet as far as a referendum is concerned and this sparked a discussion on postal votes and the possibility of interference with the counting of them. It was felt that we should have international observers at the coming election and the referendum. A small letter-writing group of Iain Bruce, Ian Carse and Carole Inglis was formed to draft a letter to MSPs from YH&I to highlight the issues and to pressurize them to take the conduct of the election very seriously.

Iain also suggested that individual letters in the same vein to the First Minister piles on the pressure. He himself has written to Nicola recently and certainly had acknowledgements of his letters.

6. Social media

Rod gave an impassioned plea for us to get more involved with social media. We need to get out and try to convert the "soft no's" and SM is where you find them particularly when we can't get out and about at the moment due to Covid lockdown. He had found a way of inserting political ads into targeted groups which meant you can reach far more people than you could by other methods. This idea was welcomed by the meeting and Rod said he'd be happy to work with Lisa, Brian and Carole to look at ways to make the best use of SM. He also was happy to be a rep at the next NYN zoom where he may be more in tune with their social media leanings.

Impact of Brexit on our daily life

Alastair was keen that we all keep a tally of the changes that are occurring post Brexit in our local areas, such as rise in prices and availability of food and other commodities.

We might also be thinking about what we individually in the Highlands could be doing to promote the environment given that COP26 is coming to Scotland in November.

Group reports

YSL Large Wind, Wave and Water banner erected, another banner on trailer, zooms organized with Alan Bissett in February and Kenneth MacDonald in March.

Elgin/Moray Two banners on either side of car driven around supermarkets.

Grassroots Oban Speakers Jan 14 Mike MacKenzie on the Resilience Economy, Feb 12 Graeme McCormick and Kate Forbes on Annual Ground Rent.

YRS Two more local groups formed within their area.

Loch Yes Working on the Brexit leaflet.

Aye Fyne Regular letters to local newspapers.

Forres Just taken out a zoom subscription

AOCB **Alison** to look in to the question of Arran joining YH&I

Next meeting Thursday 04 February 2021 at 7pm Elgin/Moray to host