

Trustees' Annual Report for Year Ending 31 December 2025

Nairnshire Community Newspaper SCIO (“the Charity”)

1 Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Nairnshire Community Newspaper SCIO

Charity Number: SC053080

Address: 79A High Street, Castle Square, Nairn IV12 4BW

Charity Trustees on Date of Approval of The Trustees' Annual Report

Alister Asher

Yvonne Cotter - Secretary

Donald Green

Paul Macdonald – Treasurer

Marianne McInnes

David Tunstall – Chair

Membership:

As at Date of Approval of The Trustees' Annual Report the Charity has 109 Members, including the Trustees listed above.

2 Structure, Governance, and Management

Governing Document:

The governing document is the constitution of Nairnshire Community Newspaper SCIO

Constitution:

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment:

- The following Trustees, who were appointed on 26 January 2024 and were signatories to the charity application, served as Trustees throughout the year: Paul Macdonald, David Tunstall.
- The following Trustees, who were appointed by the Board on 15 July 2024, were re-elected at the first Annual General Meeting on 13 March 2025: Alister Asher, Yvonne Cotter, Katherine Diaz, Miguel Diaz, Donald Green and Des Scholes.
- Marianne McInnes was appointed as a Trustee at the Annual General Meeting on 13 March 2025.
- The following Trustees resigned during the year: Graham Stuart on 7 February 2025; Des Scholes on 4 June 2025; Katherine Diaz on 31 December 2025; Miguel Diaz on 31 December 2025.
- Sadly we lost Des Scholes who had made a brilliant contribution to the newspaper. He was an utter gentleman and is sorely missed.
- There is now an urgent need to seek further trustees in order to carry the project forward.

3 Financial Summary

Year-end position:

- Income from charitable activities during the year was £28,000 (prior year £12,000) comprising
 - Newspaper sales £12,200 (prior year £3,200)
 - Advertising sales £14,100 (prior year £8,700)
 - Online subscription sales £1,000 (prior year nil)
 - By post subscription sales £450 (prior year nil)

- Income from donations was £7,200 (prior year £4,100). This includes a restricted donation of £5,000 to cover costs related to running the office.
- The Charity received unrestricted grants to the value of £10,000 (prior year £34,000).
- Payments during the year were £37,000 (prior year £12,000), comprising:
 - Staff costs £24,000 (prior year nil)
 - Printing and production costs £9,000 (prior year £3,000)
 - Office and other running costs £3,500 (prior year £4,000)
 - Legal fees £nil (prior year £5,500)
- As at 31 December 2025 the Charity had reserves of £41,000 (at 31 Dec 2024 £38,000).
As at 30 April 2026 reserves were £27,000.
- Known liabilities at year-end were £6,000 (prior year-end £500).

Reserves Policy:

The reserves policy is to maintain reserves equal to at least three months operating costs, which, based on forecast costs effective 1 June 2026 equates to £5,000.

Donated Services and Facilities:

The Charity benefitted from specialist skills and services donated by trustees and volunteers. These include business planning; accountancy and bookkeeping; IT systems set up and support; digital design and layout; HR support; editorial review, writing and proof-reading, office administration and distribution of newspapers. We estimate that in excess of 15,000 volunteer hours have been worked since commencement of project, to get the newspaper to where it is now.

4 Objectives, Activities and Achievements

Objectives

The purposes of the Charity are to advance citizenship and community development in Nairn and its surrounding area through production of a regular newspaper mainly by volunteers to:

- (i) bridge information gaps with timely, accurate, and relevant news and local interest stories; and
- (ii) provide schedules of and support to local events;

which will keep residents connected to each other and promote civic engagement.

Activities

The SCIO'S charitable status was approved by OSCR on 26 January 2024; Banking facilities were opened with the Co-operative Bank on 14 February 2024; HMRC charitable status was received on 19 April 2024, with Gift Aid registration subsequently confirmed; VAT registration was approved by HMRC, effective 1 September 2024.

A lease on premises at 79A High Street, Nairn was signed on 21 July 2024 and renewed on 21 July 2025 for a twelve month period. The office provides a team hub and meeting space to coordinate production and distribution of the newspaper.

Achievements

We employed an office administrator, Sophie Martin, on a twelve month contract which commenced on 1 January 2025. This was subsequently extended to 31 May 2026.

We employed a full time editor, Barbora Gáborová, on a nine month contract which commenced on 1 September 2025.

We established an online edition of the newspaper in June 2025 and launched a podcast in December 2025, as well as a Substack platform at the beginning of 2026.

As a result of great efforts by the team we published 11 editions of the newspaper in 2025 and have published four editions of the newspaper in 2026. The last three editions were distributed free of charge.

5 Plans for the future

We had planned that we would generate sufficient funds from advertising, grants and donations to continue with a monthly edition, employing an editor and an office administrator. We have not achieved that goal and have utilised £14,000 of reserves as at 30 April 2026. This is not sustainable. In order to develop a sustainable model for our community newspaper we have taken the strategic decision to move to a quarterly edition.

This approach will help to ensure that our limited financial, trustee and volunteer resources are utilised effectively, enabling us to produce a high quality publication on a sustainable basis and enable the charity to continue as a going concern.

To realise this ambition there is an urgent need for resources - financial, trustees and volunteers. Please feel free to contact any of the trustees if you can assist.

6 Thanks and acknowledgements

The Trustees would like to extend their thanks and acknowledgements to

- The Editorial, Advertising, What's On, Finance and Production teams, most of whom are unpaid volunteers, who have collectively put in 100s of hours each month to make the newspaper a reality.
- Barbora and Sophie for their dedication and hard work.
- Katherine and Miguel Diaz, former Trustees, who were fundamental to enabling the continued production of the newspaper until our editor was onboard.
- Everyone who has taken the time to submit an article, feature or other material to the newspaper.
- Local independent retailers and other organisations who have demonstrated their support by selling the newspaper.

7 Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved this Trustees' Annual Report.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Signature: 

Full Name: David James Tunstall

Position: Chair

Date: