

Buckie Area Forum

Minutes – Wednesday 5 December 2012

1. Welcome and apologies

Vice chair Alan Beresford welcomed all to the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Z Ali (BAF), A Beresford (BAF), N Brown, TI MacPherson (R&ACC), E Marandola (BAF), T McLellan (BAF), I Moir (BAF) and J McIntosh (BHS).

In attendance was councillor G McDonald

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted for Chair Barry Taylor, Cllr D Ross, Cllr J McKay, L Blakelock, G Rose, N Johnson, L Allen, A McRae, A Farquhar and S Warren.

3. Whole Town Strategy

Nick Brown thanked BAF for inviting him along then gave a presentation on the Whole Town Strategy (WTS). WTS demonstrates the importance of balance between economic, social and environmental concerns and is suitable for towns large enough for their own high street but are smaller than a city e.g. Fraserburgh, Ellon, Inverurie. Twelve towns were involved in compiling 18 components of a 'wheel' which showed each element, tourism being one example. (Available at <http://www.susset.org/>) Small towns 'pack more punch' when working together and should try to share information and work together. The Strategy was deemed excellent when the authors reported back to Brussels but the recession has since halted further funding. GM commented that recession is an ideal time for towns to use strategies like this as they are more focused. TI warned against towns simply compiling a 'wish list'; expectations must be realistic. The timescale for compiling a WTS is about 6 to 12 months and cost ranges from £17K to £200K depending on the size of the town.

4. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were read and approved, proposed by T McLellan and seconded by Z Ali.

5. Matters arising

Moray Towns Partnership money (£15K) can now be rolled over within the 3-year period.

6. Moray Forum Update

The Moray Council Chief Executive, Roddy Burns, was in attendance at the meeting on 3 December 2012.

There is a flow chart showing how community engagement works.

A document produced by Yetholm Council on community resilience is being used as an example of good practice.

There will be a Transport meeting in Elgin Town Hall supper room on 16 February 2013 to focus on patient transport. IM commented that the revised number 35 bus route does not include Forresterhill Hospital, Aberdeen.

The Allotments policy was discussed and Cllr D Ross is on board with a plan to take a lead from Highland Council and include allotments/ similar facilities in to large developments.

The Forum is still trying to clarify the legalities of who is covered under a Public Performers Licence, for example are groups within BAF covered by Moray Council's licence?

There will be a Housing Seminar on 26 January 2013 to address older people's needs.

7. Youth Matters

There were no Youth Matters to discuss.

8. Treasurer's update

BAF's only income was the annual funding, £976. The bank balance is £6,600 and GMcD said that this money needs to be spent but we are restricted to using it for admin costs only.

The Regen account is up by £2979 so the balance is now £5,500. The real figure available is higher; £154K in council accounts and Tesco money.

IM checked that Radio BCK AGM adverts can be paid for out of BAF account.

Those present discussed how to deal with mess left in the hall after hires. Users are provided with a list of instructions and are aware that the hall should be left as it is found. There are bins to the rear of the library for excess rubbish. EM asked if we would need to provide rubbish bags to enforce this and asked if it would be worth having a caretaker to open/close/clean the hall.

IM is stepping down as Treasurer and Zafar Ali will take over (minuted at AGM). Alan thanked Ian for his services to BAF and we hope to see him at future BAF meetings.

9. Community Issues

Radio BCK Radio BCK is having their AGM on .

Christmas Cracker BAF congratulates the organisers of the Cracker, it was an excellent effort and a great day.

Welfare Reform £7.5million will be lost from the economy in Moray due to reforms for benefits. Those present agreed that Norma Matheson () be invited along to a meeting to discuss this. It will be an informative session and will be publicised to encourage as many groups as possible to attend. It will not be part of a BAF meeting but instead will be backed by BAF and this will be the only agenda item.

TI asked about the clinic in Cathcart Grove. The state of the building is an Environmental Health issue and them taking action depends on the condition of it and not how long it has been empty.

Regen

1. The Regen owns a PA system with mobile microphones. This can be used by groups and a secure storage place is required for them.
2. Sonya Warren is attending a Fair Trade forum 05/12/12
3. The Regen group paid for the Red Hot Chilli Pipers to come to Buckie.
4. Half the cost for completion of the first stage of the Fishwives' Walk has been applied for from the European Fisheries Fund.
5. A statue of a fishwife could be erected at the start/end of the walk in Buckie. It will cost £10K+ and could be paid for with Tesco money match-funded with EFF money = possible £20K. The idea was well received but TI commented that it is a lot of money to spend these times of austerity. TM asked how use of the route would be recorded. GM replied that there will be counters on the gates. TI suggested that BHS could be asked to look in this/the walk in general as a research project of some kind. IM said that it would be great if the walk was the length of a half marathon but GM was unsure of the exact length.
6. FWW logo – wording has been changed from 'path' to 'walk'.
7. All present were in favour of getting a feasibility study for a marina in Cluny harbour. A marina could supplement industrial income to the harbour; Peterhead and Fraserburgh both have working harbours with marina income.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20 February 2013 at 7pm in the Town House

A Beresford thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.

Chair _____
Date _____

Secretary _____
Date _____