



Milne's Neighbourhood Forum



Minute of meeting held Thursday 06 October 2011 in Inchberry Hall

Present Peter Bush, Mosstodloch, Chair
 Gill Stewart, Lhanbryde
 Paul Ralph, Urquhart
 Jackie Owsnett, Fochabers
 Anita Milne, Urquhart
 Ness Smith, Urquhart
 Jennifer Shaw, Lhanbryde
 Ian Gibb, Inchberry (part meeting)

Apologies Cllr George McIntyre
 Marc Macrae, Fochabers
 Sylvia Reid, Fochabers
 Kay Griffin, Fochabers
 Anita McDonald, Mosstodloch
 David Millar, Community Learning and Development Worker, Milne's/ Laich

In Attendance Cllr Douglas Ross
 Fiona Rolt, Minute Secretary

Item		Action
1	Welcome and introductions Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance	
2	Apologies Apologies were received as noted above.	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on the 09 June 2011 were agreed. Proposed: Paul. Seconded: Anita.	
4	Matters Arising 4.1 Flood Action Group, Garmouth and Kingston. The meeting was informed that Peter had been unable to progress this matter. Fiona was asked if she could try to ascertain the situation as far as this group was concerned and it was suggested she contact David Mackay and Jim Stewart.	Fiona
5	Financial Statement Anita informed the meeting that there were a couple of invoices outstanding and these were to be chased up. Fiona will contact Frances from the Institute and Ness will chase up the invoice for Urquhart Parish Hall.	Fiona and Ness

	<p>Anita explained the item under travelling expenses. A member of staff from VCM had undertaken work on behalf of the Youth Involvement Group and had incurred travelling expenses. These had initially been paid by VCM, but Anita did not think that it was appropriate for another organisation to pay expenses for work done for MNF. This was noted and agreed.</p> <p>The rate for travelling was discussed and it was proposed by Anita that this should be in line with HMRC rate for non taxable expenses which is 45p per mile. Ness seconded this proposal and the meeting agreed. Anita encouraged everyone to apply for their expenses as the administration grant was awarded to ensure that no member was out of pocket through attending Forum meetings.</p> <p>The Financial statement was noted.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Transport Seminar</p> <p>Peter informed the meeting that he was absolutely delighted with this event and even more so because the initiative for it arose from discussions at the Milne's Neighbourhood Forum. There were 80 or so present including participants, councillors, speakers and facilitators. The seminar is being hailed as a great success and the feedback from it is very positive.</p> <p>There is to be a wash-up meeting next Tuesday and a report will be produced for circulation. An action plan will be drawn up from the seminar which will take forward various actions from the day including a passenger forum with Stagecoach and suggestions made by Dr Hogg from the feedback session. Some areas were not very well represented, but these were mainly in those areas where there are no Forums.</p> <p>It was agreed that this was an example of really good partnership working. The catering was stupendous and thanks go to the Speyside Area Forum and in particular Sandy Henderson for the cakes.</p> <p>Peter told the meeting that he believes that this type of event is an example of what the Forums should be doing.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Area Forum Draft Code of Conduct</p> <p>This draft Code of Conduct was handed out at the Moray Forum meeting by John Ferguson, Community Planning and Development Manager of the Moray Council. It appears that this was produced as a result of a discussion about staff of the Moray Council being members of group where it may be seen as a conflict of interest. This Code of Conduct seems to be based on the Community Council's Code of Conduct and as Forums are voluntary bodies, it really doesn't apply in the same way.</p> <p>It was agreed that this Code of Conduct was unnecessary and would not be adopted.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Moray Economic Strategy</p> <p>Peter attended the Milne's event, but thought it was top heavy with officials and concentrated, in his view, on Elgin. He reported that there was a poor turnout from the community but conceded it was a terrible night weather wise. Douglas did wonder if including "Elgin City of the Future" in the title may have put people off. They may have thought it wasn't relevant to them.</p> <p>It was also reported that circulation of information was poor and came out rather late. Many people didn't know about it and if they did see it thought it wasn't for them- back to the title again.</p> <p>Peter had voiced the opinion that small industrial units should be encouraged</p>	<p>Peter</p>

	<p>to bring small businesses into the more rural areas to try to reduce depopulation of those areas.</p> <p>Comments were also made about the proposed development in the Lossie Green area of Elgin when there were many units unoccupied at the Edgar Road development. It was also thought inappropriate to re-site the bus station in that area, thus making it even further away from the centre of town and the railway station.</p> <p>It was agreed that Peter should submit a response on behalf of the Forum based on tonight's discussion.</p>	
9	<p>Local Licensing Forum</p> <p>A letter has been received explaining that the Local Licensing Forum wish to enhance communication with the Moray communities and are asking for any thoughts and issues.</p> <p>This led onto a discussion about the proposal to introduce the necessity for community halls to purchase a Public Entertainments Licence. Anita had attended a meeting with Tim Haynes, Legal Services department of the Moray Council where a number of questions were raised as to how this would be applied. In particular who would be responsible and would they have to attend every event and what constituted amplified music?</p> <p>Jackie asked if this would also apply to church halls as they too hosted many musical/ theatrical events.</p> <p>The Moray Federation of Community Halls will be making a submission on behalf of their members.</p> <p>Ian Gibb stressed it was really important that a strong stance was taken at this early stage to ensure that this was not forced on village halls that were already hard pressed to meet all their commitments.</p> <p>The letter was noted.</p>	
10	<p>Dates and venues of meetings</p> <p>The dates and venues were agreed as per circulated list. It was also agreed that 07 June 2012 would be the AGM.</p>	
11	<p>Community Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anita informed the meeting about the "Worried about Winter" event in the Town Hall on Monday, 10th October from 10.30am – 3.00pm. She asked that members spread the word. • Anita handed out leaflets about a campaign being promoted by the Volunteer Centre to knit snakes as draught excluders. Again she encouraged members to spread the word. • Anita informed the meeting that there was to be a promotional event for LEADER on 14th October in Miltonduff Hall from 10.00am – 1.00pm. If anyone is interested in going they need to register before the event. She informed the meeting that there was still approximately £800,000 available to viable projects. • Douglas informed the meeting that Innes Community Council had been disbanded for the time being. Publicity will be produced shortly by the Elections Officer to try to encourage more people to become involved. • He also informed the meeting that the Mosstodloch part of the Fochaber's bypass has now been opened by the Transport Minister Keith Brown. The event was kept very quiet – no one was told 	

	including the local councillors. It also meant that local people who were involved in the campaign to get a bypass were excluded. Douglas has made this point quite forcibly to the Scottish Government.	
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	The meeting closed with thanks to all for attending.	
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Date, time and place of next meeting

Thursday, 03 November 2011 at 7.00pm in Urquhart Parish Hall.

Jackie submitted her apologies for the next few meetings, and resigned from the position of secretary.

DRAFT