

Moray Area Forum - Meeting to adopt the Moray Forum Constitution Monday 28th February 2011

John Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Manager agreed to Chair the first part of the meeting. Alan Beresford thanked John in advance on behalf of the Moray Forum members present.

1. Welcome:

Alan Beresford welcomed those in attendance. He asked John Ferguson to take the chair for the election of office bearers.

2. Attendance:

Alan Beresford Chair Buckie,
Anita Milne Vice Chair Milnes
Sandy Henderson Speyside
Carin Schwartz Forres
Peter Bush Milnes
John Bremner Forres
Aileen Marshal Elgin South
Kieran Green Elgin North
Bill Burgess, Speyside
Barry Taylor, Buckie
Steven Christie Elgin South

Also present: John Ferguson, The Moray Council
Ian Todd, The Moray Council

3. Apologies

Alastair Kennedy, MJCC

4. Adoption of the Moray Forum Constitution

Proposed: Carin Schwartz

Seconded Sandy Henderson

The constitution was unanimously accepted.

5. Election of Office Bearers

John asked for nominations for the position of:

Chairperson:

Anita nominated Alan Beresford for Chair

Sandy Henderson seconded

Alan Beresford accepted the Chairmanship on behalf of the Area Forums in Moray. At this point John passed the chairing role to Alan Beresford.

Vice Chairperson:

Alan Beresford nominated Anita Milne as Vice Chair
Peter Bush seconded

Anita accepted the role of Vice Chair on behalf of the Moray Area Forums.

Treasurer:

Alan Beresford nominated John as Treasurer
Carin Schwartz seconded

John Bremner accepted the role of treasurer on behalf of the Moray Forums.

Secretary:

As there were no nominations or volunteers to be secretary, Alan suggested that once the £500 Council funding is accepted, consideration be looked at employing a part time Secretary.

Alan thanked everyone for their attendance and nominations at the meeting.

Moray Area Forum Meeting held at NEON on Monday 28th February 2011

1. Minutes of Moray Area Forum Meeting held on Monday 27th Sept 2010

Proposed: Anita Milne

Seconded: Aileen Marshall

2. Matters Arising

Short Life Working Group (Community Engagement)

Carin reported that a Short Life Working Group has been meeting and is producing a report to Community Planning Partnership on 31st March 2011.

A key recommendation of the report will be the re-establishment and continuance of the lapsed Community Engagement Group. The new CEG will work under the auspices of the five pillars of Community Engagement that the SLWG have developed as a strategy and action plan.

Meeting of November 2010 was cancelled due to adverse weather.

3. Budget Consultation

Ian and John were acting under instructions by the small working party and by the elected members of the Moray Council.

(a)Points of discussion:

As the recent consultation process was specifically targeting community group representatives, the Moray Area Forum members expressed a preference that future consultations should be more open to the wider public to attend.

Ian informed those present that the evaluation conducted at the community meetings was once again positively commented on.

Kieran felt there was a role for group representative consultations. However, Carin stated that she felt that they were not conducive to being welcoming, open and inclusive to the wider community.

Aileen felt the political perceptive was missing. She didn't feel that officers should be put in the front line when in-fact; it was elected members that were making the decisions.

John (Forres) did not agree with format. Carin felt the format was fine but left little room for wider and more in depth input by participants.

There was consensus that any future consultations must be implemented earlier in the year. Anita requested that elected members give communities more time to respond.

Alan proposed that Area Forum representatives and others meet with Council officials well in advance of any future budget consultations. Elected members should also be involved in these meetings.

Ian pointed out that due to some community leaders, including some Area Forum Chairs and members of the public, encouraging through local media outlets that all

sectors of the community should turn up on the evenings created concern over health and safety aspects. Ian stated that some staff involved in the facilitation of the meetings had been alarmed and were genuinely concerned by the tone being expressed in the press.

(b)Communication

Buckie and Forres Area Forum along with a few Community Council representatives met with Alastair Keddie over concerns regarding a Council press release shortly before the Buckie meeting. Local residents were concerned about basic information regarding the process.

Wrong figures were produced by the Council and this was viewed as a serious communication issue, particularly given the short notice of the consultation meetings.

Concern was also expressed that there may have been other 'mistakes' hidden in the budget statement that were circulated by the Council.

(c)Post It Notes

What happened to the statements on the post it notes?

(d)System of Collation

Buckie representation input had gone missing but was found and rectified

(e)Facilitation

A few facilitators were felt to be leading. Ian explained that the capacity of CSU staff was stretched and that some facilitators had more experience than others.

(f)Invites to Community Groups

Ian explained that staff were asked to use a specific database by the organising working party. The only exception would have been Moray wide / National organisations. In addition, Ian instructed local CSU staff to contact local Area Forum and CC chairs / representatives to peruse the lists locally in-case there were groups missed off the list. The majority of local representatives participated in this exercise although, a few did not.

Ian agreed to distribute the list to the Area Forum members before the next meeting.

4. Impact of CSU cuts

Full time MALP Co-ordinator post has been deleted.

Community Engagement Team – 50% reduction in service which equates to two CSOs and two CSW full time posts.

Operational options being explored with staff. Support to community groups and organisations will be severely affected.

5. Asset Transfer

Seminar being facilitated by the CSU and delivered by Development Trust Scotland on 23rd March 2011. Limited places available.

6. Community Issues

Please contact Alan regarding community issues.

Climate Change Action Plan due on 11th March. Carin has requested all Area Forums have a look and please comment as it is very important document.

7. Date and time of Next Meeting

18th April 2011 NEON