

Buckie Area Forum

Extraordinary General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting for Buckie Area Forum held on 19th January 2011 in Buckie Townhouse.

Present

Barry Taylor **Chair**, Alan Beresford **Vice Chair**, Sarah Murray **Secretary**, Ian Moir **Treasurer**, Zafar Ali, Emma Marandola, Sonya Warren, David Barnett, Lauren Hay, Stuart Cowie, Tam McLellan, Peter Souter, Doug Reid, Ian MacPherson.

In Attendance

Cllr Gordon McDonald, Cllr Joe Mackay, Cllr Anne McKay, Cllr Gary Coull, Gillian Bailey (CSO), John Ferguson (Community Planning Manager).

1.0 Welcome & Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming those present and explaining the reason for the EGM – the proposed changes to the constitution. Apologies were then invited from the Chair. Apologies were received from Cllr Ron Shepherd, Cllr Douglas Ross, Cllr Anita McDonald, Alistair Farquhar and Cllr Joe MacKay.

2.0 Proposed Constitution Changes

The chair proceeded to read through the proposed changes to the constitution and invited any comments/thoughts on each amendment.

4.1(iii) - no objections noted.

4.1(iv) – no objections noted.

4.1(v) – Ian MacPherson raised the question of the word responsibility being omitted but the chair explained that it was intended so as to let it be as open as possible – everyone present agreed.

4.1(vi) – Gillian Bailey queried informing local people of progress – should we need to do this? It was agreed by all to add progress to this sentence.

5.1 – no objections noted.

5.3 – Gillian Bailey queried whether this included individuals but was informed that this was covered in point 5.2.

5.5 – no objections noted.

6.3 – Ian MacPherson was not happy with the wording 're-elected' so it was agreed by all to change this to 'to be elected annually'

6.4 (old constitution) - whole point to be removed – agreed by all.

7.2 – no objections noted.

8.1 – Ian Moir queried whether this would be 5 members v 5 public – all agreed it would be 5 members.

9.2(iii) all agreed to add treasurer.

9.2(iv) no objections noted.

10 – Area Action Plan on old constitution – agreed by all to remove.

10.1 – Ian Moir asked whether we could omit 'at the start of the financial year' as this does not happen – all agreed to this.

10.3 – no objections noted.

11.1 – no objections noted.

At this point Gillian Bailey queried having a clause regarding the Forum leasing buildings etc. but John Ferguson responded saying that this is not necessary unless the group become incorporated. All agreed to change this should the situation change at any point in the future.

12.3 – Ian Moir brought up a query regarding this point and after discussions it was agreed to change this to 2/3rds of members present.

No further objections were noted.

The changes were proposed by Sonya Warren and seconded by Doug Reid

The chair thanked everyone for their cooperation and went on to continue with the normal Forum meeting.

EGM Closed and normal Forum meeting started at this point.

1.0 Introductions

The chair introduced the new head boy, Stuart Cowie and head girl, Lauren Hay from BCHS. They were welcomed by all.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting

The minute of the last meeting was proposed by Emma Marandola and seconded by Sonya Warren as a true recording of the meeting.

3.0 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4.0 Arradoul Residents Update

Emma Marandola explained that the communities committee had decided to unanimously reject the proposals for the halting site. This was on road safety grounds as well as budgetary constraints. The chair congratulated the group for their excellent campaign and also noted that the presentation made at the Moray Council HQ was excellent.

5.0 Community Halls Update

The chair updated on the situation and explained that the Moray Council had decided to put this proposal to one side for the time being. He also congratulated the various groups on their excellent campaign to stop the proposed closures.

John Ferguson commented that although the council had received 100's of letters it was disappointing that only 6 emails were received. John agreed to give exact figures at a later date.

Ian Moir queried how the halls are going to be run – council run as opposed to community run. Gordon McDonald explained that things are going to stay the same but the council are willing to discuss the options. He used the example of Cullen Town Hall, although the community are trying to take control over the running of this, at the minute there isn't much happening and until the budget decisions on 10th February are made nothing more will be done.

The chair mentioned that although the community has been handed this reprieve, they must continue to make good use of the halls. He said that although the Townhouse had been getting increasing numbers of bookings we can't become complacent. He mentioned at this point about Radio BCK needing more volunteers.

Zafar Ali asked whether this issue will come up again in future years to which Gordon McDonald replied this was more than likely as Alistair Keddie had made a comment that there were currently "too many halls in Moray".

Ian Moir asked why councillors weren't at the front in the consultation meeting. John Ferguson and Anne McKay replied that they didn't know why but advised Mr Moir to write to his local administration member for clarification.

6.0 MORL Update

Gordon McDonald said the presentation was well received at Moray Council and that the company are well aware of the potential of Buckie regarding the maintenance side of things.

There are on-going discussions with EDP concerning future presentations and they will keep in touch regarding any future developments. Gordon also mentioned the 2020 project saying that it was being revised at present and he expressed concern at not letting the momentum slip and making sure that we take advantage of the fact of Buckie being suitable for the renewables industry. Ian MacPherson congratulated Gordon McDonald for helping to put Buckie on the map!

7.0 Youth Matters

Lauren Hay mentioned that a lot of school pupils had mentioned that the proposed hall closures had been worrying lately. She explained that one of the important things on University applications was extra-curricular activities and membership to outside groups and if these facilities were no longer available then it would possibly lower the calibre of applications compared to other areas.

8.0 A.O.B

Peter Souter gave a brief update on the Milton Drive Community Project (MDCP) and the progression of the Buckie Community Kist (BCK) project at the old Cathcart Grove clinic. A provisional application has been put in to the National Lottery and a formal application is being finalised. The MDCP will be folding and the Kist will take its place, the difference being that the Kist will be Buckie wide instead of just the Milton Drive area.

Ian Moir asked if the government would provide funding for any training at the Kist but Gordon McDonald replied that although they wouldn't provide funding they would provide training services.

Doug Reid asked for a brief run down on what/who uses the current MDCP premises – Gillian Bailey responded by saying it was widely used by various groups/individuals such as the credit union, mother & toddler groups amongst others.

Buckie Area Forum received a copy of the membership form as an increased number of members were a request from the lottery funding application. Gillian Bailey also agreed to put this on the Your Moray website for all to access.

Emma Marandola asked what the funding would be used for from the lottery. Peter Souter replied saying that it is initially to buy the old clinic and for refurbishment. Planning permission has already been approved but is waiting on the building warrant. Emma also asked how the various projects will be funded. Peter replied that some fund raising will be needed and contributions sought by the user groups.

Alan Beresford asked about timescales for the project. Peter said they had hoped to get something positive before the end of March as there is a 6 week turnaround for lottery applications.

At this point Peter Souter also requested support for the credit union service currently being run at MDCP – they need more volunteers to enable the service to continue. Anyone interested to contact either Peter Souter or Gillian Bailey.

Transition Towns

Gordon McDonald gave brief outline of what this means – to get Buckie to ‘green’ status. There will be a meeting on Monday at 7pm at the Townhouse to discuss progress – all invited, this is a public meeting.

Radio BCK Group

The chair re-iterated that now all the equipment has been set up there was a need for more volunteers to get involved. Ian Moir asked if there was a date set for transmission? Doug Reid stated that they were going for a restricted licence and this could take roughly 6 months and although this is sometime in the future they need people to get involved, training to take place so everything would be ready for the eventual launch.

Accounts

Ian Moir gave brief rundown of the accounts for the year as well as handing out a printed sheet detailing the accounts. Everything looked to be in order with a good profit being made on the Townhouse Hall usage.

BCK Website

Sonya Warren queried the progress of the website. Gordon McDonald explained that it was near completion, it just needed to be seen and tested and opinions sought from the community. Once completed there will be an official launch. He also mentioned that the aim is for it to be self-sustaining by using Google ad sense – where local businesses pay for advertising space.

Doug Reid asked if there had ever been any study on facilities in Buckie collectively. Gordon McDonald replied that the website will have a calendar facility and all groups could put their own notices on as and when required.

Regen Group

Gordon McDonald stated that the Regen Group is in negotiations with the Libraries Dept. to have the Peter Anson paintings on display in the Townhouse. This is still in the early stages but there will be a need for volunteers when the time comes.

At this point Gillian Bailey made an offer of an updated CSU Support agreement but this was declined by the Forum.

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm at Buckie Townhouse.