

Buckie Area Forum  
Minutes – Wednesday 22 February 2012

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Chair Barry Taylor welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies for Cllr MA McKay, Cllr D Ross, A Farquhar, Cllr A McDonald, Cllr G Coull and D Strachan.

Present were B Taylor (Chair BAF), A Beresford (Vice-Chair BAF), AI Moir (Treasurer BAF), T McLennan (BAF), TI MacPherson (R&ACC), Z Ali (BAF), Cllr J Mackay (MC), J Walls (BHS), K Murdoch (BHS), J Smith (BCC), G Cowie (BCC), Cllr G McDonald, S Warren (BAF), E Marandola (temp. Minutes Secretary BAF), N Brown (NBPA), Cllr A McKay (MC)

BAF Buckie Area Forum; R&ACC Rathven & Arradoul Community Council; MC Moray Council  
BHS Buckie High School; BCC Buckie Community Council; NBPA Nick Brown

TI MacP suggested that BHS head Mr Johnston should be invited to the next meeting.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes were checked and approved, proposed by T McLennan and seconded by S Warren

**3. Davie Crawford, Community Warden**

Mr Crawford was not in attendance

**4. Matters arising**

- Moray Forum update

Following the Transport Seminar, a sub-group has been formed to ensure sustainable community transport. The Transport Seminar Report will be available for groups (eg BABS) to use when applying for funding.

Moray Council will be asked to clarify whether BAF needs its own Data Protection listing or if it is covered under MC. Regarding BAF, Data Protection would mostly be contact details of individuals.

Moray Forum met with Roddy Burns (Moray Council) regarding community planning. The Draft policy was discussed and the consultation will be later this year. It was a positive meeting and it was felt that many points had been taken on board.

- Regen update

Moray Town Partnership will have no funding from the Economic Development budgets till after the elections in May. Each of the four towns (Buckie, Forres, Lossiemouth and Keith) has been asked to produce a portfolio to report on the past 3 years. Elgin may be included as long as the 'pot' is not reduced for the existing four towns. There is a high level of paperwork involved and the council have proposed 2 options; 1. council continue to do admin but at a reduced level, 2. each town does their own admin. This was voted and approved at MTP.

Keith have partially underspent their allowance so have offered it for the Fishwives Walk. The Forestry Commission have agreed the route for the walk. The traditional route was Drybridge to Newmill but, for commercial and tourism reasons, has been extended to go from Buckie to Keith.

Additional waste bins, sponsored by the Regen group, will be provided to help tackle the litter problem in the streets around BHS. They will be on the established route for collection vehicles. Rector Barnett's scheme involving BHS senior pupils folded after only a couple of weeks due to lack of participation by pupils.

The viewpoint for Cluny Square has been delayed as planning permission is required. Moray Council have installed bike stands so this is a project BAF don't need to spend on. Radio BCK now will not need £550 from BAF as their licencing plans have changed. It has been agreed that the feasibility study for the Whole Town initiative will proceed. There are three new members of the Regen group; Gillian Rose, Emma Marandola and Sonya Warren.

- Grampian Housing Association – Nick Brown  
There is a renewable energy initiative where GHA may enter into a joint venture with community or private landowners. P&R at MC are looking at money from windfarms for communities and there is a meeting on "9<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7pm in the Town's House. G McDonald, K Murdoch, J Walls, J Smith, G Cowie and B Taylor all indicated that they will go along.
- Radio BCK – Nick Brown  
This has turned out to be a very complicated project but the group is in a strong position. Obtaining a full broadcasting licence from OFCOM involves an incredibly involved application, it costs in the region of £5K per annum and would be limited to a radius of 5km of the mast. They have decided to stream broadcasts through the internet because of reduced costs (approximately £1K per annum), access to a worldwide audience and this will give them broadcasting experience which will be necessary if a full licence is applied for in the future. Radio BCK will register as a limited company for future funding applications, they are in negotiations for the Radio BCK web address and they hope to go live in the next couple of months.
- Moray 2012 Olympics – Nick Brown  
The Walk/Jog/Run Moray group have arranged for an unofficial torch to pass through every town in Moray, carried by 2012 people. It will pass through Buckie at approximately 1.30pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June. They will also be staging local events on the same day as the Olympic events i.e. on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August there will be a 10K race in Buckie and runners can then congregate to watch the Olympic 10K final at 7pm.

Cullen Dirt Track has their constitution and Barry will check if they are a stand-alone group or if they form part of Cullen Community Council. The amount they will be applying to BAF for is to be confirmed and it must be used for administrative costs only.

Barry now has the Asset Transfer forms for the property at 1 Cluny Square following a meeting with Linda Adams. There will be a further meeting in April (date to be confirmed) and from there the plans will progress to Moray Council for wider approval. This is still the initial enquiry stage and BAF are not committed to anything.

Barry will forward Sports Forum information to members.

## 5. Youth Matters

Josie reported that litter is a problem. It was suggested that younger pupils should be encouraged to come along to meetings to give their opinions and to ensure better continuity of the link between BHS and BAF. Youth Matters could be higher on the agenda to allow pupils to leave earlier but it was stressed that their input is valuable for all agenda items not just Youth Matters. Moray Council has a Youth Forum and they meet at Moray College. It was suggested that BHS pupils suggest agenda items for BAF, following their own Pupil Council/ School Council meetings. Josie and Kieran feed back from BAF meetings directly to the Rector, there is no mechanism in place to link to their own Pupil/ School Councils.

## 6. Community Issues

I Moir presented the Finance report and the balance of the account is £5623. The Regen account is £2589.

Now that there is no Registrar based in Buckie, the use of the Registrar's Room at the Town's House was discussed. It is used by appointment; i.e. if someone is unable to get to Elgin then the Registrar will come to Buckie. Cllr McDonald assured the Forum that an undertaker can phone and organise for the registrar to attend in one hour.

The Marriage Room is still used also.

TI McP asked about the situation regarding the Haldanes and 'clinic' buildings. BCC discussed this at their meeting 21/2/12 and the Council have made the buildings secure which is all that is in their remit. Haldanes is owned by an individual living abroad. Owners may be legally forced to keep premises in a decent state and this questioned as parts of Haldanes roof have blown down.

## Any other business

Z Ali asked if there was a mechanism in place for the retail association reporting back to BAF following their meetings, eg do we get a copy of the minutes. A Farquhar usually keeps BAF informed of retail association plans but they are not required to do so.

I Moir showed photos of boards that Elgin has that give information about the shops. This was agreed to be a good idea for Buckie and Cllr MacDonald said he'd look into costs and also suggested speaking to the retail association and finding out if this might be an appropriate way to spend Tesco money. Perhaps BHS could be approached to get involved in design.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
at 7pm in the Town's House

Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_