

BUCKIE AREA FORUM
MINUTES
17 February 2016

Present: Linda McDonald (BAF), Emma Marandola (BAF), Zafar Ali (BAF), Gillian Rose (BAF), Ian Moir (BAF), Neil Johnson (BHS), Ian Todd (TMC), Tracey Rae (TMC), Rebecca Kail (REAP)

In attendance: Cllr Gordon McDonald, Cllr Gordon Cowie, Cllr Sonya Warren

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair Linda McDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies for Alistair Farquhar (BAF), Jo Farquhar (BAF), Ian McPherson (BAF), and Nicola Warren (BAF). Alan Armit submitted apologies and advised that he has passed the BAF information to the new inspector.

2. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the previous meeting held 28 October 2015 was approved with one amendment, proposed by Gillian Rose and seconded by Zafar Ali. Amendment: Vice Chair is Jo Farquhar, not Alistair Farquhar.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Sonya checked in to hall insurance and was assured that the hall is covered; she asked for this in writing but they said it wasn't worth the paperwork for all there is left on the policy (April renewal). Ian Todd said it is a blanket policy covering all Forums and that there have been issues with others not getting their paperwork. Gillian asked for a copy of the certificate for displaying in the Hall.

4. Presentation from Rebecca Kail (REAP)

Linda introduced Rebecca who explained about the Moray Food Network's aim to improve access to local food. A lack of 'food skills' has been identified and there are initiatives to address this, such as training 'trainers' in conjunction with NHS Grampian to support others' cooking, and The People's Café in Elgin where people can get cookery and financial advice, and enjoy some soup and bread made on the day. Neil said BHS has done cookery courses in the past and the HE head of department is very keen to do more. Rebecca is keen to do more in Buckie on all aspects of food from growing and composting to buying and cooking. Buckie has no allotments at present and TMC are looking at sites. Neil suggested the park at BHS and the councillors noted this and will investigate. Gordon McDonald suggested that BAF could help with allotments and undertook to find out more. Linda thanked Rebecca for an interesting and informative talk.

5. Correspondence

Moray Food Network is having a session at The Inkwel in Elgin, 22/02/16, 11:00-13:30, information, and soup and bread. Community Engagement has asked for dates for our meetings this year, Gillian asked if these could be set (at 13. Date of next meeting). The TSI Moray conference will be 23/03/16 10:00-15:30, booking essential.

6. Treasurer's report

The balance of funds in the bank for the BAF account is £7759 (as at October 2015) and the Regen account is £6220 (as at February 2016). The increase is due to revenue from the hall and the cinema. The hall is now let every day. All invoices have been issued, most are paid, and receipts are required.

7. Bank account signatories

Linda got the forms from the bank and they were completed at the meeting. A copy of the amended minute showing Jo as Vice will be required, signed by the Chair and Secretary.

8. Moray Area Forum

The next meeting is 22/02/2016, Linda will attend.

BUCKIE AREA FORUM
MINUTES
17 February 2016

9. Buckie Regeneration Group (update)

The budget has been set and the Towns Partnership money is confirmed as 'safe'. The cinema is running at a loss and there was a meeting with the social enterprise group to discuss the cinema taking in additional revenue e.g. advertising. The Community Support Unit (CSU) can help circulate information. The Wi-Fi is up and running, 'dead spots' to be investigated. Buckie Heritage is looking in to tidying up the old war shelter under north Cluny Square and possibly opening it as a visitor attraction. Sonya is going to the Visit Scotland Expo in Edinburgh and needs photos and information that would be of interest to visitors to the area. Gordon Mayne (Maynes Coaches) and Associated Seafoods Ltd seemingly both have good videos. Zafar asked how we can draw people off the A96 along the A98 in order to increase visitors to Buckie. A brown sign at the roundabout at the Fochabers bypass was discussed but is not suitable for that classification of road and is costs each attraction to have their information included. Ian Moir asked about the Buckie website and Gordon McDonald said that now the budget is secured we can move on with this and perhaps, as Keith have done, pay for someone to maintain the site. He also advised that a 'free Wi-Fi' sign is being costed for the top of High Street to draw passing motorists. Ian Todd spoke about the North Coast 500 route which is "Scotland's answer to Route 66, the new scenic route showcasing the fairy tale castles, beaches and ruins." (www.northcoast500.com) This could be a great opportunity for Buckie to attract more visitors.

10. Youth Matters

Neil reported that the kids have complained about there not being enough litter bins. Gordon McDonald explained that bins have to go on existing refuse collection routes, and unfortunately these are not always the routes the kids choose to take.

11. Community

Ian Moir asked when the new facilities in the Buckpool development will be available. When the planning was done for the development, 'phasing' wasn't done so the 'social bits' will be left till last. It was suggested that BAF meet in alternative venues so as not to cancel regular bookings of the hall. If we book through CSU we should be able to use council owned venues free of charge. He also asked about the status of the Towns' House lift, and Gordon McDonald said Nick Goodchild has confirmed it is safe and usable but anyone using it must inform someone at the Library beforehand in case of any problems. Ian Moir and Zafar both commented on parking in Cluny Square and Church Street, where spaces are taken up all day long by people working nearby, making it difficult for shop customers to get parked. At present this is not policed, and pay-and-display is not seen as an attractive option. The hall will be painted March/April by TMC.

12. AOCB

Ian Todd reported that Four Towns budget was protected today and there is a £60K rural grant fund for economic development in rural areas i.e. all places out with the Buckie boundary, such as Portessie and Arradoul. Tracey will be involved with putting together information. Notices for the AGM should be put in the Banffshire Advertiser 31/05/16 and 01/06/16.

13. Next meeting/s

The next meeting will be at 7pm on 13 April 2016 in the Community Lounge at Buckie High School. Future dates for BAF meetings: 15 June 2016 (AGM), 21 September 2016, 16 November 2016