

BUCKIE AREA FORUM
MINUTES
18 January 2017, BHS Community Lounge

Present: Linda McDonald (BAF), Emma Marandola (BAF), Gillian Rose (BAF), Ian Moir (BAF),
Larry Duncan (Radio Buckie), Leah Rossvoll (BABS), Hiranya Fadia (8 to 8 dental),

In attendance: Cllr Gordon McDonald, Cllr Gordon Cowie, Cllr Sonya Warren, Ian Todd (TMC)

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair Linda McDonald welcome everyone to the meeting and noted apologies for Alistair Farquhar (BAF), Jo Farquhar (BAF), Neil Johnson (BHS), Nicola Warren (BAF), Gordon Morrison (SFRS), Iain Grieve (BAF), Zafar Ali (BAF)

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no amendments required, proposed by Ian Moir and seconded by Linda McDonald.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Boortmalt contacted BAF to apologise for not showing up to the last meeting, this was due to an emergency at the plant and they would like to arrange another visit. Cllr Warren will ask Nicola to get in touch with them and invite to the March meeting.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1 Moray Transport Steering Group – Leah will go in place of Linda 6th March 2017.
- 4.2 TSi Moray training days – information has been emailed to all members and advisers
- 4.3 Alistair Kennedy (Chair, Community Councils of Moray) – sent a link re funding alerts
- 4.4 SSE – Lossiemouth drop-in re Beatrice offshore local funds
- 4.5 James Mackie (Milnes Area Forum) – wrote asking us to write in support of his application for funding for a feasibility study for upgrading paths Hopeman to Cullen. Everyone agreed to this, Linda will write a letter.
- 4.6 Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum – need six new members

5. Treasurer's report

We had no Treasurer's report and Zafar asks for two weeks' reminder of meetings. Cllr McDonald asked that he get the Regen account information with urgency.

6. Moray Area Forum

Ian T told us about the meeting of 5th December 2016 and his 'The Role and Functions of Area Forums' presentation. There are four ongoing AFs and four that are defunct. Forums have a specific remit to support community planning. The Community Empowerment Act is looking at how best to engage with communities, and he recommends that AFs link with the Community Engagement Group. Engagement with communities means that they can influence services so there needs to be a conduit. In March the CEG will look at the remit of forums, and plan how best to engage with communities re planning; Area Forums or Community Councils? He recommends that minutes from AFs go to the CEG.

7. Buckie Regeneration Group (update)

- 7.1 Struan
The owner's legal team are dealing with this and will set out a timetable
- 7.2 Heritage
This project will develop
- 7.3 Allotments
Need public meeting and a steering group/committee

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7.4 Moray Speyside Tourism

Cllr Warren showed us the Made In Moray booklet and told us about the Made In Scotland expo she's going to in April. This year, the four towns plus Elgin are working together and she asked that we suggest motivators for coming to Buckie e.g. churches, walking, ice cream trail, watersports. The booklet will be A7, high quality, colour and have five sections; action & adventure, history & heritage, landscape & nature, shopping, stay & eat. The expo stand will have a prime spot near the door and distilleries, and will have samples of Moray's produce e.g. smoked fish, whisky. There is also a scheme like the North Coast 500 for this area so people can plan trips based on themes such as the ice cream trail.

7.5 Comfort Scheme

Cllr Warren told us about the Comfort Scheme where business allow use of bathroom facilities with no purchase necessary, which is a cheap, effective service to offer visitors to the area. Cllr Cowie commented that Buckie already offers good toilet facilities, but this would be a good addition.

7.6 Walking Town Charter

Ian T told us Forres has a Walking Town Charter and this could be done for Buckie.

8. Town House

a) The running of the Town's House

Ian M asked what is happening regarding the running of the Town House and Cllr McDonald replied that they hope to have someone take on the roles that Gillian had been doing i.e. bookings, payments, cleaning. There will be a mobile phone bought for continuity of communications, one number for contact. Most bookings are regular so can use standing orders for payment. Gillian prepared a spreadsheet which is up and running. The only 'free' users are TMC but we should start to charge them at the community rate (we also have a commercial rate). New projects got free use for their start-up period but these are considered on a case-by-case basis e.g. new business users would not get free. Ian M asked for proper accounts for the Towns House, and Cllr McDonald and Gillian explained that they are not separate and show in Zafar's accounts. TMC charges us £60 per week which is refunded and Cllr McDonald explained that it is unlikely this would be changed as TMC have no additional costs involved in having the Town's House open. Ian T said that as well as Community Asset Transfers there are CAT leases. Issues regarding the Town's House are the lift and disabled access. The registrars, desktop publishing, Moray Access Point and the Library share the building.

b) Business plan

The Regen group keeps records of problems etc but the volume of transactions does not warrant the effort of preparing a business plan. There is virtually no liability to BAF.

Regen minutes are not circulated to BAF as information relating to businesses and individuals must be kept confidential, and BAF minutes are in the public forum. All Regen projects/expenditure gets BAF approval before proceeding.

9. Youth Matters

There was no representation. Emma will ask Barbara Leitch for suggestions on how to involve younger members of the community.

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10. Community

a) Harbour Advisory Committees

Buckie has welcomed its largest cargo boat to date and there are five possible projects ongoing. Findochty users are unhappy with rates increases, and with the clarity of information regarding the rates. There are plans to extend the pontoons to increase capacity and this has been agreed in principle (planning).

Ian M asked about the dredger; it is used for Moray's harbours as priority, then hired out to other authorities. He also asked about training for pilot boats for these large vessels; it is the harbourmaster and owner company who decide.

b) Money for Moray

For the first project there are six finished schemes. They will be monitored and evaluated.

The next project has £40K available, 10th February deadline for application, focussing on social isolation e.g. lunch clubs, help for young folk in rural areas to access training.

The Rathven station path feasibility study so far has confirmed that about half the land is owned by Seafield estates, the other portions thought to be owned by TMC, Charles Milne, and Gordon Mayne. Cllr Cowie will get a letter from Charles Milne confirming what he owns. Gillian told Ian M you can search TMC planning using postcodes.

c) Transport Forum

All bus timetables changed 9th January, connection times in Fochabers are too short/ too long. Leah said BABS can take folk right through to Aberdeen (e.g. for hospital appointment), or to Keith/Elgin to meet a bus. Cllr McDonald suggested BABS could give a presentation at the next meeting.

d) World Host

Cllr Warren explained that we need to update our list of participating businesses, and the town needs 25% of those on this list trained to be classed a World Host destination. There is funding available. It is very worthwhile as, for example, bus companies look for the accreditation when planning itineraries.

11. AOCB

11.1 Hiranya suggested brightening up the approach to Buckie and the town centre with floral decorations. He will get some costings as a starting point; Forres contracted theirs out to Threaplands. Cllr McDonald pointed out that maintenance of these schemes is a stumbling block. It would be good for kids to become involved in some way, to develop a sense of ownership to tackle the problem of vandalism. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme possibly. Ian T said there's a pilot scheme for planting wild flowers and McLaren's Brae would be suitable for this.

11.2 Gillian suggested brightening up the square by lighting up the war memorial. Cllr Cowie said this would likely be expensive.

11.3 Larry Duncan told us that Radio Buckie needs volunteers and money, and that many aspects of the organisation (set-up of studio/equipment, transmitter, licence) need looked at. To be discussed at their next meeting.

11.4 Lynn Anderson will be at the Library 20th March 2017.

12. Date and time of next meeting

15th March 2017, 7pm, Buckie High School Community Lounge