

BUCKIE AREA FORUM
MINUTES
17 January 2018

Present: Linda McDonald (BAF), Emma Marandola (BAF), Zafar Ali (BAF), Leah Rossvoll (BAF), Gordon McDonald (BAF), Neil Johnson (BHS), Iain Grieve (BAF), Ian Moir (BAF), Denise Robson (Contact the Elderly), Robert Lacamp (Portgordon Village Hall)

In attendance: Ann Mitchell (B&DCC), Morag Stewart (B&DCC), Christine Allan (B&DCC), Ian Todd (TMC), Cllr Tim Eagle

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair Linda McDonald welcome everyone to the meeting and noted apologies for Cllr Sonya Warren, Jo Farquhar (Buckie Festival), Alistair Farquhar (Buckie Festival), and Dougie Annand (SFRS).

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Leah and seconded by Morag with no amendments required.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Findochty Church Lights: They had a lovely service for the switch-on, we are waiting for the bill.

Harbour Advisory Committee: Ian M asked about the committee and Iain answered that there have been no recent meetings.

4. Secretary's report (including correspondence)

Moray Local Access Forum, Outdoor Access: We received an email from Ian Douglas encouraging individuals to apply to join. Applications by 23/02/18. Leah offered to promote on Radio BCK.

5. Treasurer's report

£8,759 in the BAF bank account, and £7,967 in the Regen account. Linda gave Zafar the invoice from Canary Dwarf.

6. Moray Area Forum

Money for Moray meeting in Rothes 18/03/18, participatory budgeting for £60K from the Scottish Government for Health and Wellbeing for All Ages. Applications go live 15/01/18, closing date 16/02/18. Ian T told us that the Money for Moray event at Milnes before Christmas was excellent for community engagement and there was a great atmosphere.

7. Buckie Regeneration Group (update)

Website: The website is in progress and looks good so far. We are waiting for the launch date from the webmaster, likely end January. There will be an Events Diary for the community to use.

B4B: The project is well under way, with thanks again to Tracey Rae. Applications to be in by 31/01/18, letting 05 & 06/02/18, presentation 10/03/18. BAF will pay for a technician for the day.

WiFi: Wifi is running but is not advertised as there are issues with putting up signs. There will be a link to the website. Gordon is investigating getting a sign for the top of High Street promoting our free-wifi town centre. Ian M suggested also using the noticeboard in the square, and Robert suggested signs along the Speyside Way.

8. Youth Matters

No update

9. Moray Council Budget consultation

Fisherman's Hall: Both meetings in the hall were well attended, with approximately 90 present.

Ian M asked about ownership of the hall; it has been Common Good since 1975. Zafar asked Neil about the school prizegiving; the Fisherman's is used as nowhere else is big enough.

Moray Town Partnership & Rural Regeneration Fund: Gordon asked if the rest of Moray would be compensated for Elgin BID not being under consideration for cuts. Cllr Eagle replied that Elgin BID is 2 years in to a 3-year contract. Moray Council also gives an annual amount; he will check on this and get back to us.

Chairperson's signature _____ Date _____

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Schools: Gordon asked what percentage cuts Head Teachers will be expected to make. Neil explained that some areas (e.g. library and technicians) aren't a percentage cut, and that HTs will possibly be able to juggle within budgets. Lines within DSM budgets may be removed but he stressed that this is only at the proposal stage.

BHS staffing: Linda asked Neil about staffing in BHS and he replied that it varies from department to department. For example, Maths and Science are fully staffed, but technologies subjects are **short**; Technical 3 out of 4, Computing 2 out of 2, HE 2 out of 2, Music 2 out of 3.

Teachers' pay: Ian M asked if there was money for teachers' pay rises in the budget. Any rises will be paid with money from the Scottish Government. The local authority formula is based on the school roll multiplied by a factor and is the same as the last 7 years.

Lady Cathcart: Linda asked if work has started on the new nursery provision. Tim replied not yet. Neil commented that lack of nursery facilities is an impediment to getting teachers to move to the area. Ian M asked about the Teddy Bear group and Tim said they're in discussions for alternative premises. Linda asked about parking and Tim said government money would be used for this. Linda asked about staffing and Tim said lack of staff is a worry, and they're working with Moray College and BHS to get people coming through. Ian T said that getting staff will be a challenge, but the Scottish Government have commended the model Moray is using.

New schools/ maintenance: Ian M asked about the costs for maintaining existing buildings and constructing new schools. Tim said Scottish Government money pays for new schools. Ian T said there will be a review of school estates starting soon, and hopefully BAF will be active in engagement; they need to hear all voices. It will be based on Schools for the Future which was done recently.

Closures: Gordon asked about amalgamation i.e. closures. Tim said there are questions over the sustainability of some coastal schools, and Gordon asked for a clear definition of 'sustainable'.

Moray Integration Joint Board: MIJB are looking to save 4.5% and Iain asked how this will impact on services. Tim said Pam Gowans has stated this will be reviewed as 4.5% is not achievable, you can't just keep cutting. Tim will find out if she'll be consulting with BAF. Ian T said contracts are coming to an end and this has been factored in to the figure. The Council contributes 40% and the NHS 60% but the NHS have not announced how much they will cut. Gordon asked that BAF write to Pam Gowans asking her to let us know, when she's able to, how Buckie will be hit.

10. AOCB

Crossings: Linda asked if there are plans to move the crossing at Pozzies. Neil said he would have serious concerns about this since it is used so much by BHS pupils.

Transport Forum: Leah told us there will be a coffee morning from 10am on Monday 22/01/18 in Room 1 in the Annex.

Peter Anson collection: Ian M asked where the Peter Anson collection of paintings is stored. Gordon said they're currently in appropriate (light/ damp/ moisture) storage in Greshop's (Forres).

Authors' visits: Linda told us Stuart McBride and Lynn Anderson are visiting Elgin Library

Website: Gordon encouraged us all to spread the word that details on local events should be passed to him for inclusion on the website.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be at 7pm on 21 March 2018 in Buckie High School.

Future meetings: 20 June 2018 (AGM)

Linda closed the meeting at 8:15pm.

Chairperson's signature _____ Date _____