

BUCKIE AREA FORUM
MINUTES
21 March 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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies for Iain Grieve (BAF), Alistair Farquhar (Buckie Festival), Cllr Theresa Coull, Neil Johnson (BHS), Glen Campbell (Friends of the Fisherman's Hall), and Nicola Warren (BAF).

2. Minutes of previous meeting

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

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Findocty Church Lights: The bill has been paid. £200 has been requested in addition to the original amount, and further information has been requested.

4. Secretary's report (including correspondence)

Developers Obligation Supplementary Guide: Effective 01/03/2018 maximum £6,500 per unit, to be reviewed 12/2018.

Cares Conference: 18 & 19/04/2018, Community and local energy

5. Treasurer's report

£8,558.39 in the BAF account, and £8,233.67 in the Regen account (at 20/03/2018).

6. Moray Area Forum

Website: www.buckie.co Mark Hedley will do some administrator training for a small group of members (2-3 to strictly control access), please let Linda know if interested. The likely launch date is late April. Please encourage as many local groups as possible to submit information on events to the BAF email address buckieareaforum@hotmail.co.uk. The deposit has been paid, the balance is still due. Information on the site will cover the whole BAF area (Cullen to Portgordon) for all groups, clubs and businesses. Gordon suggested looking at Forres and Keith's sites; forresweb.net and inkeith.com. Zafar asked about the old BCK.com site and Gordon said it has long expired.

7. Buckie Regeneration Group (update)

B4B: The feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive. 59/60 perfect, the 1/60 was a minor point (suggested refreshments available at the start). Photos were taken by Lynn Curran and Gordon McDonald, and Gordon will email to groups. The CSU did the artwork and printing and did a fantastic job. BAF paid for the hall and banners. There will be a 'mop up' meeting 6:30pm 18/04/2018 in Neil's office, BHS. We need to discuss whether to do this again. 'Economic Development' was a tricky concept and some groups did not see their projects as fitting the brief so did not apply. The presentations were all good and overall it was a very successful event.

MTP: The Moray Towns Partnership funding has come to an end. Gordon asked BAF to write a letter of thanks to Alan MacBeth for his involvement with BAF and MTP.

WiFi: Per agreement at the previous meeting, the town centre wifi has been cancelled. Due to technological advances e.g. 4G connectivity on phones it no longer justifies it's £3,000 per year cost.

Funds: From various funds BAF/Regen have £26,000 available:

£15,000	Tesco	Must be spent in Buckie
£3,000	BCK 1 st	Balance from redundant retail initiative
£8,000	BAF	Bank balance (including Towns House revenue)

From developer obligations there is also £160,000 potentially available; Alan MacBeth will advise us, more information to follow.

Chairperson's signature _____ Date _____

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8. Town's House

The Town's House is off the list of buildings at threat of closure, and this is likely due to the Library being there. It is listed as being part of the Common Good. When the new BHS is built the library will likely be going in there; BAF will discuss options e.g. Community Asset Transfer when/if that happens. Gordon asked that BAF ask TMC to install more electrical sockets in the hall. BAF will pay them to do the job. There is a regular monthly let by Social Care and BAF charge TMC for this. The hall mobile phone now works: 07496 237701. Ian asked about availability of toilet facilities; there is one upstairs. The outside public toilets will close.

9. Moray Area Forum

Money for Moray: On Sunday 11/03/18 35 groups gave presentations in the Grant Hall, Rothes to a crowd of over 300. The event was very successful from a Participatory Budget point of view (lots of applications, presentations and voters), but there were some Health and Safety problems due to the size of the audience, and some complaints from local residents about parking issues. The 'mop up' meeting is on Monday 26/03/18.

Meeting: The next MAF meeting is also Monday 26/03/18.

10. AOCB

NEAT: Jo told us about North East Arts Touring, formerly Buckie Festival, and the upcoming events; Chicago (Portgordon, 7pm, 20th April), Paddington 2 (Portgordon, 2pm, 5th May), Whisky Galore (Aberlour, 2pm, 6th May), The Isle of Love (Aberlour, 7.30pm, 23rd May), Dad's Army Radio Hour (Portgordon, 7.30pm, 6th June)

Friends of the Fishermans Hall: Alan Taylor told us about the group. They have 12 of a committee (from various groups/interests) with option to co-opt 3 more if required. They formed in December after a public meeting and have decided to pursue a CAT. They have had a great response from the community so far and already have raised over £4,000. They have many issues to face e.g. the Common Good status of the hall. Alan will send us the link for their public consultation, and they will consult with schoolchildren too. They have applied for SCIO charitable status. 30/06/18 is TMC's closure date for the hall and they are getting advice on securing a lease to keep it open during the CAT process which can take up to 3 years. Gordon recommended that they contact similar groups and work together. Christine asked about the other group that has expressed an interest in the hall, but Alan couldn't comment other than to confirm that they have been invited to a meeting on 25/03/18. For information, the CSU is currently working on 10 CATs as well as other work, and this is all done by just 3.5 of a staff.

Halls feasibility study: The Regen group is considering conducting a feasibility study of all halls in the BAF area. MC Finance previously turned down a request, but other towns have had similar studies paid for so Gordon is pursuing this.

Transport Forum: The seminar has been postponed until September.

Land Street closure: Ian asked about buses using the roads through the Yardie as this was stopped many years ago, but Leah explained that recently it has been necessary due to Land Street being closed, and it is due to open again 18/05/18.

Towns House water bill: Sonya will pass this on to Nick Goodchild to investigate.

Teddy Bear Group: They are now using Group Room 1 at BHS.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be at 7pm on 20 June 2018 (AGM) in Buckie High School.

Robert submitted apologies for the June meeting.

Linda closed the meeting at 8:10pm.

Chairperson's signature _____ Date _____