

Buckie Area Forum

Minutes of the BAF Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 24th January 2023

Present: Christine Allan (CA), Colin Burch (CB), Dawn Fisher (DF), Ian Collacott (IC), Cllr Donald Gatt (DG), Ernest Kopp (EK), Gordon McDonald (GM), Linda McDonald (LM), Kevin McKay (KM), Cllr Neil McLennan (NM), Cllr Marc Macrae (MM), David Pirie (DP), Cllr Neil McLennan (NM), Tracey Rae (TR), Leah Rossvoll (LR)

Apologies: Willie Chisholm, Alistair Farquhar, Neil Johnston, Sue Lane, Cllr Sonya Warren

The meeting was opened at 7pm by GM, who welcomed attendees. He expressed his personal sadness, and the sympathy of BAF members on the recent death of Anita Milne, chair of the Moray Area Forum, and a stalwart of local community organisations. Her loss will be felt by many. The funeral will be held at Lhanbryde Parish Church on Thursday 2nd February.

Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd November were approved (proposed by CA, seconded by CB).

Matters arising: No items.

Chair's report: See later – report on Buckie Hub.

Secretary's report: no items of note.

Treasurer's report: In the absence of the treasurer, no report (GM will circulate report of transactions to date).

The Hub: GM gave members an update on this service. The Hub is now open 10 till 4 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, with an evening session from 6 till 8pm on Tuesdays. There are 32 volunteers. Visitor numbers vary, with a daily maximum of around 15. There has been good support from local businesses, tradespeople, and the community (e.g. £46 donation from Findochty Primary School today). Monthly costs, including all utilities and wifi, are around £1500 (currently paid by BAF). Property owner is willing to extend lease beyond April 2023 (monthly or 6 monthly, with a rent reduction if a new lease is signed). Some external agencies have regular sessions (Healthpoint, Moray Pathways and Moray Wellbeing Hub, with others in discussion to arrange this). SC is collating anonymised information/statistics on use, and anecdotal stories.

Problems with the property have included intermittent heating system breakdowns, and flooding due to blocked guttering – the landlord is aware of these issues. The grant received from the Rural & Islands Communities Fund has been used to purchase essential items including fridge/freezer and 4 laptops, printer etc. Grant applications for running costs submitted to SSE Beatrice Fund (£15k for volunteer

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coordinator), Moray Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund (£11825) and Community Cost of Living Anchor Fund (£13k).

The Hub's aim is to be responsive to needs within the community, and to communicate what we do (BAF webmaster will redesign BAF website so that the Hub is the home page). The Hub is keen to work with local Community Councils and ensure as far as possible a fair service for all in the BAF catchment. Discussions to assist local churches to provide a warm hub on Sundays are ongoing. Fairer Moray Action Group is organising a meeting for representatives from all warm hubs in Moray, to allow exchange of ideas. There was a general discussion of different aspects of the service including loans of IT equipment + mobile data (tablets), IT training and provision of food/fuel vouchers, warm clothing, and items for local food, school uniform and baby banks. Douglas Ross MP has written to the Hub to commend their work. GM concluded by thanking all who have helped get the Hub to this stage.

Development Trust Steering Group: In the absence of Susan Chalmers, chair of the DTSG, IC gave a short update on progress. FAB DTSG has been awarded SCIO status (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) by OSCR. This means that a wider range of funding and grant sources become available to the trust, and it is now legally allowed to employ staff and own property. Decisions on priorities and how to achieve them will be based on consultation and member's expressed views. The next important step is to move from the current "shadow" status as a steering group to become a fully fledged development trust. This requires an EGM at which board or committee members will be appointed. A DTSG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 31st January, and organising the EGM will be the main item of business. The coverage area of the DT is the Buckie electoral ward, and it is hoped that FAB DTSG and BAF will complement each other's efforts.

Locality Plan – Buckie: TR and CA gave an update. TR reported that the partners' event in November attracted 50 local agencies and groups, and looked at priorities and resources. The new locality plan was launched in December, and envisages a busy, thriving harbour area, and encouraging more local businesses. There was wide discussion of various aspects of this, including potential local sources of funding such as Moray West wind farm. The use of harbour buildings (fish market and Buckie Drifter) were discussed, as well as vacant land on March Road. A need for improved local hotel facilities to attract business was covered, as well as the value of a local apprentice college. It's important to ensure that any plans don't unnecessarily duplicate other local services.

AOCB: CA reported on a recent meeting with Police Scotland/Buckie High School/Peoplehood, and the availability of £25k to be spent to facilitate active travel by encouraging the use of bikes. TR said a local Resilience Planning meeting will

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take place on 2nd February at the North Kirk Hall in Buckie – all welcome. The community in Buckie has £60k from participatory budgeting to spend on provision of facilities for young people. This may be used for staff, equipment or venues. DP noted football training and skills as a useful area for development, with Merson Park the hub of this plan. Buckie Thistle football club is keen to be involved in grassroots training, and providing this leisure activity. CB asked if spending is Buckie centred, or BAF wide (TR to check). EK asked if notification of a planned summer market in Cullen could be made via the BAF email list (IC to do this). There was agreement that it would be useful for BAF to obtain CC minutes (possibly circulate to members, or make available on BAF website). LR asked for promotion of the Friendship Club, which meets from 6 till 8pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Fisherman's Hall. CB will add BAF to circulation list for the quarterly Cullen Connected newsletter. He noted that Cullen Community lunches will take place every Wednesday in January and February.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Date and time of next meeting: 7pm on Monday 20th March 2023. The AGM will be held in June.