

BUCKIE AREA FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD via ZOOM ON 28/10/2021

Present: Gordon McDonald, Emma Marandola, Iain Grieve, Leah Rossvoll, Morag Stewart, Ian Collacott

In attendance: Cllr Coull, Cllr Cowie, Cllr Eagle, Cllr Macrae, Cllr Warren, Kevin McDermott (Moray Council), Tracey Rae (Moray Council), Aileen Park (Blackwood), PC Rachel Barclay (Police Scotland), Colin Burch (Cullen & Deskford Community Council), Ross Ingram (Buckie & District Community Council), Neil Johnson (Buckie Community High School), Meg Jamieson, Tini

Welcome and Apologies: Gordon McDonald opened the meeting at 7pm. There were apologies from Cllr Gatt, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Powell, Christine Allan, Anita Milne.

Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 17/6/2021 were accepted with no amendments (proposed Ian Collacott, seconded Leah Rossvoll).

Matters arising: None

Chair's report: Gordon reported on the attendance of BAF members at a meeting of the Fisherman's Hall Trustees held on 15/7/2021 to discuss the possible involvement of BAF in a Community Asset Transfer. It was decided that BAF would not have any further involvement in any potential bid. He stressed the willingness of BAF to work with other local groups and proposed the set up a Development Trust. This would be in line with other area forums, and would be helpful in attempts to obtain a local Development Officer, which would be key in attracting funds and furthering local development. A meeting will be held early in the New Year for further discussion.

Secretary's report: Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue service were emailed with a request to provide details of local staff who might attend BAF meetings. No reply as yet from the fire service, with police in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Treasurer's report: Iain Grieve reported that there had been little financial activity, due largely to the pandemic. Current account balances are £13312.09 (BAF), £5650.75 (LOIP), £10,670.88 (Buckie Regen group).

Blackwood: Gordon introduced Aileen Park, Blackwood Group. Aileen gave the forum an outline of the Blackwood Group, and their current involvement in Buckie as a result of Scottish Government funding of approximately £12.6 M, to further three projects in Glasgow, Dundee and Buckie, with over £1M earmarked for Buckie. Blackwood focuses primarily on the >60 group, and aims to help people to continue to live healthily and independently, and to reduce social isolation, with involvement in housing (building as well as adaptation and refurbishment), design and enhancement of neighbourhood green spaces, provision of equipment libraries for fitness, and the "CleverCogs" app. Connectivity and transport are key elements of their local vision. The local funding will drive a fluid project, and seeks to build links with community groups and individuals, local Health and Social Care providers and

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staff, and to assess what residents in the local community want and need. Blackwood currently provides accommodation for 19 residents, but Aileen stressed the fact that the project is for all local residents. Blackwood is currently seeking office space in Buckie. There were several questions and some discussion of this project, which is warmly welcomed by the BAF.

Gordon then introduced Kevin McDermott, the Moray Council service manager for Community Learning and Development services. Kevin gave an outline of the vision and areas of interest of CLD, most importantly adult and family learning, and community development. There is a 3 year CLD plan, focused on reducing inequality and social isolation. Key parts of this plan involve trying to establish what families in particular would like from CLD. Kevin gave an illustrative example of how a simple action such as receiving parcels while neighbours were at work helped solve social isolation for an individual. He stressed his commitment to giving communities a voice.

Buckie Regen Group: Cllr Warren updated the group. The main feedback received by the group was on the development of footpaths, particularly to enable a circular footpath from Buckpool to Buckie. This would involve providing a safe pedestrian footpath alongside the A98. Gordon requested the group to investigate the cost of this.

Buckie Town House: Gordon gave a brief report on the BAF's interest in acquiring this property via a CAT. A subgroup will be established to help further this aim. Gordon invited interested individuals to contact him. He reported that Moray Council is happy to reopen the property for use as long as appropriate cleaning is done between use by different groups, and if hand sanitization is made available. Purchase of a freestanding dispensing unit was agreed. A quote for the conversion of the small storage room to office space will be sought.

Locality Planning: Tracey Rae reported on a questionnaire being distributed by Moray Council to inform the locality plan, a 10 year project started in 2018. The questionnaire seeks public opinion on prioritization of issues. It will be made available in paper, electronic and QR code format, and distributed as widely as possible, including via schools. Moray Council has a presence at the Reach Out on Monday afternoons. She noted that there will be a community lunch held at the Baptist Church Hall in Buckie on Friday 3rd December. There was discussion of the establishment of Credit Union collection points.

Website: Gordon reported on the difficulty of maintaining and updating the BAF website. There was agreement that an up-to-date website is essential to help BAF fulfil its aims. A local company can provide a professional maintenance, technical support and updating service for the website. This is not a cheap option (annual cost £1500). There was some discussion of a name which is reflective of the entire geographic coverage of BAF, and the possibility of the IT company being able to

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offer some website/IT training to interested local residents. It was agreed to purchase a year's contract.

Moray Area Forum: Gordon reported that there were no scheduled meetings.

Young Creatives: Rachel Barclay reported on activities aimed at involving local young people (from Primary school through to high school ages) in creative and artistic activities. There was some discussion of anti-social activities, including reported games of "chicken" on the main road in Cullen. Rachel requested details, and agreed to provide paper and electronic copies of locally-targeted leaflets with information on local police contact details for non-urgent matters.

AOCB: no further business.

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.