

Buckie Area Forum

Minutes of the BAF Meeting held via Zoom on Monday 20th March 2023

Present: Christine Allan (CA), Colin Burch (CB), Ronnie Cargill (RC), Susan Chalmers (SC), Ian Collacott (IC), Alistair Farquhar (AF), Dawn Fisher (DF), Ailsa Foulds (AFo), Iain Grieve (IG), Susan Lane (SL), James Murray (JM), Gordon McDonald (GM), Linda McDonald (LM), Kevin McKay (KM), Cllr Marc Macrae (MM), Tracey Rae (TR), Leah Rossvoll (LR)

Apologies: None given

The meeting was opened at 7pm by GM.

Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th January were approved with a minor amendment (apologies received from LR were not noted in draft minutes – an amended version will be circulated). Minutes proposed by CA, seconded by LM.

Matters arising: None.

Chair's report: GM gave an update on the continuing issues with the buckie.co domain name. This domain was purchased by BAF over 5 years ago. Current office bearers were unaware that there was a requirement to renew this agreement after 5 years, and we have been unsuccessful in trying to gain access to the account and associated emails. We have secured the domain buckiehub.com as an interim measure, and this may be the long term solution to our problem. See later – report on Buckie Hub.

Secretary's report: The quarterly fire service report and treasurer's report were received and distributed to members.

Treasurer's report: See separate document for full details. IG summarised the current financial situation. The balance of the No.1 account is £19183-98p, and the balance of the No.2 account is £10106-55p. The Development Trust is in the process of setting up a bank account, and will then take responsibility for all DT funds. GM and SC expressed thanks, on behalf of BAF, Hub and DT members, to IG for his hard work as treasurer. TR expressed thanks on behalf of Moray Council. CB asked how Cullen CC could take advantage of the offer of funding for their community warm hub. GM informed members that Moray Council has now ceased funding for all Area Forums. He noted that in theory, funding should also come from the Community Planning Board, but this has never happened. It may be worth checking further.

Update on Buckie Harbour Master Plan: No-one from Buckie Harbour Board was available to attend, and this item will be moved to a future meeting.

The Hub: GM gave an update on the current status of the Hub. The Hub committee has agreed with the property owner, Drew Parkes, to extend the lease until the end

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of 2023. It is hoped that a reduction in rent can be negotiated. The Hub is now open 6 days per week.

There is still a problem with water entry during and after severe weather. The cost of necessary repairs should be shared 50/50 with the owner of the property above, and it is hoped to resolve this soon (GM can organise a contractor).

Further successful grants were reported – details are given in the appendix to this minute. A limited number of £20 food vouchers will be purchased, split equally between Tesco and the Co-op. This gives some element of choice and control to those in need of this emergency help. Further shop vouchers will be bought in proportion to the preferences shown by recipients.

Energy/fuel vouchers are proving to be more complex to provide. There is no generic energy voucher recognised by all power suppliers, and a different system is needed for prepayment meters, and billed accounts. A meeting with an advisor from REAP in Keith has been organised to help progress this.

The baby bank run by TooCute in Cluny Square has purchased various items to the value of £1500 in line with the grant awarded. Excess stock will be held at the Hub. A two way referral is in operation – those seeking assistance from the baby bank will be referred to the Hub for more general support and advice, and parents of children 6 months or younger visiting the Hub will be referred to TooCute.

Several external groups and agencies now have regular sessions in the Hub. These groups are Moray Pathways, Peoplehood, NHS Grampian Healthpoint, and VoiceAbility. Moray Credit Union will hold a regular session from the start of April.

GM answered some questions on the Hub, including donations and the baby bank. The appendix at the end of this document gives details of all grants received by the Hub to date.

Update on Findochty and Buckie Development Trust: SC gave members an update on recent events. The DT has been recognised as a charity by OSCR (charity number SC052237). Public meetings were held in Findochty and Buckie, and resulted in several new members. At the EGM held in Buckie on March 15th, two further trustees were elected (DT now has 5 trustees). An open meeting of members will be held via Zoom on Tuesday 28th March, and the DT will try to develop priorities based on the opinion of members, and consultation with local residents. Attendees were happy to allow the interim financial arrangements to continue until FAB DT has arranged a bank account. There were no questions.

Locality Plan: TR and CA provided an update and led discussion on this issue. TR reported on recent local meetings (online and face to face) at which priorities were established, and organisations identified as leading on these priorities. Some issues

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and priorities have no allocated lead, and there is a need to decide a way forward for these items. A clear local desire for a Community Hub exists. This is not the same as the existing Hub, although a new, permanent Community Hub might seek to provide some of the same services, if needed, in the longer term. Various local groups are happy to support this plan, although there is not yet a clear lead organisation. Moray Council's Access Point may, if the council deems it surplus to requirement, be a possible site, although refurbishment would be necessary (and a source of funding required). Various different activities such as a youth café/club, and space which could be booked and used by community groups, would be envisaged. CA gave information on the success of recent Community Lunches. The most recent event in February had 91 attendees. These lunches are popular, and a good chance for residents to meet and socialise over food. The next lunch will be held at Fisherman's Hall at noon on Monday 27th March.

Moray Area Forum: GM reported that he had attended a Moray Area Forum meeting, the first held for some time. Representatives from four AFs were in Attendance. GM was elected as chair of MAF at the meeting. There was unanimous approval from BAF attendees. The next meeting will take place on 28th March, and a community engagement meeting is scheduled for April. There was some discussion of the work done by local AFs, and Moray AF. To some extent, activity seems to be dependent on the activity of the local Community Council, and in some places, other active local groups such as Development Trusts. There is general agreement on the importance of travel as a priority issue for all AFs. GM noted that a new constitution is required for Moray AF.

AOCB: Various issues were discussed. GM asked for information on "Rainbow Rascals", a local friendship group which has requested a time slot in the Hub. LR gave some background information. LR led discussion on transport, and the plan to start a Buckie-Keith bus service (currently scheduled for 2nd May commencement). The value of the mconnect app was discussed. The active travel scheme in Buckie was discussed – placement of bike shelters has yet to be finalised, although there is agreement on some sites. CB requested the addition of Cullen CC email address to mailing lists for local information, and gave an update on Cullen Community Lunches held in the Community Centre. These weekly events, held at midday on Wednesdays, have been popular, with an attendance of over 40 at the last one. They move to a monthly frequency in April. CB reported on plans for Cullen to twin with a French town, and on the employment of a new development worker.

AF reported on scheduled events run by North East Arts Trust. There will be shows at Portgordon Village Hall and Findochty Town Hall – full details are available at <https://neatshows.co.uk/>

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CA asked about attendance of councillors at BAF meetings, and there was a brief discussion. KM asked about the possibility of a bike shelter at Buckpool harbour.

Date and time of next meeting: There was a brief discussion of the value of holding a mixture of face to face and online meetings. The next meeting will be the BAF AGM, and will take place online at 7pm on Tuesday 13th June.

GM thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 8pm.

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APPENDIX 1

Funding grants awarded to Buckie Hub

Note: grant applications submitted by all affiliated organisations (BAF, Hub, FAB Development Trust) are included.

AWARDING BODY	SUM AWARDED	NOTES
Rural & Island Communities Ideas into Action Fund (Scottish Government)	£4250.34p	
Moray Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (awarded through tsi Moray)	£11,825.00p	To be spent by 31/8/24 (running costs)
National Lottery Community Fund (Cost of Living Community Anchor grant)	£13,580.00p	To be spent within 1 year
Health & Social Care Moray Third Sector Support Fund	£1,500.00p	For Too Cute baby bank