

MORAY FORUM

Minutes of the Moray Forum Meeting held on 6 June 2011, at 7.00 p.m., in New Elgin Primary School Annex

Present:

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| Alan Beresford | Chair |
| Anita Milne | Vice Chair – Minute taker |
| Barry Taylor | Buckie Area Forum |
| Louise Ellerby | Elgin South Forum |
| Aileen Marshall | Elgin South Forum |
| John Bremner | Forres Area Forum |
| Carin Schwartz | Forres Area Forum |
| Peter Bush | Milne’s Neighbourhood Forum |
| Sandy Henderson | Speyside Area Forum |

In Attendance:

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| John Ferguson | Moray Council – Community Planning and Development Manager |
| Linda Adams | Moray Council – Community Support Officer |
| Alastair Kennedy | Moray Joint Community Council – Chair |

Apologies:

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| Keiron Green | Elgin North Forum |
| Bill Burgess | Speyside Area Forum |

| Minute | Discussion | Action |
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| 1 | <p>Alan welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Keiron Green would be resigning from the Forum as he was moving away from the area. It was agreed that a letter would be sent thanking him for his work with the Forum, and wishing him well for the future.</p> <p><u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2011</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2011 having been previously circulated were agreed as a correct record with the correction of a typing error in Item 7. The second sentence should read: The content contains a synopsis of the <i>work</i> carried out . . . Proposed by: Barry and seconded by John Bremner.</p> | AB |
| 2 | <p><u>Matters Arising:</u></p> <p>Budget Consultation</p> <p>It was noted that to date the Forum had not received the information contained within the post-it notes from the budget consultation exercise undertaken in October/November 2010. John Ferguson agreed to follow this up.</p> | JF |
| 3 | <p>Area Forum Code of Conduct</p> | |

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| 4 | <p>John Ferguson provided a draft Area Forum Code of Conduct, which was along similar lines to that for Community Councils. It was agreed that John F would circulate this to Forum Chairs by e-mail so that it could be discussed at individual Forum meetings. Comments and suggestions would be brought back to the next Moray Forum meeting.</p> <p>Better Community Engagement (BCE) - Update</p> <p>Peter requested that in future a key to initials used in minutes be provided.</p> | JF Area Forums |
| 5 | <p>Bank Account</p> <p>John Bremner advised that it had not been possible to complete the opening of the bank account as he required a signed copy of the Forum's constitution. The signatories to the account would be the three office bearers and Carin, with the Treasurer plus one other signing all cheques.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Community Issues</p> <p><i>Redco-Milne Development</i></p> <p>A holding reply had been received from the Chief Executive's Department to the concerns raised over this issue, due to the Chief Executive being on sick leave.</p> <p><i>Moray Economic Strategy</i></p> <p>This was a long term strategy and John Ferguson had drafted a paper for Committee. It had been agreed that further thinking and consultation should be undertaken on the Strategy.</p> | |
| 7 | <p><u>Better Community Engagement (BCE) – Update</u></p> <p>This project had now been concluded and a toolkit for community engagement had been drawn up which was available on line. Linda agreed to circulate the website details to Forum members.</p> <p>John Ferguson explained that the Community Engagement Group (CEG) would continue as a strategic group, but in a different format from that of the previous group.</p> | LA |
| 8 | <p><u>Community Support Unit (CSU) – Update</u></p> <p>A letter had been circulated from Ian Todd, Community Support Unit Manager, detailing the way the CSU would be working in future. From the letter it was obvious that Area Forums would not receive the same level of service as they had in the past, and that the staff would be concentrating much of their efforts on internal Council work such as Community Asset Transfers and Flood Alleviation consultations. The</p> | |

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| <p>9</p> | <p>inference was that more support would be given to Council departments to help them engage with communities, than actual support to communities. A number of concerns were expressed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time staff spend travelling between their various areas, thereby eating into the time they have available to spend with community groups. • The swapping of areas where it will take staff additional time to get to know the area and the groups that operate within it. • Lack of recognition of the differences between geographic areas and the way staff should be used within areas. <p>Anita said that when the CSU had first been established an Advisory Group had been set up consisting of representatives of the Moray Forum, Voluntary Action Moray, Volunteer Centre Moray, Moray Joint Community Council, and the Moray Federation of Community Halls and Associations, and she felt that an opportunity had been missed to use this group to see how best, by working in partnership, maximum support to the Third Sector could have been achieved. Alastair concurred with this sentiment, and expressed his concerns about the reduction of support for community groups from the CSU.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed that an inter-agency evaluation should be undertaken after three months of the new working arrangements.</p> <p>It was further agreed that John Ferguson would meet with the Speyside Area Forum to discuss their specific concerns and needs.</p> <p>Linda Adams would be providing support for the Moray Forum in future, and would organise a meeting with the office bearers to ascertain the support needs.</p> <p><u>Moray Council – Volunteer Policy for Staff</u></p> <p>John Ferguson confirmed that there was not a Moray Council policy in respect of staff volunteering. The Council did have a Volunteer Policy, which he agreed to circulate, but this was in respect of people volunteering with the Council.</p> <p>In respect of Council staff and work place volunteering, the Council did not object to staff volunteering within their own communities, providing they upheld the Conflict of Interest policy, which would also be circulated to the Forum.</p> <p>It was felt that the Council should consider implementing a Volunteering Policy for their staff, and John Ferguson agreed to raise this with the Council.</p> | <p>JF</p> <p>LA</p> <p>JF</p> <p>JF</p> <p>JF</p> |
| <p>10</p> | <p><u>Theatre Licences</u></p> | |

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| | <p>Alan had contacted Sean Hoath, Solicitor, Litigation and Licensing, Legal Services, at the Moray Council concerning the issue of licensing of theatrical performances. It was agreed that his response would be circulated with the minutes, and the issue of licenses for community groups would be taken up with the relevant Members of Parliament.</p> | |
| 11 | <p><u>Moray Transport Seminar</u></p> <p>Alan advised that the Moray Forum had been successful in securing £500 from the funding allocated to the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership under the Change Fund – Reshaping Care for Older People to hold a seminar/workshop around transport issues for older people. It was agreed to establish a Steering Group consisting of older people, Area Forum, community and statutory agency representatives to progress this seminar.</p> <p>Alastair agreed to lend support, should it be necessary, in areas where currently Area Forums were not active.</p> | <p>AB</p> <p>AB</p> |
| 12 | <p><u>Community Issues</u></p> <p><i>Grant Lodge</i></p> <p>Alastair advised that a meeting was scheduled to discuss the future of Grant Lodge, Elgin, on Thursday 9 June, at 7.30 p.m.</p> | <p>AK</p> |
| 13 | <p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Monday 22 August, 2011 at 7.00 p.m. at New Elgin Primary School Annex.</p> | |