

## **Buckie Area Forum**

### **Minutes of AGM held via Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Present:** Stuart Akass (SA), Colin Burch (CB), Susan Chalmers (SC), Cllr. Theresa Coull (TC), Ian Collacott (IC), Bruce Edelsten (BE), Alistair Farquhar (AF), Iain Grieve (IG), Kevin McDermott (KMCD), Gordon McDonald (GM), Linda McDonald (LM), Kevin McKay (KMCK), Cllr. Marc Macrae (MM), Tracey Rae (TR).

**Apologies:** Zafar Ali, Dawn Brodie, Ailsa Foulds, Cllr Donald Gatt, Neil Johnson, Sue Lane, Emma Marandola, James Murray, Cllr Neil McLennan, David Pirie, Mark Witkowski

The meeting was opened at 7pm by GM, who welcomed attendees.

**Minutes of the previous AGM (held on 30/6/2022):** These were approved as an accurate record of proceedings (proposed LM, seconded SC).

**Matters arising:** None

#### **Office bearers' reports:**

**Chair:** GM described the work of the Hub, opened to help local residents during the cost of living crisis. BAF funding was used to help start this joint venture with the Findochty and Buckie Development trust. There are currently around 30 regular volunteers, and around 40 volunteers have been involved since the Hub opened in November 2022. He thanked volunteers for their hard work, and their adaptability and sensitivity in dealing with visitors who are often upset and anxious. He then thanked the many local tradesman and businesses who have given time, materials and goods freely, and without whom the Hub could not have started. He also thanked Tracey Rae (Moray Council) for her hard work behind the scenes, particularly in assisting with grant applications. As a result of this, the Hub has been very successful in attracting external funding from the National Lottery, NHS Grampian and various Scottish government initiatives, with a total exceeding £30k to date. GM stressed the fact that the Hub is not solely for the people of Buckie, but for all those within the BAF catchment area, and all Community Councils within the area have been offered assistance.

Moray Area Forum has now restarted (with GM as chair), and a new constitution will be drawn up. This group, as with BAF, is responsible to the Community Planning Board. BAF has an involvement with FAB Development Trust, and has helped it with administrative support. Moray Council is no longer funding Area Forums.

**Secretary:** IC noted communication with various awarding bodies involved in providing grants to the Hub, and reported that he had submitted a rates exemption application for the Hub. We now have a new representative from Scottish Fire and Rescue (Mark Witkowski). IC expressed thanks to his predecessor, Willie Chisholm,

for his support and work with BAF, and to Scottish Fire and Rescue generally for their work within our communities.

**Treasurer:** IG gave a report on current finances (two documents circulated to members prior to this meeting). This has been by far the busiest year for transactions, largely due to Hub activity. As of today, the balance of funds stands at £29,212.67 for BAF (including BAF, LOIP, FAB DT and Hub money) and £9753.67 for the Regen Group.

**Election of office bearers:** GM handed the meeting over to TR to allow election of office bearers for the next year. TR offered thanks for the work done by the BAF team and executive, and all local volunteers.

**Chair:** GM was elected to serve for a further year (proposed IG, seconded IC).

**Vice-chair:** KMck was elected (proposed GM, seconded IG).

**Secretary:** IC was elected (proposed GM, seconded BE).

**Treasurer:** IG was elected (proposed GM, seconded KMck).

TR gave control of the meeting back to the chair. GM noted that minute secretary Emma Marandola had stood down, and offered his thanks to her, and to all office holders. Representatives to outside bodies were agreed. For the Harbour Advisory Committee, Morag Stewart is the representative for Buckie and Findochty, and Iain Grieve the representative for Portknockie and Cullen. Delegates to Moray Forum are Gordon and Linda McDonald. Leah Rossvoll continues as the representative for Moray Transport Forum.

**AOCB:** BAF accounts need to be approved by an external body or person now that Moray Council is no longer providing funding. TR confirmed that there is now no longer any requirement to submit accounts to council. GM suggested that a peer forum (e.g. Moray Forum) might be able to fulfill this need. BE offered assistance.

The meeting closed at 19.24.