

# Buckie Area Forum

Minutes of the meeting for Buckie Area Forum held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2010 in Buckie Community High School.

## **Present**

Barry Taylor, **Chair**, Alan Beresford, **Vice Chair**, Sarah Murray, **Secretary**, Ian Moir, **Treasurer**, Tam McLellan, Anna Parker, Jo Farquhar, Sonya Warren, and Alistair Farquhar.

## **In attendance**

Cllr Joe Mackay, Cllr Gordon McDonald, Gillian Rose (CSW).

## **1.0 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming those present and introducing new Forum member, Tam McLellan. He then invited notes of apology. Apologies received from Cllr Douglas Ross, Cllr Ron Shepherd, Cllr Anita McDonald, Cllr Gary Coull, Zafar Ali and Gillian Bailey.

## **2.0 Previous Minutes**

The Buckie Area Forum June 2010

The minute of the previous meeting was proposed by Alistair Farquhar and seconded by Anna Parker as a true record of the meeting.

## **3.0 Matters Arising**

The funding for Community Councils and Area Forums has been sent off and acknowledged, the Forum will be kept updated on matters.

Thank you emails have been sent to Gillian Jaffrey and Alexander Thatcher and also David Barnett.

## **4.0 Townhouse Lease**

The chair outlined the terms and conditions of the lease and the Regen.Group have stated they would like to proceed as quickly as possible if there are no objections. No objections from Forum members were raised.

If any community groups wish to use the hall they are to get in touch with BAF. Gillian Rose asked who would be allowed to use it and would any charges apply? The Chair answered that any group could use it, although we have to be careful not to be seen taking 'business' away from the community centre and/or the Fishermen's hall. A charge would be implemented in the form of a suggested donation.

Ian Moir questioned the security aspect of us using the building but has been assured that as we have our own access via the back of the building this shouldn't be a problem and there should be no need for any group/user to go down into the lobby as we have exclusive use of a toilet and kitchen.

Gordon McDonald explained that the smaller room would be used for Radio BCK with the equipment already being stored there, however, after questions from Ian Moir regarding this Gordon advised that discussions were taking place with Jim McHarg from Ayrshire Radio as to how best to set up the radio equipment. The plan is for the hall to be used for as many things as possible during our six month lease - including gallery style exhibitions, although it does need to be used for regeneration purposes.

Anna Parker questioned access for disabled users - namely that the back access would not be suitable. The chair assured her that this was being looked into and discussions have been taking place to find possible solutions so that the hall is accessible to all.

It was determined that any decisions on potential bookings would be taken by the leaseholders but the Forum has no intentions of excluding any groups. All subsequent Forum meetings and sub-group meetings are to be held in the Townhouse.

Ian Moir raised the question of liability over the rates to be paid and opening/operating times and Anna Parker queried public liability insurance, Gordon McDonald replied that these issues will be discussed and fully documented in the lease.

Joe Mackay noted that he fully supports the Forums intentions.

The Forum office bearers shall sign the lease this week.

## **5.0 Arradoul Residents Update**

Sonya Warren gave a brief outline of the progress so far - the council had implied that an update would be given by the end of August, beginning of September but nothing had been received as yet. Gordon McDonald stated that the Communities Committee had agreed to start the public consultations in September along with the public surgeries, with all results being collated in October. It was mentioned that a meeting was being held with Tricia Greenwood on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> but no-one seemed to have any knowledge of this so The Vice-Chair agreed to look into it and report back to Sonya Warren.

The Residents group have been advised to continue gaining signatures for their petition and keep the momentum going with their campaign and to do as much as possible to keep it in the public eye.

A meeting had been held with Richard Lohead, who advised he would look into the matter as there was still concerns from the residents group that there is no publication stating that Arradoul would be a suitable site.

Joe Mackay stated that although the Moray Council are duty bound to find a site for the travellers, there are concerns from the residents group that they are going for a halting site rather than a permanent site as recommended in the Craigforth Report.

## **6.0 Youth Matters**

There was no youth representation at this meeting.

## **7.0 Moray Forum Update**

The Vice Chair updated on Buckie related matters - the M.E Support Group is still going from strength to strength. The farmers market situation - the first one to be held is to be a continental market at the end of October.

Regen. Group - are seen to be setting a model in Moray with obtaining the lease for the Townhouse.

The funding consultation - all areas agreed to the same option being put forward and are now awaiting the outcome.

Elgin BIDS - it could be in the pipeline to roll this out to other areas in Moray but as they are having their own problems (with the charity shops/voluntary service) Buckie Area Forum have decided to keep an eye on it and see what, if any, solutions can be found as the Forum do not wish this scheme to be introduced before these problems are ironed out.

The draft minutes for the last Moray Forum meeting are available if anyone wishes to read them.

## **8.0 Buckie Area Forum Constitution**

It has been decided that this needs to be updated as it is no longer suitable for the needs of the Forum at present. The office bearers will meet to go over it, suggest changes and then propose them at the EGM. 28 days notice for the EGM to be held was received verbally to be followed in writing by the Chair. Ian Moir asked for 14 days notice to be given of any proposal to change to the constitution, this was agreed by all members. Ian Moir also queried whether the Regen. Group would become a detached group but it was decided by members that they shall remain a sub group of the Forum until agreed otherwise.

## **9.0 Aultmore Windfarm**

The Vice Chair outlined the present situation that if the company (Vattenfall) receive planning permission to go ahead with the wind farm there would be approximately £50-60K per year available to local groups through a community fund. The Forum are keen to submit an application as soon as possible for this and have decided to keep an eye on the situation. Ian Moir asked how long it could take for planning permission to be obtained but Gordon McDonald stated that this depends on various factors such as the amount of KW output etc.

Information booklets were available to any member that wanted one and the company have offered to do a presentation for the Forum, no objections were received regarding this.

## **10.0 A.O.C.B**

Alistair Farquhar informed the Forum members that a production of 'The Old Curiosity Shop' was being put on by the Northumberland Theatre Company at the British Legion on 8<sup>th</sup> September and asked if any further information regarding future productions could be sent to the Forum email address for distribution amongst the members.

Ian Moir raised questions regarding the situation with the Community Fund from Tesco. Gordon McDonald answered that a meeting was being held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August in the Townhouse with members from Buckie Community Council, the Regen Group, Buckie Retail Group and elected members to discuss how best to tackle the situation. The money is designated for economic development within the town centre and it has been agreed by all parties that it makes sense to work together rather than fight against each other and to also make the best use of the money to enable matched funding for any projects.

Any proposals/ideas from outlying community groups would be welcomed.

Regen. Group update - the first continental market is to be held in Cluny Square on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Ian Moir queried the hole in the harbour wall? Gordon McDonald informed members that divers had been down to assess the damage and an email should have been received with the report, it was decided that upon receiving the report the Chair should respond as necessary. ( Ian Moir & Alistair Farquhar asked to receive copies of the report)

CIFAL course - the transition town training that was held on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> July was very well received, members reported that it was very informative and it was agreed overall that paying for members to attend was money well spent.

Anna Parker reported that the recent Tesco development has upset a badger in her garden and asked advice as to who to contact regarding this - Forum members advised her to contact Scottish National Heritage who would be able to advise further.

## **11.0 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Buckie Townhouse - the EGM will be held before the ordinary meeting.