

BUCKIE AREA FORUM

MEETING

Wednesday 15 April 2015, Town House, Buckie

Present: Sonya Warren (BAF), Tam McLellan (BAF), Alan Beresford (BAF), Ian Moir (BAF), Gillian Rose (BAF), Ian McPherson (BAF), Sam Thomson (Tesco), Linda McDonald (BAF), Emma Marandola (BAF), Alistair Farquhar (BAF)

In attendance: Cllr Gordon McDonald, Ian Todd (TMC)

Welcome: Sonya welcomed all to the meeting and stepped down as Chair due to her election as councillor. Ian Todd confirmed that she could proceed to take the meeting as long as everyone was in agreement, all were.

Apologies: Zafar Ali (BAF), Jane Murray, Jo Farquhar (BAF), Neil Johnston (BHS), Willie Cameron (Fire Service), Nick Brown (Radio BCK), and Cllr Gordon Cowie

Previous Minutes: Proposed by Emma Marandola and seconded by Alistair Farquhar.

Matters Arising:

Tables: 12 tables have arrived.

Traffic management: There are drop-in information sessions in the library 15/4/15 and 16/4/15 re the proposed new traffic lights. Sonya expressed concern that the forum had not been consulted in the process; the Community Council had been involved and this was considered to be adequate consultation with the public but the forum members present did not agree. She was also concerned at the lack of advertising for the information events. Lind will write to Jim Grant.

Correspondence: None

Regeneration Group:

Funding We have been granted £15K per year for the next three years, the last 3 years' money *must* be closed off so promotional materials have been bought.

Camera competition There is a photography competition running with a camera package as the prize, photos for using in promotional leaflets, closing date 19/5/15. Information on Facebook, available in the library and will be in an ad in the paper.

Four Towns The 4 towns leaflet is finished and will be distributed throughout the North East, the Fish Wives' Walk information will be with it.

Walks We should promote Buckie as a walking centre; a Churches Walk, local paths and ramblers routes need promoting in leaflets and on information boards. We could meet with Aberdeenshire Council to discuss.

WiFi The wiring is in place so now waiting for BT to complete the hook-up and work should take just two days. There will be 'welcome' information to promote Buckie on the sign-in page. TMC is interested in relaying our signal to the harbour area and we could charge them for this service.

Members Ian Moir asked if having 2 elected members on the Regen group might cause a problem, e.g conflict of interest in the event of a council vote. Ian Todd said 'no'; all 26 elected members are in charge of Buckie's Common Good fund but our own 3 make day-to-day-decisions, full council only getting involved if the 3 are not in consensus.

Treasurers report: Zafar was unable to attend or submit financial information due to family circumstances and meeting with him will be rearranged. There does not appear to have been payment made for hall insurance but we are in possession of a certificate so are covered. Bank forms all need re-signed and all signatories will be able to access information online, any transactions require a second person to sign in and confirm.

Chair: Sonya Warren Secretary: Linda McDonald Treasurer: Zafar Ali

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Hall Bookings / Caretaking: Gillian has tidied up the hall and emptied some cupboards so we have secure storage for our own things. There is a timetable that is shared with the library and a sign in/out sheet arrangement is in place so Gillian can use the information to send out monthly invoices. Gillian requested a petty cash system be set up for consumables such as bin liners and cleaning supplies and this was approved by those present. She has been trying to get quotes from cleaners but safety issues (eg the ceiling height) and the fact that it is a listed building mean it is not straightforward. Gillian will find out who the council contractor is for changing lightbulbs etc, and Sam offered help from Tesco staff. There are more hires, some from Lady Cathcart groups who have been displaced by Millbank Nursery. Nick Goodchild will remove the piano and see to the computers. Gillian can be phoned or emailed. Invoices have been sent for February and March but it is too problematic to backdate any further. We need glasses for speakers, Sam offered from Tesco so Linda just has to write a letter of request for them.

Youth matters: Nothing to report.

Community:

James Alexander The project has been complicated by the Council's refusal to allow the Community Asset Transfer of the Drifter. Other areas (Keith and Elgin) are interested but James is committed to having the centre in Buckie, and Gordon McDonald, Gordon Cowie and Sonya have met with representatives of the finance department to look at alternative Buckie sites. Private donations have been made to the project on the condition that it will be in Buckie. Common Good and European creative funding money is available and could be used for a purpose-made, more environmentally sound building.

Renewables The contract for catamarans for wind farm maintenance is between Buckie and Wick. Wick already has a contract but it's harbour is poor, Buckie's harbour is better suited to working 24/7.

Jones Shipyard Northern Oils has been looking at having tanks there, no confirmation as yet.

Bus services Ian McPherson expressed disappointment in the Dial M for Moray service, specifically regarding meeting the needs of train users. It appears to be a token service, and he asked whether it was well used. Ian Moir commented that Buckie folk wishing to get to Dr Grey's hospital faced problems as the service terminates at the station. Ian Todd explained that Moray Transport Forum are trying to reinstate some cancelled routes. Ian Moir has previously asked about bus pass expiration dates (none beyond 2016) and was informed that they will automatically renew.

Radio Buckie Nick Brown provided a copy of the Radio Buckie Chairman's report 2014-2015 which said that this year has been one of great progress (e.g. set up SCIO, set out top 10 key targets for next year, secured Awards for All funding of just under £10K, made studio and outside test recordings) and their way forward will be to achieve their '10 targets' and 'go public'. Ownership of all equipment has passed to Radio Buckie.

AOCB:

World Host Course 30/4/15 in the Fishermens Hall for tourist-facing businesses.

Laptops Sonya has prices for laptops but will confirm specifications before purchase.

AGM Linda will place one ad in the paper, 3 weeks prior to the meeting. Ian Moir suggested fixing meeting dates for the year, this has not been done in the past in order to allow the forum to respond to community demands, but will be decided at the AGM.

Gillian wished Emma a happy 40th birthday for 16/4/15 and Emma (though embarrassed!) thanked her very much.

Date of next meeting (AGM): Wednesday 15 June 2015, 7pm, Town House, Buckie.