

**Minutes of the Buckie Area Forum Ordinary meeting held via Zoom at 7pm on
Thursday 20th June 2024**

Present: Ronnie Cargill (RC), Susan Chalmers (SC), Ian Collacott (IC), Graham Gibson (GG), Gordon McDonald (GM), Linda McDonald (LM), Annabella McLean (AM), Cllr Marc Macrae (MM), Kevin McDermott (KM), Tracey Rae (TR), Leah Rossvoll (LR), Morag Stewart (MS)

Apologies: Christine Allan, Colin Burch, Emma Marandola, James Murray, Jill Sowden, Iain Grieve

GM opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed attendees.

Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 20/03/2024): These were accepted with one correction (Linda McDonald present at meeting).

Matters arising: Covered under agenda items.

Chairperson's report: Covered under agenda items

Secretary's report: IC reported no items, and thanked MS for minuting the previous meeting at very short notice.

Treasurer's report: GM gave an outline report in the absence of the treasurer. BAF has a total of £30311-06 divided between two accounts. Buckie Hub has spent approximately £3k more than received income. Overall, the financial situation is healthy. The treasurer provided a detailed report, which will be circulated with these minutes.

Harbour Committee report: MS reported. Security cameras have now been installed at Buckie Harbour linked directly to the police station. A direct link to the Harbourmaster's Office may be arranged. Ocean Winds are in their new building, and an open day will be held. Capital funding for harbour works is awaited. The weighbridge is calibrated, with a one-way system in place. A Traffic Order is required to allow yellow lines to be painted in specified locations at the harbour. GM queried the wait for funding when the harbour is likely producing surplus income (harbour currently too busy for some works to proceed).

Buckie Hub: GM gave a report on activity. He thanked Kevin McKay for his contributions to the work of the Hub over the past two years. The gas meter in the Hub has been removed (no gas appliances have ever been installed, but £800 has been billed for standing charges since the Hub opened). There was discussion of funding. A similar community hub in New Elgin has received significant funding from Moray Council (in cash or kind). GM and SC led discussion, and expressed concern over the apparent inequity, with no council funds offered to Buckie Hub, and no invitation to apply for funding. KM gave background information on the reasoning behind decisions, and shared his screen to provide details. In essence, there was an urgent perceived need for such a service in New Elgin, but no active local community organisations to set up or run it. Buckie has a much more active local volunteer

community. GM noted that funding issues mean that the Buckie service may not be provided beyond the end of this year, although local need is unchanged. He stressed the essential nature of the support given by TR to the work of the Hub. Other communities in Moray would benefit from similar Hubs. He asked if it might be possible to arrange Service Level Agreements with council to help support local hubs. He stressed the fact that BAF has other priority areas for expenditure, and can't guarantee continued funding for the Hub. KM agreed that local need has been clearly demonstrated. SC noted that we have no wish to disadvantage other areas to divert money to Buckie, but do want a fair distribution of whatever funding may be available. KM will seek information on how Buckie Hub might be able to apply for funding (**NOTE: an email from KM confirming that the council is looking to set up a template which would allow this is provided as an appendix to these minutes**). GM thanked KM for providing information and answering questions related to this issue.

A coffee morning will be held on 3rd August at the North Kirk Hall in Buckie, to raise funds for the Hub. This will be organised and run by BAF, with the assistance and involvement of Hub volunteers and FABDT, and all profits will go to the Hub, mainly for purchase of food vouchers.

Locality Plan: SC gave an update on this, and FAB Development Trust activities, and will produce a Locality Plan newsletter. Recent focus has been on a Community Hub building following Nick Brown's report on candidate premises. This report was funded by Moray Local Action Group. There is significant overlap between various community groups, and all Locality Plan volunteers are also FAB Development Trust members. SC will try to ensure that all interested parties have copies of the report. She noted that there is some confusion over the difference between the current Buckie Hub, and the proposed Community Hub. The Community Hub is seen as addressing a range of local needs, whereas the existing Hub is essentially an emergency community response to the cost-of-living crisis.

Community Lunches (now hosted by FABDT) continue to be popular, and cost-neutral at present. FABDT is on the list of organisations which will participate in the Tesco Stronger Start/blue token scheme (likely to receive a minimum of £500). The DT will have a stand at the Hub coffee morning, and is currently trying to increase membership.

The Bank of Scotland branch in Buckie is due to close permanently on 1/8/2024. A mobile service is likely to be provided, possibly from the Town House, on one day per week. TR noted that the Town Centre development manager, Anna Roger, has contacted the bank to discuss the future of the building, and banking services in the town. GM proposed that BAF should match funding for any appropriate work in this area, up to £5k (unanimously approved). **Moray Area Forum:** GM gave an update. There have been no meetings since he last reported. Moray Council is no longer seeking to recover funding disbursed to Area Forums. It is unclear if funding for at

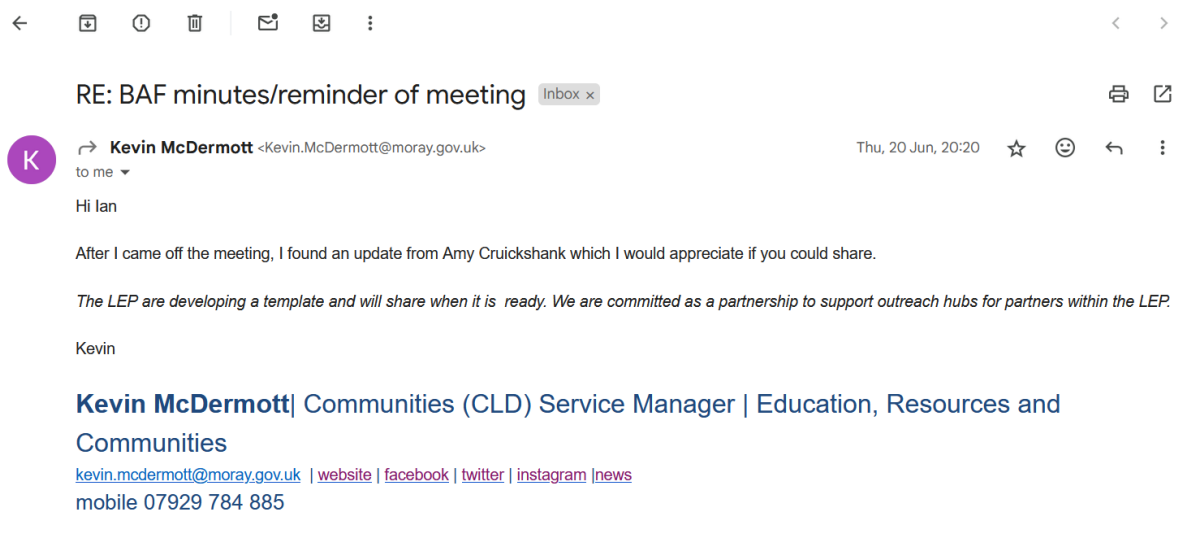
least some garden/park maintenance and grass-cutting has been taken from Common Good funds. If this is being done, the policy should apply equally across the whole of Moray.

AOCB: GM proposed offering assistance from BAF funds for purchase of food vouchers for the Hub if funding is not found elsewhere. TR would like to arrange a meeting with our National Lottery Community Fund manager to discuss funding. GM stressed the importance of the essential help and support given to BAF, and other local community groups, by our Community Support Officer, Tracey Rae.

GM noted that a new edition of the Cullen Connected newsletter has been produced (**note: circulated along with these minutes**). He wished Leah Rossvoll a happy birthday from BAF members.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Appendix:



The screenshot shows an email interface. At the top, there are navigation icons (back, forward, search, etc.) and a title bar with "RE: BAF minutes/reminder of meeting" and "Inbox x". The sender is "Kevin McDermott <Kevin.McDermott@moray.gov.uk>" with a profile picture of a purple circle containing a white 'K'. The recipient is "to me". The date and time are "Thu, 20 Jun, 20:20". The email body contains the following text:

Hi Ian

After I came off the meeting, I found an update from Amy Cruickshank which I would appreciate if you could share.

The LEP are developing a template and will share when it is ready. We are committed as a partnership to support outreach hubs for partners within the LEP.

Kevin

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