

Buckie Area Forum
Minutes of Meeting
Held in Buckie Town Hall
On Wednesday, 7th December, 2011 at 7.00pm

Present: Barry Taylor, Chairman, Alan Beresford, Vice-Chairman, Ian Moir, treasurer, David Strachan, T. Iain MacPherson, Zafar Ali, Douglas Reid, Kieran Murdoch, Sonya Warren, Emma Marandola and Tam McLellan.

In Attendance: Cllr Joe Mackay, Cllr Gordon McDonald, Cllr Anne McKay, Roddy Burns, CEO Moray Council, Linda McDonald, Hazel Thain, Donna Breen, Julie McIntosh, Eleanor Kidd, Jim Craig and Tricia McLellan.

Apologies: Cllrs Ron Shepherd, Douglas Ross, Anita McDonald and Gary Coull,

Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all to the December meeting of the Buckie Area Forum.

Secretary

The Chairman intimated that the secretary had resigned because of work pressure and he asked for nominations for the post of secretary. In the absence of nominations Mr Moir suggested that the post be separated into different parts, i.e. secretary, minutes secretary and hall keeper. In the meantime Mr Moir was appointed to take the minutes. Mrs Marandola offered to be minutes secretary for future meetings.

Agenda

It was agreed that Leader Funding be added to the agenda.

Minutes of the October Meeting

The minutes were approved, proposed by Mr Ali and seconded by Mrs Warren.

Matters Arising

Exhibitions. SSE and Morell had their exhibitions in the Town Hall.

Cullen Dirt Track. The constitution has been received. However no reply had been received from Mr Ferguson with regard to whether a contribution was allowable from the Area Forum.

Cifal.

The Chairman welcomed Julie McIntosh from UN Cifal. Julie explained that she had been recruited by Cifal to obtain, via video, local opinions regarding moving towards a carbon free environment. She said that local opinions from all over the world were being collected. These opinions would provide the basis for a structured feedback at a later date. She added that the Scottish voice was important in this work. She encouraged all present to get their friends involved in this project and said that she would be available for the rest of the evening to hear the opinions of members present.

Buckie Library.

The Chairman welcomed Eleanor Kidd of Buckie Library to the meeting. She said that she wanted to explain to the Forum the current facilities which were available from the library service. For anyone wishing to join the library service application forms were available for anyone with appropriate ID. Adults could borrow up to 20 books at any one time, and if a book is not available within Moray it can be requested

from other sources at a nominal cost. Music and multi purpose CDs are also available as well as talking books. Internet access is available within all libraries and additional credits are available for Scotland's People, the major source for genealogy research. The Buckie Library runs events and open days as well as taster courses on simple computer needs. ECDL is available. A housebound service is provided for those unable to get to the library. The Citizens' Advice Bureau attends the library once a week.

Leader Funding.

Cllr McDonald reported that the submission from Buckie had been rejected. As a result everything has been pushed back and the deadline for submission is fast approaching. The submission failed because it was felt that there was too much for volunteers and a half time project worker to deal with. There were also public liabilities problems. Mr Taylor commented that it was frustrating to be turned down when there are plenty volunteers. Cllr McDonald said that it was time now to move on.

He listed the monies committed for the present financial year to the golf club winter tournament, the 10k race, the classic cars event and the calendars amounting to £3600. He said that the following revised projects have been proposed for the current year; Radio BCK, fish wives' walk, whole town strategy and Cluny Sq viewpoint and cycle stands bringing the total spend to £15000 for the current year.

With regard to the website Cllr McDonald said that funding would be needed initially, but it would become self funding over time. Mr Taylor said that there were problems with the manning and servicing of the Town Hall. This was to be partly solved by the appointment of a project worker. The lack of the project worker would add to the problems.

Cllr McDonald concluded by saying that some projects would have to be put on hold.

Asset Transfers.

Mr Taylor said that the premises at 11Cluny Square could be available for community use. It is a large building and it has great possibilities. It was necessary for the Forum to register an interest in the building. On a query from Mr McPherson, Mr Taylor said that there was a need for groups to have available space which the groups can access. Cllr McDonald went on to explain the process. He said that the building was in a poor state. There are also a variety of outhouses. Currently there are no development plans, but the procedure was well laid out for producing these. Also there would be help available for producing a properly funded package. Mrs Marandola enquired if this could be tied in with the Well Project and was informed that a proper business plan would be needed.

Mr McLellan said that the Cullen Town Hall committee was also involved in the transfer of that town hall. He intimated that there would be a meeting in the Town Hall, Cullen on 13th December and anyone was welcome to attend.

Monitoring Services.

Mr Beresford explained the Consultation and Engagement consultation. He said that its purpose was to improve the involvement of local people in decision making. Mr Burns said that the Moray Council must provide evidence of progress in this matter to the Scottish Government. He added that the Moray model would be of the highest order. A consultation model was needed so that all bodies have a similar standard of

engagement. The emphasis was on the need to involve the public more in consultation processes. A working model needs to be in place by March/April, 2012. Mr Taylor said that he had been critical in the past of Moray Council for its lack of proper consultation. He added that there had been an improvement in recent times, but that there is a need for the system to work from the grass roots upwards.

Sports Forum.

Mr Beresford said that this had been circulated by e-mail. He invited members to submit comments soon as answers were needed by mid-January.

Finance.

Mr Moir reported on the financial situation. He said that the current balances are £5897 in the Area Forum account and £3108 in the Regen account.

Youth Matters.

Mr McLellan said that Cullen Youth Café wishes to become members of the Forum. There were no other youth matters.

Community Issues.

Code of Conduct. Mr McLellan asked about the code of conduct in respect of community councillors and related groups. Mr Burns said that his officers can deal with complaints.

St Peter's School. Mr Taylor said that St Peter's School deserved congratulations on getting an international award. He added that it was a major achievement for a school which was on the closure list a few years ago. Cllr McKay said that the success was down to the head teacher and the staff.

Waste Watchers Recycling Enterprise. Donna Breen from the organisation informed the Forum that the enterprise had a ten year track record. However it has now to work in the competitive tendering environment. It now needs to work with cans and plastics and the March Road premises are getting too small. She emphasised that there was a need for the enterprise to continue since it provides training places for people with disabilities. Mr Taylor added that it is doing excellent work.

Christmas Cracker. Cllr McDonald said that the organisers of the Christmas Cracker deserved congratulations as it had been a great success.

Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those who attended for their contributions. The meeting was closed at 9.05pm.

The next meetings of Buckie Area Forum will be on Wednesday, 22nd February, 2012.

Signed as a correct minute Chairman

Date

Proposed by

Seconded by

Minute Secretary: Mr Ian Moir