

Buckie Area Forum

Minutes of the meeting for Buckie Area Forum held on 23rd June 2010 in Buckie Community High School.

Present

Alan Beresford, **Vice Chair**, Sarah Murray, **Secretary**, Iain Moir, **Treasurer**, Ian Macpherson, Anna Parker, Doug Reid, Sonya Warren, Shona Cowie, Emma Marandola, Zafar Ali and Alistair Farquhar.

In attendance

Cllr Joe Mackay, Cllr Anne McKay, Cllr Ron Shepherd, Cllr Gordon McDonald, Gillian Bailey (CSO).

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

The Vice-Chair opened the meeting by welcoming those present, he then invited notes of apology. Apologies received from Barry Taylor, PC Mairi Page, Caron Hunter, Kim Sui, Cllr Douglas Ross, Cllr Anita McDonald, Cllr Gary Coull, Peter Souter.

The Vice Chair went on to congratulate RNLI for their 150th anniversary and also Cllr Joe MacKay for his opening address at the RNLI 150th anniversary celebrations. Cllr Gordon McDonald was also congratulated for his efforts and support to the 150 steering group as Chair of the Regen. Group

2.0 Kim Sui - Rural Housing Enabler Update

Kim Sui asked that we pass on thanks to the Forum for their assistance and support with the survey. A copy of the report is available for anyone to view.

3.0 Previous Minutes

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

4.0 Matters Arising

It was noted that the position of Secretary should be noted as being duly appointed.

5.0 Arradoul Residents Update

Shona Cowie, Emma Marandola and Sonya Warren updated the Forum on the events surrounding this issue. A public consultation will be going ahead in due course. Thanks were given to the Vice Chair for his publicity and support given on this matter. The petition has received over 1,000 signatures and will be kept going to gain even more support. The residents group are trying to engage the wider community in the campaign and any new ideas were asked for from the Forum members and it was noted that the group are open to advice on how to approach the consultation. Cllr Joe MacKay stated that the residents have put a lot of work into the campaign and asked that their ideas be put forward without prejudice by Cllr Gordon McDonald and Cllr Anita McDonald at any further meetings. The Vice-Chair advised the residents group to write direct to Cllr McGillivray (or Jill Stewart) to request notification of the consultation. After much discussion and questioning it was advised that the group continue as they are doing to continue to raise awareness and this item will remain as a fixed item on any future Forum agendas.

6.0 Moray Forum Update

The Vice Chair gave a brief update from the draft minutes. It has been concluded that although the M.E. support group was a good group already it is looking for more support from the Buckie Forum Members. Support is also being given from the Moray Forum to the Arradoul Residents Association.

7.0 Area Forum Funding Consultation

As previously discussed it was decided that Option 2 - Appendix B was preferred by the Forum members but there needs to be firm decisions over the division of funds. Ian Macpherson asked if this is a fixed sum over 2, 3 or 4 years or will it be variable? It was also suggested that flexibility is needed over what the money can be spent on, e. g not purely administrative expenses.

8.0 Youth Matters

The Vice Chair read out an email of thanks from Gillian Jaffrey and Alexander Thatcher regarding their time spent as head girl/boy at BCHS. A proposal was made to send letters of thanks and appreciation to Gillian and Alexander and also to David Barnett.

9.0 Community Issues

An update was read out by the Vice Chair from Caron Hunter from the Cullen Community Allotment Association. They are in the process of leasing a piece of land from the Lawtie Trust and have also applied for planning permission. They are to continue in their fundraising efforts and will keep the Forum updated with any new developments. All members were invited to attend their AGM on 6th July at 7pm.

A finance update was given by Ian Moir for the Buckie Area Forum and the Arts and Crafts Group. A suggestion was made prior to the meeting by Barry Taylor to Alan Beresford that a new laptop and printer be purchased for Forum usage. All were agreed on this.

Doug Reid asked what was happening with Radio BCK? The Vice Chair and Cllr Gordon

McDonald outlined the plans for the proposed lease, this being that the Moray Council will allow the townhouse and room 4 to be used for storage for the next 6 months with the possibility of this being extended. There were no objections to Buckie Area Forum proceeding with the lease pending further clarification of certain aspects, eg costs etc. The hall can be used for displays and public meetings assuming we obtain the lease. They are in the final phase of setting up with a meeting held last Thursday (17th June) with Don Richardson to sign documents and finalise matters.

The Vice Chair thanked Forum members for their support and backing of Radio BCK.

At this point Cllr Gordon McDonald mentioned that the Regen.Group were also looking at the possibility of becoming a Ltd company in the near future.

Sonya Warren asked about the Buckie website - it has been delayed because of its size at the moment but Chris Thornton is working on it at present and it should be up and running within the next month. The website will have Google ad-sense to generate funding and the idea is to have it as the homepage for all Buckie residents. There are lots of ideas going into the site and both Buckie Community Council and Arradoul Community Council have agreed to post their minutes to the site.

The Vice Chair read out an email with the offer of training for the transition town workshops to be held in Buckie on 2nd and 3rd July. It was agreed that if anyone wished to attend, the Forum would pay for this. Gordon McDonald mentioned that it would be a big stepping stone for Buckie to have this status and that the town already meets a few of the criteria, e.g. Solar Panels at BCHS, Alu-can and the Greenhome. It was agreed that anyone wishing to attend should contact the Forum directly and it would be arranged.

Ian Moir asked about the farmers markets to be held In Buckie in the future. Gordon McDonald responded that it was only in the very early stages with planning permission just received and the Regen Group are waiting for responses from stallholders regarding arrangements.

Zafar Ali queried the new Tesco development and in particular the roads situation. Gordon McDonald stated that it was a matter between Tesco and the roads department and that there has been no mention of any timescales or developments. Discussions are ongoing regarding getting traffic lights at the Well Rd/High St junction and also between house builders and the proposed business park.

Gillian Bailey asked how much money Tesco is giving to the local community, this query went unanswered but Gordon McDonald did confirm that any monies would not be solely for community uses, it will also contribute towards any economic development in the town.

10.0 Date for next meeting

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 18th August at 7pm at BCHS.