



**Minutes of Speyside Area Forum Meeting
Tuesday 17th November 2009
Carron Village Hall**

1. PRESENT

Bill Burgess	Carron Community Association
Andrea Fuller	Edinvillie Community Hall Council
Pat Shanks	Edinvillie Community Hall Council
Patricia Gray	Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association
James Gray	Knockando Community Association
Hugh Fraser	Aberlour Community Association
Charlie Alexander	Knockando Community Association
Sheena Kalra	Carron Community Association
Margaret Stuart	Rothes Council
Jim Anderson	Rothes Council
Rita Marks	Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association
Terry Jones	Carron Community Association
John Fleming	Dufftown
Jean Oliver	Dufftown
Derek Clark	Glenrinnes Community Centre
Jim Hart	Archiestown Village Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Linda Adam	Community Support Worker
Robin Weeden	Community Learning & Development Worker (Youth)
Councillor Pearl Paul	Moray Council
Councillor Fiona Murdoch	Moray Council
Councillor Michael McConnachie	Moray Council

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sandy Henderson, Janice Smith and Rob Lewin

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A proposed amendment from Jim Hart was circulated relating to paragraph 4 of the last minute which he suggested should read:-

Jim Hart gave an update on the Archiestown 250th Commemoration project. This is a 4 stage project focused around the 250th anniversary of the village foundation in 1760 and, in addition to a variety of Commemoration events starting in April 2010, will include upgrades to the village hall, playing field and pavilion. Applications for funding support have been submitted to 2 energy companies in addition to pre-applications to the Lottery and LEADER. Other funders will be approached. Uniquely labelled shortbread from Walkers and whisky from Gordon & Macphails will be commissioned.

The minutes of the last meeting were then approved by Andrea Fuller, seconded by Rita Marks.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Paul advised that Sandy Henderson will be a member of the Moray Flood Relief Group.

4. UPDATE COMMUNITY/ACTION GROUPS

Glenallachie Residents - Andrea reported that only 1 property has not received grant funding to date due an issue relating to title deeds. 3 properties have had pipework done with 2 properties connected to Scottish Water.

Craigellachie Playpark – Linda advised that the Craigellachie Playpark group had been shortlisted for the People’s Millions Lottery and would appear on ITV News on Thursday 26th November. Linda requested that forum members support the project by telephoning on the night.

Disabled Play Facilities – Linda advised that following a meeting on 17th September where a steering group was established, Highlands and Islands enterprise had committed consultant support to the group. Linda will no longer be supporting the group as HIE will be providing the same support she would have provided and the issue is not solely a Speyside issue.

Midnight Football League

Linda reported that she had met with Robin, Andrea and Kim Paterson, Sports Development Officer regarding putting in place a Midnight Football League between January and March 2010. Andrea indicated that Edinville were unhappy with the scheduling of the league given the weather and travel conditions at that time of year. It had been hoped to run a league between October and December 2009 but the funding application had been unsuccessful

The league will cost £6800.10 of which £5500 is transport costs. A number of suggestions were made including approaching Carntyne Transport for a donation/ utilising the Dial A Bus service/using Council Mini Buses and Drivers/charging £1 a time.

Robin is putting a letter to all pupils at the High School to determine the number of young people who wish to participate and where they are from. Linda is sending out letters from the forum seeking financial support from businesses in Speyside. Andrea is going to do a press release. Kim is submitting an application to 2014 Commonwealth and it is hoped Grampian Police will make a contribution.

Knockando Village Hall

Jim Gray reported that the hall was now finished and that they hope to upgrade the kitchen as soon as possible. The group had visited a hydro electric project in Tomatin which had been very interesting.

Change in licensing laws for trading

Rita Marks indicated that Richard Lochhead, MSP had indicated that it would be left to local councils to implement once passed. Elected members present indicated that they had not considered the matter as it had not been enacted as yet. Bill Burgess indicated it had been discussed at the Moray Forum. The Moray Federation of Village Halls and Community Associations were taking up the issue at the AGM which Richard Lochhead will be attending. Aberlour Community Association has written to other community associations. Elected members to remain alert.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

There was no treasurer’s report.

6. POSITION OF SECRETARY

Linda reported that she had approached Pat Dolan, thereafter Brenda Cooper, with a view to one of them taking up the position of Area Forum Secretary. Unfortunately, both declined due to other commitments. Rita Marks indicated she would approach her sister. It was confirmed that the constitution allowed for annual remuneration to cover expenses and services. Those present agreed this should be £500 annually. **Action: Rita**

7. LEADER FUNDING

Linda outlined information received from Dave Watson in relation to the membership of the LEADER Local Action Group and the need for representatives from the Area Forums to comment on the appropriateness of proposed projects, seeking in excess of £1000, in their area. Hugh Fraser and Jim Hart indicated they would be willing to undertake this role. Linda to advise Dave Watson of Area Forum representatives contact details. **Action:Linda**

8. COMMUNITY ISSUES

8.1 Margaret Stuart raised the issues of two individuals sharing transport provided by the Speyside Community Car Share Scheme to the Eye Department in Aberdeen and being charged £31.50 each; and travel expense claim forms not being available in the department. Patients have to go to the office for claim forms, which is in another part of the hospital, appointments sometimes run late and often patients have had drops in their eyes impairing their vision. Also patients on benefits are entitled to claim but the hospital retains £10 of claims made. Sandy to be asked to raise these issues with the Patient Participation Forum. Rita to query with Car Share Scheme re double charge. Letter to be sent to NHS Grampian requesting claim forms be located in individual departments. **Action: Sandy/Rita**

8.2 Jim Anderson expressed concern regarding the proposed withdrawal of the Mobile Library Service which is part of the Moray Council's proposed budget cuts. A lady in Craigellachie has indicated that she could cope with a reduced service, for example, once a month instead of the complete removal of the service.

8.3 Robin Weeden distributed a letter to make people aware that the Riverside After School Care Club based in Aberlour Primary School is in danger of closing next June unless a solution is found to enable it to become an independent self-financing body. Pearl Paul indicated that a Rural Poverty document is due to be released by the Scottish Executive and the after school care club may be able to appeal the decision relating to Fairer Scotland Funding.

9. MORAY FORUM FEEDBACK

Bill Burgess gave feedback on the Moray Forum meeting he had attended the previous evening. The bulk of the discussion had focussed on the Moray Council budget consultation with other subjects covered including childcare and farmers markets. Linda suggested the Moray Forum be a regular agenda item. Jim Hart suggested the minutes of the meeting be distributed.

10. MORAY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

Linda stated that most groups represented on the Area Forum should have received a copy of the consultation document and invitation to the meeting on Monday 23rd November, either electronically or a hard copy. Bill Burgess said it was important that we have our concerns regarding the proposals heard. Rita Marks said we need to be

pragmatic as budget cuts were inevitable. Linda outlined the format of the forthcoming meeting and process as far as she is aware. The general feeling of those present was that there should be a question and answer session. Pearl Paul expressed concern that Community Associations will not have had the time to meet and discuss the matter before Monday's meeting. Fiona Murdoch suggested the Forum meet before the 15th December deadline for responses to give a forum view. Collated information from consultation meetings is to be passed to elected members for consideration. Jean Oliver made a plea on behalf of the Core Paths plan. Hugh Fraser expressed his concern that Community Association annual general meetings had taken place prior to the consultation starting. It was pointed out that area forum meetings are open to the public and those present agreed that Fiona Murdoch promote the meeting on the 23rd in the Northern Scot Town & Country.

11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

11.1 Robin Weeden requested that money he had secured from Cash Back for Communities for funding a Movin4ward group in Speyside be lodged within the Area Forum's bank account. Following an outline by Robin on how the funding was to be managed and expended it was pointed out by Hugh Fraser and Patricia Gray that a specially designated account would need to be opened.

11.2 Linda asked if area forum members wished to receive copies of the Community Planning Partnership ebulletin. It was agreed that this be distributed to area forum members with hard copies being forwarded to those not on email.

11.3 Hugh Fraser asked if it was worth raising the issue of lighting at the Craigellachie junction with BEAR Scotland. It was pointed out that this has been raised on several occasions without success.

11.4 Pearl Paul requested that any problems with trunk roads should be brought to the attention of elected members. A number of issues were identified by those present and noted by elected members.

11.5 Andrea Fuller reported that at the recent Edinville Community Hall Council AGM a new committee including office bearers had been appointed. She stated that she had been disappointed by comments Councillor McConnachie had made in relation to the area forum when she had been explaining Community Planning structures and the importance of Community Engagement to the Edinville Council. Councillor McConnachie stated that the views he expressed were not his but those of others. Councillor Paul suggested that the matter be discussed between Councillor McConnachie and the Edinville Council. It was pointed out by other forum members that in the absence of community councils and the Speyside Council the Area Forum is what we have got and we need to use it to ensure the voice of the Speyside community is heard.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided to hold a single agenda item meeting, focussing on the budget consultation, on **Thursday 10th December 2009 at 7.30pm in Speyside High School Library.**