

Banchory and District Initiative

Minutes of Board Meeting 29th January 2009

Present

Sue Edwards; Jean Henretty; Anne Lamb; Henry Allan; Maït Merchant; Tony Brown, Iain Fletcher

Apologies

Margaret Paterson; Councillors Karen Clark, Linda Clark and Jill Webster

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Actions Arising:

SE had chased the invoice for St Ternan's Security but it had not yet been received. Action: SE to follow up again.

Finance

TB presented the financial report. It was noted that it was likely that, given the Company's turnover, BDI would need to be VAT registered in 2009/10. There was a modest amount of surplus funding and SE proposed that some of these funds be used to support a book keeper. It was agreed that the workload represented about 2 days per month and that it should be done under a lump sum (capped) arrangement. It was suggested that the position might suit a business studies student. The Board agreed to advertise the position. Following further discussion around using surplus funds to support economic development it was agreed that BDI should advertise for someone to seek advertising revenue to support the newsletter and the website. It would be possible to combine the book-keeping position and the advertising position if the right candidate was found. Action: TB to draft an ad.

The possibility of allocating a modest amount to the Bonnie Banchory Project was discussed and it was agreed to revisit this once the project had a clearer idea of funding needs.

Office Management

SE reported that SCILL had moved to other premises in mid January. TB noted that there was no record of BDI seeking approval from the Council for a sublet.

Action: TB to seek approval for sub-leasing the office. Action: SE to advertise the office.

Projects

Project Register

After discussing how to best disseminate information on projects it was agreed that these should be emailed to TB who would compile them into one document for circulation. The project register would continue to be maintained. Action TB: To compile project reports prior to Board meetings and circulate. SE: Post the compiled report on the community website.

KGV Community Project

M Merchant explained the current proposal for additional playing field space in the central area of Banchory. MM and JH declared an interest and withdrew from the discussion after

answering questions.

The remaining members of the Board agreed that BDI should support this project for the following reasons: It responds to the need for more pitches which was identified in the Planning for Real process and contained within the community action plan. It is a strong community project not only providing additional playing field space in central Banchory, but there was also the attraction of other community enhancements including footpath and amenity lighting improvements. The additional pitch would relieve pressure on King George V Park and enhance the central area of the Town. It was of great benefit to the community as an enabling development for the proposed KGV Pavilion and a logical extension of work on play facilities and shelters already done by KGV 2000. Action: SE to draft letter to Aberdeenshire Council Planning in support of the application.

Other Project Business – The Pool

HA reported that discussions with the Council and the Developer of the Hill of Banchory Leisure Centre were progressing and it was necessary to look at an organisational structure for taking the project forward (see attached diagram). Should BDI be willing to take on the pool as a BDI Project HA would propose this to Bandswim (meeting the following day). The Board agreed to the proposed organisation for the Pool Project (attached to this minute) and to taking on the project as a BDI project should Bandswim wish.

Making It Real

TB and JH reported on progress to date. All the comments had been collated and a making it Real section added to the community website, where the comments and other documentation had been posted. It was felt that there was a lot more knowledge about local planning in the community as a result of the MIR exercise. TB had analysed the findings and produced a 'straw-man' action plan. After much discussion it was agreed that because the MIR process was not completed that the report should be called an interim report and that this should be released to the public as soon as possible. We were at a milestone in the process and needed to offer the public an update. JH offered to produce an executive summary and the offer was accepted. The Board agreed that community planning background information needed to be included in the interim report but that this information, although necessary should be contained in an appendix. It was felt that members of the public who had made comments would want to check that their comments had been included and the report should make this as easy as possible. It was agreed that the revised report would be circulated to Board Members prior to releasing to members of the public. It was also agreed that it would be useful to put out a flyer and TB confirmed that funds were available to do this from the MIR funding. Action: JH to write an executive summary and community planning section for the report and to circulate to Board members for review/comment..

It was disappointing that a press release designed to provide an update on MIR had not been used by the Piper. Action: SE to speak to P&J representative who was coming to Banchory on 30th Jan to do a report on the Bonnie Banchory project. ..

It was agreed that the Board should contact Keith White of BCC to request a slot at the next BCC meeting to present the findings of the MIR so far. Following the presentation the documents should be put in the Library and taken to the Town Forum. This could be considered as the completion of Phase 1 of MIR. Action: SE to contact Keith White.

Town Forum

The chairmanship of the proposed Forum was discussed. There was general agreement that the natural chair would be the Community Council. Action: JH and TB to discuss with current BCC Chair Keith White.

BDI Articles and Charitable Status

The Company Secretary had suggested a change to charitable status. There were benefits in terms of funding streams to being charitable and also in terms of arrangements for election of the Chair and Board members. TB reported that K&DVoice had agreed to assist and support BDI with the change.. The Board agreed to pursue charitable status with minor changes to the wording of the proposed articles. Action: TB

AGM

It was agreed to hold the AGM on Wednesday March 18th at the East Church, followed by a Board meeting.

Action: SE to book a meeting room at the East Church and to organise circulation of notice to Members (deadline 25th February)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Hamb". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.