

## Minutes of the Transition Black Isle Meeting of 9th April 2009

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Place: Glachbeg; Time: 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm.

Apologies for Absence

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John Wood, Craig Fraser, Mary Bowers

Present at Meeting

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Maggie Dove, Erica Mayhew, Ken Naismith, Myra Carus, Wendy Price, Shona Scatchard, Chris Scatchard, Helen Bull, Bob Bull, Martin Sherring, Penny Edwards, Anita Murray, Anne Thomas, Daniel Thomas, Mary Paren, Julian Paren, Hugh Collins, Sue Varley, Catriona Ross, Agric, Paul Tree

Anne Thomas chaired the meeting. The agenda suggested on the TBI discussion group was loosely followed. It was agreed to have a floating chairman for the different meetings.

### 1) Feedback from Age of Stupid showings at Eden Court

Chris Scatchard was present at the meeting and reported on the numbers attending - 359 over the week - and interest in the table was high among non-environmentalists. Two new members had joined TBI, Chris will send their details to Wendy Price. Pictures from the event are on the website and a CD of pictures is available from Chris. The film will be on general release in July and the group will get a licence to show it locally.

New members have also joined TBI through Maggie Dove's Swap Shop at the Culbokie Market. No-one has a definitive list of members.

The group then had a discussion on renewable energy, wind which some people oppose, versus other technologies. Anne Thomas reported that the RSPB are recognising that fewer birds are injured/killed by turbines than by overhead electric cables, and there will be far greater loss of birdlife if wind energy is not adopted through climate change leading to higher temperatures and rising sea levels. Julian Paren reported that there is insufficient space for Britain to satisfy its own energy needs at current levels through renewable sources even if all technologies are used.

### 2) Bank Account

Bob Bull has experience of group bank accounts with Bank of Scotland and the Co-op bank. In his experience the Co-op bank are harder to do business with, as there are no branches and cash deposits have to be made through a post office, however the Co-op

are an ethical bank and a show of hands revealed a majority in favour of the Co-op. Bob recommends careful choice of nominated post office branch (one that is not likely to be closed). The group needs a Constitution and certain Office Bearers before an account can be opened with the Co-op. It was agreed to form a sub group to work on the Constitution and bank account later in the evening.

### 3) New Leaflet

Anita Murray has designed a new logo for TBI and Wendy drafted a leaflet to go with it, this was passed around the group. Response was generally favourable, some discussion on the logo showed that in general people liked the leaf motif extending slightly beyond the circle. Catriona Ross advised that in order to reach more people the language should be simplified as much as possible. The overall appearance was good, it can be used as a template to promote individual events as well as general information. Another sub-group would work on the leaflet later in the evening. Under this heading, the website was mentioned. Daniel Thomas has set up the website and will provide technical support but is unable to maintain the content on an ongoing basis, and he collected details of people who are willing to be involved with the content.

### 4) Forthcoming Events/Meetings

The Black Isle Ward Forum on Thursday 16th April will be held at Culbokie Primary School at 6.00 pm, the speaker is from SNH. There is a Climate Change Workshop coming up, but no-one had details of this. Sue Varley will contact Di Agnew the Ward Manager for information and will post it to the discussion group. Julian Paren is giving a talk at the Spectrum Centre on Friday 17th April at 7.30 pm, this is already on the Calendar of Events on the website.

Wall-e is being shown by Friends of the Earth at North Kessock on Thursday 23rd April at 7.30. Support from TBI would be welcome. Following on from the Success of the Culbokie Community Market there is some interest in starting another in North Kessock on 4th Saturday of each month.

It was agreed that the group should hold regular monthly meetings. It would be good to move the meetings to different locations around the Black Isle but for the present meetings will continue to be at Glachbeg as Bob and Helen Bull are happy to offer it free of charge. The next meeting will be Thursday 7th May, 7.30pm at Glachbeg.

### 5) Community Gardens.

Agric needs manpower for the various community garden projects, in

particular working parties to break ground at Agnes Hill and near Newhall. It is hoped to present this as a learning event and to get local people interested. The afternoon of Saturday 18th April was agreed as a date for Agnes Hill, Agric will post up further details to the group, including directions.

#### 6) Federation of Small Businesses

Chris Scatchard reported that there is to be an exhibition at the Royal Highland Hotel on 6th June on keeping trade local. This is a networking event for traders, but it was suggested that the Transition Groups could represent an interface between the traders and the public. Public Liability Insurance would be needed in order to have a stall at the event.

#### 7) Small Groups

Anne Thomas listed identified areas of interest and the meeting broke up into small working groups. Someone from each group was asked to post a summary to the discussion group.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm

The next meeting will be at Glachbeg on Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm.

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Hugh Collins and Sue Varley, Transition Black Isle