

Transition Black Isle Meeting - 7th December 2009

Date: Monday 7th December 2009 at Gordon Memorial Hall, Rosemarkie, 7.30pm
Present: Agric, Maggie Dove, Penny Edwards, Vanessa Halhead, Thomas Keyes, Frank Kremer, Ken Naismith, Wendy Price - facilitator, Martin Sherring, Anne Thomas, Paul Tree, Sue Varley, John Wood.

1) Apologies for absence were received from Bob Bull, Helen Bull, Myra Carus, Hugh Collins, Karin Kremer.

2) The minutes of the previous meeting, and matters arising not covered on the agenda.

2)1) Ken proposed and John seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted, with the correction that Low Carbon Stirling is 23rd January and not 21st January. The minutes were then accepted.

Di Agnew is restarting the Black Isle Area Partnership. Discussion on how TBI may work with BIAP and the Black Isle Partnership (BIP) was curtailed due to expected time pressures. To be revisited at a future meeting.

3) Membership report

TBI has 31 members. 48 invitations have been issued to which there has been no response. It was noted that everyone who expresses any interest in TBI is being invited to join as a full member, though this is not what is stated in the constitution. People who apply to join the Google group are asked to state why they want to join, this eliminates inappropriate members on the discussion board.

John brought application form to be recognised as an official transition group to the meeting, so it could be signed by Wendy as convener. All present agreed that TBI should make the application.

4) Finance Report

4)1) Penny presented pre-circulated report and noted that the Highland Council donation is currently being used to fund meetings and events. The first Climate Challenge Fund application was awarded in full, the group recorded a vote of thanks to Penny for all her hard work in preparing the application. CCF funding is repaid after the group have spent it.

4)2) Highland Council may be able to pay £2k for a financial support person, 4 people have been contacted, one has declined, one is interested and two have not yet responded.

5) Celebrating Events

5)1) Resolis Film Night. 45 people attended the showing of the Power of Community film with a good discussion afterwards, it was a positive film with a positive message which went down well. View was that this film should be shown again. The event raised £9.00 in donations. Thanks to John for making the projector available.

5)2) North Kessock Community Market. This is going well, with 20 stalls at the last one. Most stall holders are happy, just one clash of interest. Next date is at the end of January. Congratulations and thanks to Anne for getting it going.

5)3) Food trip. 13 people had a very impressive day starting at the North Kessock market, on to the community garden at Forres and then to the community supported agriculture project at Findhorn. Highland Grain have a wormery which they are closing down

within a year or so as they will use the worm food to power a biofuel plant. The worms will become available. The Findhorn project produces food 50% for Findhorn Community, 50% for a local box scheme for Forres, if TBI did something similar we would need to find an outlet for the surplus produce.

- 5)4) Meetings with councillors. Highland Council are very interested in the wind farm project, depending on the scale it could bring in money for community projects. Forestry Commission are also positive about it. CCF will be applied to for funding for feasibility study, Community Energy Scotland are also a good potential source for funding for later stages.
- 5)5) Newsletter. Members were asked to distribute as widely as possible, and thanks were recorded to Teen for the professional job in producing it.

- 6) New Item 6 inserted into the agenda, Climate Question Time event which had been overlooked when agenda was produced.

There was much discussion on organisation, and tasks remaining to be done. People were found for each role. As time to the event was very short, notes were circulated separately to these minutes so everyone would know what they were responsible for. This note is appended to the minutes.

- 7) Future Funding.

Penny has registered an expression of interest with CCF and Leader. There are a lot of projects and if all funding is agreed Penny suggested we would need a project manager to keep them all on track, she suggested adding £6k to the total to fund this position. All projects need to state a carbon saving for CCF funding. Penny needs funding application details for all projects as soon as possible, must include planned delivery of project, letters of support from any partners, cost and carbon savings. There is a heavy programme outlined and it lowers credibility to apply for a large amount of funding which is then not spent, each sub-group needs to be sure it can carry out its planned projects. This may be self-policing in that if the group are not going to be able to complete a project they are not likely to be able to complete the application by the deadline. Also any project that cannot demonstrate carbon savings will be dropped from the CCF application. There will be a meeting to finalise the application.

As the meeting was now seriously tight for time, only other item taken was the website. Wendy and Teen are to arrange a meeting with Plexus.

Future meetings are to be:

Special meeting, Tuesday 5th January 2010 to finalise the CCF funding application for future projects. This will be a one-item agenda, Wendy is to confirm place and time.
ACTION Wendy

Next TBI general meeting is 11th January 2010 at Fortrose Leisure Centre at 7.30pm

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Appendix to Minute of TBI Meeting, Monday 7th December 2009

Climate Question Time - added to Agenda after Item 5
(See Item 6 above)

Event is planned to be one and a quarter hours, which will leave about an hour for questions. We have a list of questions submitted so far, but several of these are not specific to the Black Isle and are out with the special area of expertise of any of the panellists. Louise Batchelor needs to see the questions in time to decide which ones to ask.

Currently Teen is the only person who is able to contact Louise and Teen is not available until Wednesday. Vanessa is to phone Teen and ask for contact details for Louise so she can be sent the questions.

ACTION VANESSA, ASAP

All members need to review the questions in view of who is on the panel and try to think of additional questions to fill in any gaps.

ACTION ALL, Tuesday

There will be people representing other bodies in the hall, eg. SEPA Louise will introduce the questioner, if that person is not present in the auditorium Louise will ask the question on their behalf. If she feels it is appropriate she can ask one of the other representatives to contribute to the answer for any particular question. Therefore we must know whether the questioners are present, and who the reps are from other groups and bodies. Louise will be asked to leave time to allow for

questions from the floor towards the end of the event, if she feels this is appropriate.

Vanessa, Maggie and Anne will be on the door, checking people in and ticking off people who have submitted questions. The reps from other bodies will be conducted to reserved seating in the front two rows of the auditorium.

ACTION VANESSA, MAGGIE and ANNE on the night

The evening needs to be recorded. Karin Kremer will contact the school to see if anyone would be willing to operate the recording equipment for us, as backup plan Agric and Vanessa will take notes.

ACTION KARIN ASAP; AGRIC and VANESSA on the night

Maggie is to count the numbers attending.

ACTION MAGGIE on the night

Doors will open at 6.30 pm, there is an hour to set up, including the three stalls beforehand. Stalls are TBI, RoWAN and Energy Saving Trust. The TBI stall will be largely given over to the Food

group who need to get names of people interested in community growing.

The newsletter and TBI sign-up sheets need to be available.

The front two rows need to be reserved.

It was felt to be too late to produce a "TBI Climate Question Time" banner.

Names of people helping with set-up were not discussed. If you can be there early please do so.

Penny is to meet the photographer.

ACTION PENNY On the night

Penny and Martin are to man the roving microphones.

ACTION PENNY and MARTIN on the night

Karin has volunteered to try and calm down anyone who is causing a nuisance through heckling. May be helpful to have a large man to back her up if necessary, though other members of the audience can be relied on to help and Louise should be able to control the audience fairly well.

ACTION KARIN on the night

Everyone who put up road signs is to take them down again. Maggie is to put up additional ones on Tuesday.

ACTION MAGGIE on Tuesday, and Friday; WENDY and TOMMY on Friday

Wendy is to phone MFR to see if they will publicise the event.

ACTION WENDY before Thursday.

Not discussed at the meeting, but Wendy, Vanessa and Teen need to co-ordinate what Louise is being asked to do.