

**TRANSITION BLACK ISLE
MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING
12TH APRIL 2010 AT GLACHBEG**

Action points

Present

Wendy Price (Chair), Ken Naismith, John Carr, Frank Kremer, Mary Paren, Julian Paren, Anne Thomas, Vanessa Halhead, Grant Macfarlane, Christine Brosnan, Penny Edwards, Martin Sherring.

Apologies

Maggie Dove, Teen Ross, Bob Bull, Tommy Keyes, Agric Hadron, Sue Varley, Hugh Collins, Toni Clarke, Helen Bull, Mary Bowers, Karin Kremer.

Minutes of last meeting

The adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Anne, seconded by Wendy and agreed.

Alex Hill, North Kessock Market and Weaving Magic Reports

The Alex Hill talk was attended by over 80 people, the talk itself was excellent and Teen in particular was congratulated in securing Alex to speak. It was thought that more could have been made of the opportunity to introduce TBI to a wider audience. It was suggested that we should consider inviting Ailsa Villegas to talk about the Highland Council Climate Change Strategy, which Alex Hill had praised highly. Members are encouraged to pass on suggestions for other speakers to the Communications Group

Communications Group to consider stronger intro of TBI at future events, and to consider a more local focus.

Members to pass on suggestions for speakers to the Communications Group

The last N Kessock Market was better attended, and more stall-holders have signed up for the next one.

Anne has drafted an advert for the market manager but needs assistance with confirming that and producing a job description.

Anne to seek assistance from Grant and Sue Low and Wendy.

There is a demonstration of Indian cooking planned, provisionally for 1st June at N Kessock Hall, maximum attendance 30, there will be a small charge to cover food. The evening will include a meal cooked during the demo.

The Weaving Magic training was attended by 9 people on Saturday and 13 on Sunday, and went down very well. There are some specific things which were highlighted by the training, e.g. better procedure for welcoming new members, task lists to be produced to spread the workload more evenly. It was agreed that we should ensure these lessons are picked up as soon as possible.

Vanessa to liaise with John Carr and Maggie Dove to arrange a follow-up meeting on 27th May

Green Fair

There is a Green fair planned for Fortrose on 12th June, and TBI have been invited to provide catering – this would be a promotional and fund-raising opportunity. The date clashes with the proposed AGM date, and it was agreed to move the AGM to 5th June.

Food Group to consider whether they wish to do this, and revert to Wendy

by the end of April.

Financial situation

No detailed financial report was available because the finance officer has been ill. In general terms, we are on course to spend the 2009/10 CCF grant; there is still £493 available from the Highland Council grant for awareness raising, £276.75 left from the Highland Council grant for N Kessock Market and about £170 for financial support which will be used up to prepare the annual accounts. These sums need to be spent and reported back to Highland Council before we can apply for further funding from them.

For the awareness raising grant, a screen is still required. The options are the second hand one available from Dave at the Green Shop, or a new fast fold one. It was agreed that we should compare the two.

Grant to borrow Dave's screen, and Penny to borrow a fast fold one, for the next meeting.

Anne has various possible uses for the remaining N Kessock market grant. One potential issue is whether the FoE insurance is adequate.

Anne to recommend a way to use the grant, and speak to Jo Hunt about insurance. Wendy to review the Group's insurance generally

The 2010/11 Climate Challenge Fund grant has now been formally accepted, so we can start spending. Members charged with monitoring the spend are Toni for Grow North, Anne for the Highland Food Challenge, Agric for the Community Gardens, Wendy for communications group and Martin for energy group. There is a potential cash flow issue because the grant can only be claimed when invoices have been received, and the Group only has uncommitted cash of around £700 to fund the gap between payment and receiving the grant. The gap is relatively short, about two weeks from sending the claim to the money being in our account, but nevertheless, members need to be aware of this. One way to reduce the problem is for members to obtain firm quotes in advance of purchase. Where contractors provide a fee schedule, we can claim three months ahead.

Where possible, written quotes, and contractors' payer schedules to be provided to Penny before payment needed.

Food Group report

The Food Group were meeting the preferred bidder for the Grow North project at the same time as this TBI meeting. Other projects are well-developed, no issues to report at present.

Energy Group report

The report is filed on the Google group website. More households are still needed for the next round of Smart Meters – Fiona Whyte had been successful in bringing in another 3 recruits from her reading group.

All members to spread the word at other groups, amongst neighbour: etc.

It was agreed that we should move the Community Wind Farm forward ourselves if we continue to get no response from the council.

Martin to pursue.

Communications Group report

The Forum is progressing, with 28 registered users now. Teen is working on populating the rest of the website. Some members are nervous about the forum,

Agric and Teen to consider how the

and prefer the immediacy of receiving e-mails. It was agreed that a good way to disseminate the in's and out's of the forum would be for Agric to produce a YouTube video.

forum can work bes for those who like to receive e-mails. Agr to think about YouTube.

Re newsletter distribution, Christine will speak to shops to find out which ones are willing to take a dispenser – Penny reported that the Culbokie shop won't, as they don't want to open the doors to all community newsletters.

Christine to produce a list of shops to take the newsletter

Structure of the Group

Wendy and Penny circulated a diagram showing the structure of the group, and how the new projects co-ordinator will fit in to that.

The projects co-ordinator post has been advertised through HEN and on the Countryside Jobs website, with 3 responses and a further 3 who had already expressed an interest. It was agreed that the job description should be agreed by the Food Group, and that members should be informed about the vacancy.

Martin presented his report on the constitution of the proposed new company limited by guarantee. It was agreed that:

- Membership should be restricted to individuals, but corporate bodies should be welcomed as associates.
- The maximum number of directors should be 25.
- Office bearers should serve for a maximum of two years, with a spell of two years before they can apply for the same office. There should be assistants for the main offices (convenor and treasurer) who would be expected to become convenor and treasurer after their two years as assistant.
- The quorum for board meetings should be a third of the total number of directors or 3, whichever is greater. In order to avoid a situation where board meetings are regularly inquorate, the board will have discretionary powers to remove directors who have not attended three consecutive meetings.

Wendy to pass the job description to the Food Group and to notify members.

The constitution working group to continue to work towards incorporation of the company.

Litter-picking

There has been some traffic on the Google group about litter-picking. The meeting was supportive of this, but felt that it didn't relate to the main interests of TBI – so while TBI is very happy for the Google group to be used for this, it sees the activity as belonging to the individual members, rather than the group.

Next meeting

May 13th, venue to be decided, but preferably closer to the east end of the Black Isle.

Vanessa to propose venue.

AOCB

Frank noted that we seem to be a bit equivocal about whether Muir of Ord is on the Black Isle – we have quite a lot of members around there but no talks/ film shows, etc. It was agreed that we should increase the profile in Muir of Ord.

Communications Group to prioritise events in Muir of Or

Martin commented that a number of members are self-employed or have "hobby" businesses, and in the interests of encouraging resilience and local trade, it would be good to have a "Marketplace" section on the website for members to advertise

Agric and Teen to consider adding a Marketplace to the

local products and services. It was agreed this would be a good idea.

new website