



Building strength in our communities
to face the challenges of
peak oil and climate change

DRAFT Minutes of the General Meeting 21 April 2011

Present: Wendy, Agric, Martin, Anne, Ken, Maggie Dove, Richard, Vanessa, Penny.
Allan Macrae, Liberal Democrat candidate MSP, attended for the much of the meeting.

Item	Discussion	Action
Meeting with Scottish Orchards	This will not take place	
Previous Minutes	Approved	
Recent Events	NHS Climate Week took place with a stall at various NHS sites, to which TBI contributed materials. Anne drafted the response to Roseanna Cunningham's consultation and it has been published on the TBI website. Vanishing of the Bees film was shown with an excellent turn-out of about 40 people.	
CCF project	The final report has been submitted and Richard also wrote a one page summary. This will be circulated to the group.	Wendy
Treasurer's report	In 2010-11 a surplus of £2-2.5k has been achieved, similar to the previous year, leaving TBI with £4-4.5k in the bank. This money can be used to pump-prime the cost of events but they should not make a loss. The Company Limited by Guarantee has almost been set up, subject to some final signing. Once that has been done charitable status should quickly be awarded by OSCR. The HIE grant has funded accounting software and could fund training on directors' roles and	

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	responsibilities. It was agreed to pursue that.	Penny
	It was agreed to set up Paypal payments on the website, and to ask Caroline V to pursue that with Plexus. Richard will discuss with Caroline.	Richard
Convenorship	As this was Wendy's last meeting as Convenor it was agreed to set up a rotating convenorship with two month stints, starting with Agric. Others will be:	Agric
	July/ August – Penny September/ October – Anne November/ December – Vanessa January/ February – Bob Bull March/ April - Maggie	
Energy Group	The anemometer is in use and will continue to be available. The Smart meters will also continue to be used and the lesson plan will be piloted at Fortrose if possible, or if not in local primaries. The group is continuing with the proposal for a review of existing house energy efficiency but needs £17k to make it happen. Future CCF funding is an obvious target. Tulloch Homes and Cairn Housing Assoc. are both interested in new homes' assessments and may be able to provide some funding for that. A UHI person has offered to talk about energy in difficult houses and a venue is needed for that. It was agreed that a list of venues and costs should be drawn up.	Martin/ Maggie
	It was also agreed that an application may be made to THC discretionary funds for the year's programme of events.	????
	Sub-groups will be asked to come up with lists of events that can then be agreed at the next general meeting.	Sub- group convenors
	Community Wind schemes were discussed but the Scottish Gov. Loan scheme for developing	

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Food

plans seems impossible to comply with.

How can existing projects be continued?
Participants want to continue so they should be
encouraged to self-organise.

A Gardeners Question Time session would be a
useful event.

200 hard copies of the Grow North manual will
shortly be available, having cost about £15 each.
They will be offered at cost price to the public and
at 50% of cost to GN participants and TBI
members.

Wendy

Agric

The manual needs to be inserted in the folders,
hopefully at Glachbeg at 1900h on 28 April.
Availability needs checked.

Sheila

Food group members to be asked to help with
this.

The Fortrose garden site has had interest from
the local Beaver group and the pre-school group.
Sheila is following it up.

Grow North tools will be allocated to the
Community Gardens, together with the first aid
box, risk assessment template, etc.

At Netherton there is still a shortage of
participants though the young people side of
things is OK. Tommy is following up both.

Agric

Loch na Mhoid is OK with its core group.

A number of gardening books were bought with
CCF funds and they will be placed at Fortrose
Library.

Inventories are being produced at each garden.

???

The Community Markets are self-financing and
Kirsty is now the organiser.

Cromarty Market begins 14 May and the Ross-
shire will cover it. Other PR is also needed.

Teen

The Highland Food Challenge will continue, self-
funded. The monthly email newsletter will

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	continue. There is a need to get the loan books back from last year's participants.	
	A facebook page will be set up (but see below).	
	The most pressing funding need is for the Netherton schools project, which requires less than £5k. Ideas are needed.	
	It will be important to build synergy between the sub-groups, and events are probably the best way to do this. It would be good to have a 6 month co-ordination meeting between conveners and to agree plans at relevant TBI main meetings.	TBI convenors
	Work will continue to develop the Food Hub concept.	
	The Tattie Day profit will go to the central TBI funds.	All
	Donations of vegetables are needed for the Community Markets.	
Comms/ Education	Plans include: Website work by volunteers A cheap newsletter Attendance at the Fortrose Highland Gathering on 23 June and at Avoch Gala on 25 June. TBI are likely to be offered 2 free places at Belladrum for volunteers to run a stall. Need to check this offer is correct. It was agreed to raffle the two places to members via the website.	Maggie Caroline V.
	It was agreed that the Facebook page should be a general one for TBI, not just for HFC.	
	Winter talks are planned using the powerpoint show, with SWRI in the frame. The University of the 3 rd Age is another possibility.	
	Swap UR stuff [is this right?] at Culbokie/Cromarty will continue if people can help.	



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TBI process	It was agreed that any statement made on behalf of TBI should be agreed by 3 Directors.	
Biodiversity	TBI has been invited to a meeting. Maggie will decide whether to go.	Maggie
Food Directory	It was agreed to identify individuals who will cover each locality and top up the Directories/ collect donations monthly.	???
Local Trading	We will have a presentation on the Tingle at the next meeting.	Anne
Resource depletion	Lorna Walker has (or has written?) a report. It would make a good subject for presentation at a TBI event.	

Minutes drafted by Richard. Apologies for the ??? action points. Volunteers?