



Grantown Initiative - Board Meeting

Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 9 February 2016 – at Town House, Grantown-on-Spey

Present: **Directors** – Dan Cottam (in the Chair), Stewart Dick, Basil Dunlop, Gavin Fenton, Katie Fenton, Karen Martin, Bill Sadler

Members of the Public – Fay Hampton

Advisers - Karen Derrick, VABS,

Apologies: **Directors** – Melanie Dick, Janet Hartree, Jane Hope, Isla Game

Advisers – David Lyle, Company Secretary, Jaci Douglas (Councillor)

Welcome / Directors

1 The Chair welcomed all to the Meeting – particularly Bill Sadler who was attending his first Board as a Co-opted Director and Fay Hampton as a viewing member of the public.

Minutes of January 2016 Board

2 The Minutes of Board Meeting of 12 January 2016 were submitted and approved, proposed by Stewart Dick and seconded by Karen Martin.

Matters Arising

3 In respect of Para 4 (Strathspey Steam Railway and Rails to Grantown), it had been agreed by the Board that representations should be submitted on behalf of Grantown, to the Scottish Government Ministers – endorsing the importance of the project for Grantown. The relative letters had now been sent to Dan to sign and he will send them on to the Scottish Government.

Relative to Para 18 and the 200th anniversary of the modern Highland Games, Bill reported that there is a book being written and will be the definitive guide. Stewart will speak to Mel to ask if she has spoken to the Highland Games board yet.

Declarations of Interest

4 There were no Interests declared by any Director.

Membership of Grantown Initiative

5 No applications for Membership of Grantown Initiative had been received since the Last Meeting.

Grantown Town Centre – Pilot Project

6 There had been sent to all Directors the Consultation Draft of the Grantown-on-Spey Town Centre Pilot Project. This had been prepared by the CNPA (Cairngorms National Park Authority) with the assistance of VABS (Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey) as part of a Scottish Government funded pilot to put into practice some of the principles from the 2015 Town Centre Toolkit. The Pilot had a focus on Grantown's Town Centre, and the involvement of local businesses, community groups and local organisations had been central to its preparation.

The Board strongly welcomed the Pilot Project and Karen D reported there have been many responses from the public so far which is encouraging. Dan has also received some feedback and comments along with reference to the bandstand that Stewart Grant Photographer had requested but was not on the plan and will liaise with Karen D who will collate all information and report back at the next meeting. At this point Karen D will have to stand back because VABS will be putting in a tender for funding.

If the Leader Funding application is successful for a project officer for the GI then this will have a direct impact on the Pilot Project as they will be able to assist with putting together a document with a timeline to completion. Some projects will depend on others and the successful tender will have to work out where funding is coming from and lead us into gaining our project offer.

Item 10 moved to this part of the meeting

Grantown 250 Foundation Week – Update

10 Bill Sadler appraised the Board with the latest position on the events and activities of the Grantown 250 Foundation Week (19 to 26 June 2016).

Bill confirmed the naming and branding of the week as Grantown 250 as it was so successful last year. Bill has received some support from Marc Hindley from Canary Dwarf who are hosting the site. Whilst we will be running for the whole foundation week the main emphasis is on the end of the week which leaves the rest of the week for others to hold events of their choice under the banner of Grantown 250.

So far there is a talk from Andrew Wright on Wednesday 22nd, conservation which will run in association with an exhibition of old Grantown photos and a photo competition on features of Grantown architecture. Thursday 23rd choral evening confirmed. Friday is Georgian Day on the High Street with costumes in association

with Totally Locally plus hopefully crofting connections with the school children. The wish is to get events right down to Grant Park and Bill is looking at getting suggestions from residents. Friday evening Ceilidh and disco – venue to be confirmed. Saturday is heritage day with the Fiddler of Strathspey event being adjudicated by Maggie Anderson and Paul Anderson. It has been discovered in the 1880s there were fiddle competitions and they also held events in the 1930s with the Countess of Seafield so Bill is asking for support from the Seafield Estates. Hamish Napier's 'The River' that was composed for Celtic Connections will be played in the Grammar school on the Saturday as well. Piping Forres have asked if we are clashing so we are running our main event on the Sunday which is the 250th anniversary of the Figgat Fair and the ceremonial transfer of the Market Cross. Earlier in the day there will be the church service in The Square. The Regality Cross has been nominated for a 'Scottish Civic Trust my Place Award' which is a national scheme recognising projects enhancing the community and a positive impact on a local neighbourhood. The judging panel are due to visit. There is also a further exhibition later in the year which is an exhibition of Richard Waite's paintings, famous 18th century artist who had paintings in the castle. This will be in October.

Questions from the Board regarding the co-ordination of events and volunteers. Discussion held with the actions as follows: A piece to be written for the Grantown Times calling for volunteers. The list of volunteer requirements to be provided by Bill so we can actively speak to individuals requesting assistance. Dan will liaise with Jaci D who already has a bank of volunteers following on from Hogmanay. Requested a brief description for the 250 from Bill to be put on the events page of the website.

Funding was discussed as obviously this is a major concern with a ball park figure of £30k and the rejections from funding sources last year will be targeted again for this year. Karen D and Dan will liaise with Bill asap to look at funding options along with sustainability going forward for future years. Bill also liaising with Mel regarding Totally Locally being on board.

Date for the diary: The Grantown Coop Forum are running a quiz night on the 26th Feb at the Ben Mhor. Bill to email poster to Katie and she'll put on Facebook.

Bill Sadler left the meeting at this point.

Treasurer's Report

7 Karen Martin, the Treasurer, had submitted the latest Receipts and Payments Report, to end January 2015.

We have a bank balance of £12k that has all been allocated. There is one item of £20 that Karen M needs to check with Katie and will email details.

Annual Accounts for 2014/15

8 The Treasurer had prepared the draft Accounts for the last financial year (2014/15) and she had met with the Independent Examiner (Cathryn Williamson) to go over the financial entries. After full consideration, the GI Board approved the Accounts and these would go forward to the forthcoming AGM.

Karen D confirmed that we do not have to send out a copy of the financial statement, but make it available for people should they request it and also have copies at the AGM. We will add this to the website.

Second Annual General Meeting

9 The Annual General Meeting of Grantown Initiative was fixed for Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7.00 pm, at the Town House, Grantown. The Documentation for the AGM had been circulated to the Directors – Notice and Agenda, Proxy Form, Draft Minutes of First AGM, Annual Accounts for 2014/15, Special Resolution – and these were approved and would be sent to the Members in the week following this Board meeting.

Grantown Initiative – Website Report

11 Gavin Fenton had circulated the monthly (January 2016) report on the website traffic. Direct traffic mainly as per usual with the main sources being Facebook and referral traffic. Lots of people going to contact page but not asking to join. A couple of enquiry forms submitted.

From the last meeting Gavin has re-registered the domain name for 2 years (in the GI's name and not his) and the hosting both of which have been paid for by twofentons, who seek no recompense as this is a donation. David had queried with Gavin (by email prior to the meeting) who is going to maintain the interim site when both Gavin and Katie stand down as directors. Katie confirmed that whilst not being on the Board they are both happy to continue their roles as part of various sub committees and will happily keep the interim website updated. The Board expressed thanks for work completed so far and the continued support going forward.

Item 12 was deferred until later in the meeting

Grantown's Hanging Floral Baskets for 2016

13 It had been brought to the attention of Grantown Initiative that, in the absence of Grantown Community Council which was currently in abeyance, there was nobody in Grantown to undertake the organisation of the Hanging Floral Baskets for the summer in Grantown.

Basil reported that whilst there is still a cash problem, the CC will be back on track soon, the school are growing some plants so this will reduce some of the costs. There was a discussion on the roles and responsibilities within the CC of the watering and provision of plants and baskets and tubs. Further discussion on funding options and the possibility of approaching business owners for some input. Stewart is happy to

liaise with Basil and the CC when they come back after the abeyance (in 3 weeks) and look at assisting with funding and volunteering options.

GI Projects

14 a) Grantown Community Website

Stewart Dick updated the Board on current progress with the invitation to tender for developing the website. The Subcommittee met on January 25th. Members of the committee include Gavin, Naomi, Isla John Bruce from Lodge of Finlarig B&B, Kathy Maxwell from Ravenscourt Guest House and also Lyn Boden who works in Cockburns. Stewart has also has been in touch with Sandy Allan and Bill Steele who were unable to make meeting on 25th but will be coming on board for the next meetings.

The brief has been added to with regards what the tender should include and the advert went in the Strathy on 28th January. Stewart emailed all previous companies who expressed an interest, again on the 28th January plus put an advert on Facebook. From Facebook we have had one further company expressing interest and they are Coire Creative in Aviemore. We have had 2 withdrawals, Canary Dwarf don't wish to quote because they don't have capacity and Wideopenspace also don't feel they can meet our requirements. Quotes are due on 19th February and Stewart will be emailing all companies on Friday 12th to remind them. The scoring meeting is scheduled for the following week of the website subcommittee and Karen D will be available with the subcommittee for interviews on the 3rd and 4th March. This means the recommendation to the board should be available at the next meeting that will be held after the AGM.

b) Tourist Map of Grantown

Katie and Jane have pulled all information together and have emailed and posted by mail everything through to Ian Grover. Katie has chased Ian for an update but as yet has not heard back from him. Katie will keep in touch via email should anything come in prior to next meeting as we are aiming to have this printed and available ready for Tourist Information Point to be open towards the end of March.

c) RBS Grantown Community Calendar 2016 for Grantown

At the last Board the Company Secretary had reported that the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) had approached a number of local areas, including Grantown-on-Spey, to publish a Community Calendar with information on local events for visitors / residents; and – per Jaci Douglas – this approached had been referred to Grantown Initiative. An initial list of such events and activities had been drawn up for Grantown – and this draft had been circulated to the Directors.

The Board had been content with the style and content of the draft Calendar and it had been agreed that it should be for RBS to publish it – either in paper or digital

form, or both, under the RBS logo. Accordingly, this had been put forward to RBS, and the response was awaited with nothing further to report at this meeting.

Added by Katie as it was not discussed at the meeting:

Grantown Times

The Spring edition of the Grantown Times is currently being put together with the aim of getting it to the printers by this coming weekend. 500 copies will be printed and the first Saturday in March we will be standing outside the Co-Op giving them out for free. Any left will be put to local retailers. We will be holding collection tins as well. Anyone wanting to assist on the day please let Katie know.

Correspondence

12 Emails from Stewart Dick. Metal drainage channels that are choked all down the High Street have become an issue and Stewart had copied the GI in on his correspondence with the Highland Council. They had originally stated the channels were not their responsibility, however, with subsequent emails it would appear that Highland Council have taken responsibility but as yet have not answered the query. Stewart is working on this.

Email from the Highland Environmental Network. Informing us of new initiatives within the organisation for working with community centres and schools. It was agreed Katie to forward the email over to Heather Fraser at the Community Centre but offer support and assistance to Heather should she wish the GI to become more active as there are several members on the Board who would be happy to be involved in any community led projects.

Emails from Fay Hampton. Several emails from Fay Hampton were received and we have had a formal notice about our company secretary Mr David Lyle asking for the immediate termination of his position as company secretary. Mr Lyle received a letter from Mrs Hampton and has subsequently gone to the police about it. Mrs Hampton also asked for Inverness Online not to be included in the website tender process.

Mrs Hampton was invited by The Chair to comment but she declined. The Board had a brief discussion and confirmed that Inverness Online have already said they want to quote for the job and therefore, it would be up to them to refuse to tender, so this request is irrelevant.

Mr Lyle has contacted the Police based on a letter he has received personally out with the GI and therefore he or any of us are entitled to take action should we find ourselves in the same position. This is a personal matter and should not be brought to the GI. This is inappropriate to discuss at this meeting and it is up to the Police to take any next steps. The GI would take no further action.

AOCB

Karen Derrick Update on the GIVE (Grantown Intergenerational Voluntary Experience) or the Janny's House as it is known. They are still in the process of sorting out the lease as this has to be taken on by a group/body and the school are not going to be able to do this so VABS are looking into setting this up. The relevance to the GI is that part of the community consultation can and will include areas that GIVE can merge skills with volunteers. Karen will keep the Board up to date on progress.

Karen Martin leading on from Karen D's update on GIVE spoke about apprenticeships and how business owners could be assisting within Grantown. There was quite a discussion around apprenticeships and volunteering the upshot being that Dan and Karen D will email Karen M with names and email addresses of relevant people that she should speak to in order to take this forward on behalf of the GI. Karen and Stewart will meet to explore further.

Karen Martin Update on the Speyside Whisky Festival. An update has gone into the Grantown Times, tickets are now on sale and available on line, and barrels have been requested for the information points at Elephants in the Pantry the Museum. All events are going forward as planned as well as a dinner at Muckrach on the Saturday night. Unfortunately, it clashes with the Grantown roving dinner but we hope that both events will attract different people. Events confirmed in Grantown are curry and quiz night, Friday night dramble, Saturday tastings and food at Elephants including gin, a Cake Off and the roving dinner with Ceilidh plus Muckrach dinner. Not doing picnic in the square on the Sunday as there was too much to organise. Katie to search for the Facebook page and share events relevant to Grantown. GI wishes to pass on thanks to Heather Fraser for being the main organiser of the event.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board would be on Tuesday 8 March 2016, following the Second Annual General Meeting.

Katie Fenton, Interim Minutes Secretary