

GRANTOWN INITIATIVE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

MINUTES

		Action Points
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Directors Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jane Hope, ChairKaren Derrick, TreasurerKaren MartinBeverley CartwrightMike CauseyZoe LairdIngrid Artus <p>Others Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ginny Hall, (Minutes) <p>JH opened the meeting and welcomed all the attendees, including ZL, who is joining as a new Director.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies: Tom Clarke, Katy Turton, Isla Game, Declan Gallacher (on sabbatical)</p>	
3.	<p>Minute of previous meeting held on 11th January 2022</p> <p>The minutes were approved without amendments. KM informed the meeting that the website would shortly be updated with the most recent minutes.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters arising from the Minute (not otherwise on the agenda)</p> <p>None</p>	
5.	<p>Declarations of Interest on items appearing on the agenda:</p> <p>None</p>	
6.	<p>Membership applications</p> <p>BC and ZL are new members.</p>	
7.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Our current balance on all accounts is £95271.45 of which, £3002.17 is unrestricted funding. All other funding is dedicated to projects.</p> <p>KM, KD and Rebecca Mackellar have worked with Xero and are now in the process of uploading the statement. They are hoping to share with the Board by the March meeting. Although the appearance may be slightly different, the key elements of reporting will not change.</p>	
8.	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>The spreadsheet of volunteers is complete and there was a discussion about access to it, given the issue of GDPR and security of data. KM suggested posting the spreadsheet on Google Drive which may prove safer than members storing it on their computers. It was agreed that the spreadsheet should be posted on Google Drive.</p>	GH/KM

9.	<p>Potential new Project: parkrun</p> <p>MC reported that 2 potential routes had been tested, and that a 3rd route was being looked at. The project has no funding yet, but MC will approach businesses and organisations that may have an interest in the event. MC emphasised the benefits to mental health from a regular walk or run, in addition to the physical benefits. Slow but steady progress is being made, with a potential start date mid-year.</p> <p>KD mentioned that she had come across a funding source, and she agreed to send information about it to MC.</p>	KD
	Reports on Current Workstreams:	
10.	<p>Town Centre Fund</p> <p>JH had circulated a paper about light and audio cabling in advance of the meeting. Ownership of the town square is unknown but the GI works with the Highland Council (HC) to undertake necessary works and improvements flowing from the award of the Town Centre Fund in 2019. In the first tranche of work, new benches were installed, a new PA system was purchased, old trees were removed with new trees being planted, and finger boards and map boards being installed.</p> <p>An agreement had been made with HC to underground the audio cables, but it has proved difficult to progress this work as HC are under significant pressure with staff absences.</p> <p>A meeting between JH and Mick Haymer of HC, to discuss siting of finger boards and map cases, and plant new trees, scheduled for 8th February, had been called off.</p> <p>The suggestion was made that the GI write to the HC to say that work is going to proceed. It was proposed that a couple of quotes for the cabling work be obtained before this is done. This course of action was supported by the Directors.</p> <p>Action: ZL to send contact details of a local contractor to KD and JH</p> <p>Action: JH to draft letter to Highland Council</p>	<p>ZL</p> <p>JH</p>
11.	<p>Burnfield Toilets</p> <p>KD has been waiting to hear from Highland Council for a period of 3 months. A meeting with the THC Ward Manager, Liz Cowie, is scheduled for w/c 14th February.</p> <p>However there was positive news as the Building Control Officer, John Dougherty, informed Ron Laing that they will accept 'over drawings', (which show the original design with the proposed changes superimposed on top), which will save both money and time. The design (with an automatic locking main door) is such that there is no need to go for planning permission.</p> <p>Quotes for the work required by Colin Lawson and Ron Laing are required.</p> <p>Action: KD to obtain quotes</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD</p>
12.	<p>Events</p> <p>Winter: Hogmanay/Festive Lights/ Torchlight Procession/Grantown Does Christmas</p> <p>BC outlined the steps she is planning to take for organising Hogmanay in 2022. She is planning to write a letter to the main players, introducing herself and explaining that while she has taken over from Tom Clarke, he is still on the committee. She is going to speak to the band to see if they are willing to do a fundraising concert a couple of days before Hogmanay. Later in the year she will get a team of volunteers together.</p> <p>Other winter events will be planned closer to the time.</p> <p>Other: Thunder in the Glens (TITG)</p>	

	<p>Stewart and Mel Dick have been the organisers of the TITG, and at the time they left the GI, they agreed to continue to organise this event.</p> <p>Action: KD and JH are going to contact Stewart to ask if it is going ahead.</p>	KD, JH
13.	<p>Play parks Dulaig Park</p> <p>Berry Burn Fund application for £27,000 and should hear the decision in March. – Meeting this Friday (11th February) with one of the assessors.</p> <p>Highland Council Applications:</p> <p>£10k for the playing field was submitted following a meeting with the council's area rep Carole Butler in December.</p> <p>£15k towards providing a section of wet pore under one piece of equipment at the park. Grass matting would go under the remainder. The issue arose from the Council's head of maintenance's response to the addition of grass matting. Wet pore would be better. However, Kompan's prices for this have doubled. Sheena Corcoran said that quotes for the playing field might also be redundant now.</p> <p>Council recognised that they had only given £3k to the Dulaig project.</p> <p>KM flagged up the need to use the CNPA funds that have to be spent by end March.</p> <p>There followed a discussion about the best way to proceed, with the idea that IA and her team do what they can, within the existing budget, to make progress in order to open the park in the summer.</p> <p>Sheena said that Bill Sadler has been in touch about the active travel project, which has been given £55,000 for the next stage. He wants to speak to the committee about improvements to the paths at Dulaig as part of the project.</p> <p>Alban Thom has still not planted the trees that have been funded by the CNPA.</p> <p>Mossie Park No update. It was suggested that Isla Game be contacted as she has not been present at recent meetings. Action: JH to contact IG</p>	JH
14.	<p>Business/Visitor Matters</p> <p>Green Recovery Fund KM reported that the Anagach Woods Trust are not able to deliver by the end of March.</p> <p>Marketing KM mentioned that £40,000 from the CNPA Marketing fund has to be spent by end March 2022. KM also outlined the good coverage about Grantown in the Strathy, and that the Grant Arms has been sold which is good news.</p> <p>Entrance Signs The response rate to the consultation, 7.5%, compared well with other local consultations (eg National Park Plan) so it was agreed to follow the outcomes of the consultation. There was a discussion about the chosen design. It was decided to ask Jackie to do another mock-up based on moving the position of the logo to the right hand side, and tweaking the design, particularly the word 'Discover'. Action: KM to ask the designer to do another mock up.</p>	KM

	<p>Runathon and Quiz These events are being planned by Lorna Cottam. It was suggested that LC might benefit from some direction to help make decisions about the events. LH offered to give LC a steer and MC agreed to talk through ideas with LC and make suggestions, particularly in relation to the Runathon. It was decided that the Quiz should take place in March 2022, around 11th or 12th of the month. It was suggested that LC might also contact Tom Clarke who has experience of running and compering a quiz.</p> <p>BC suggested that the Runathon take place in April, making it an 'Easter Egg' Run. This idea was supported by all present.</p> <p>Making events 'Green' and Sustainable GH had prepared a paper with ideas on how the events in Grantown could be made more sustainable. ZL suggested that using local food and producers would be important, and she mentioned the lighting, for example, LED lights for the torchlight parade which were already in place. However, it was decided to discuss this paper further at the March meeting. In the meantime, GH would contact KT, since SS might be able to add to the list of ideas.</p> <p>Action: GH to contact KT</p>	GH
15.	<p>Sustainable Strathspey (SS)</p> <p>Report sent in by KT: I can report that we are having our first face to face membership meeting on 18 February at The Pagoda. Two local councillors - Muriel Cockburn and Pippa Hadley - will be in attendance to talk about the outcome of COP26. We've got another face to face gathering in the pipeline for 23 March. And we've found a couple of promising funding options to help us run the Greentown Show again.</p>	
16.	<p>Communications and Publicity The new website is now up and running.</p>	
	<p>AOCB Talk to U3A JH reported that she had made a presentation to a U3A committee meeting, to tell them about the work of the GI. The members had expressed some interest, and JH felt that the group might be a useful pool of volunteers, although their style is more for hard copy leaflets and posters rather than online. It was agreed that JH would keep in touch with the group.</p> <p>GGs Parent Council As chair of this Council, MC reported that the idea of a Jobs or Career Fair was being revived after a pause during the pandemic. MC envisages a 'speed dating' format, and it would take place in September 2022. He asked if the GI could support it. KD suggested a 'volunteers' table with a presence from VABS. (VABS could help promote the Saltire Awards which are for the age group 12-25). ZL noted that volunteering can help to develop skills. BC also suggested that she might involve the RAF Reserves at this event.</p> <p>Grantown Rural Projects KD reported that local carbon capture projects are looking to donate profits from carbon capture. KD has emailed the contact to say that the GI is a good place for the donations.</p> <p>Meals on Wheels GH reported that Elizabeth Boyd from the Pagoda had sent her an email about providing Meals on Wheels to the elderly population of Grantown (65% of the town's population are over 65). Elizabeth is looking for both volunteers and funding. KD responded that the 'Here to Help' group of volunteers might be approached, the main contact being Heather</p>	

	<p>Fraser. It was also suggested that the Here to Help Scheme has £6,500 in the pot and that this might be used.</p> <p>Action: GH and KD to take forward.</p> <p>Walks, Talks and Trails Bill Sadler is asking for support for an event to be held over one day and evening, for community groups.</p> <p>Action: KM will go back to Bill to ask for more details.</p> <p>Signs KM reported that the Community Council have seen the design for the signs and are content.</p>	<p>KD, GH</p> <p>KM</p>
	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 8th March – It was suggested that the next meeting might be in person, possibly at the Grant Arms.</p> <p>Tuesday 12th April Tuesday 10th May (AGM)</p>	