

GRANTOWN INITIATIVE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.00 pm via Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

		Action Points
	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Directors Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Karen Derrick (Chair)Karen Martin (Treasurer)Declan Gallacher (Vice Chair)Beverley CartwrightMike Causey (from 8pm) <p>Others present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ginny Hall (Minutes) <p>KD opened the meeting and welcomed all present. She confirmed that Mike Causey had been co-opted to joining the GI Board for the purposes of Thunder in the Glen.</p>	
1.	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Directors: Ingrid Artus, Pete Grant, Katy Turton</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of 9 May Board Minute</p> <p>The Minutes were approved unanimously.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising from Minute not on the agenda</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
4.	<p>Declarations of interest on items appearing on agenda</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
5..	<p>Membership</p> <p>Nothing to report on membership.</p>	
6.	<p>Treasurer's report</p> <p>KM proposed and board agreed the movement of £2,400 from the G&McP Events pot, into the G&McP Community pot for the 2023 community applications to bid into.</p> <p>The Spey Shed is now fully constituted as a SCIO in its own name and also has a bank account. Therefore, in agreement with their treasurer, all remaining funds in the GI account have been transferred across to them. This line in the accounts will be removed following the GI year end (31 July 2023)</p> <p>KM reported that the GI has agreed to work with Kathy Maxwell at SquarePeg Design, who will be carrying out website hosting and updates.</p>	
Sub Group updates		

7	<p>GMcP Community Fund (KM)</p> <p>Balance for the Community Fund now stands at £2,687.20 for 2023 applications. The application process will open in August and funds agreed by subcommittee (KM/KD/DG) during late August/early September.</p> <p>KM to agree dates with KD and DG ahead of public launch of the fund for applications. KM to advertise fund via social media, as well as emailing relevant community groups.</p> <p>Action: KM to confirm dates in consultation with KD and DG</p>	KM, DG, KD
8.	<p>Burnfield Toilets (KD)</p> <p>KD confirmed that all the money required for completion of the refurbishment part of the project has now been obtained and Lawson's have been given the go-ahead to complete as soon as possible.</p> <p>The final bill from Lawsons will come in at £51520.88.</p> <p>The project has recently been awarded £22,000 from the Cairngorms Trust, and £10,000 from the CNPA (Visitor Infrastructure Fund). The final £5k is also due from Berryburn. Any shortfall (maybe around £1.8k, will need to be taken from GI general funds).</p> <p>KM advised there is no money for panels from Business Energy Scotland as funds would only be awarded to projects installing a heat source or similar.</p> <p>On behalf of the board, KM thanked KD for all the work put in, to raise the £130K funds necessary for the Burnfield toilets refurbishment project.</p> <p>Decorative tiles by GGS pupils still awaiting installation.</p> <p>Official opening of the toilets: board will need to discuss how this will happen in August.</p> <p>Operational matters: a contract for cleaning the toilets needs to be put in place soon. KD will seek board opinion and advice via WhatsApp to start to look for a local contractor.</p>	All All
9.	<p>Dulaig Play Park (IA)</p> <p>The football area has had more topsoil and additional grass seed added. Apart from essential works, the committee are looking at a small piece of equipment to use up the remaining funds.</p> <p>DG asked how much longer the Dulaig Park project would remain as part of the GI reporting. KD responded that once the final equipment is in place and funds used up, perhaps in August or September, the project will be signed off.</p> <p>If there are any raised funds remaining in the Dulaig account, the board together with Dulaig committee will agree where that will be attributed in the GI accounts.</p>	
10.	<p>Grantown Business Association (KM)</p> <p>KM reported that there had been a couple of meetings recently. A new Facebook group of retailers had been set up, called <i>Buy Local in Grantown</i>, and already has 900 followers. KM suggested that the group bid for funding from the CLV fund, for bunting and banners to help improve the appearance of the High Street.</p>	

	<p>DG reported that the <i>BLIG</i> group had started through discussions with Mandy from Highland Artisans, who had expressed concern over closures in the High Street. DG had set up a meeting in the Grant Arms which had been well attended.</p> <p>BC asked about absentee landlords, who are not maintaining the appearance of some buildings and doorways. DG responded that this had also been mentioned at the Community Council. BC also noted that in Forres, there are many flowers and hanging baskets in the centre, which improve the appearance. She asked if Grantown in Bloom, who do good work in the Square, could also do baskets for the High Street. There was a discussion about the need to let people know that the GBA is supportive of new ideas and improvements to the High Street.</p>	
11.	<p>Spey Shed (PG)</p> <p>Spey Shed passed another milestone with its official opening on Friday 7th July, when Councillor Muriel Cockburn cut the ribbon on the group's refurbished premises at the YMCA, with 27 in attendance. There is a good working relationship with YM hosts and other users at the YM, and the group continues to receive generous donations of tools. SS is now equipped to function as a workshop, and they plan to meet initially from 2-5pm on Friday afternoons, using the next few weeks to iron out procedures before welcoming new members.</p> <p>PG hoped to be able to give his next update in person at the August meeting.</p> <p>KD reiterated that the Spey Shed is now separately constituted as a SCIO (Registered Charity), so no longer needs to sit under or report to the GI board. The wish was expressed however that Pete may stay on the board for a while.</p>	
12.	<p>Sustainable Strathspey (KT)</p> <p>There was no update, aside from plans proceeding for the Greentown Show on 2nd September. KT hoped to be present at the next meeting to update the Board.</p>	
13.	<p>Events</p> <p>i. Festive Lights (IA/KD)</p> <p>Options for lights emailed to Anne Sullivan for her to choose lights in memory of her late husband. There's £800 in the festive lights pot from his funeral to be spent in line with her wishes and also advice from Paul Mathieson.</p> <p>KD added that Paul Mathieson is still chasing The Highland Council (THC) to undertake the necessary actions in respect of the lights.</p> <p>ii. Grantown Does Christmas (KM)</p> <p>KM reported that Craic Events had won the contract via the ITT process. THC require a licence (cost £140) because Craic Events are running the event, and this may have to come out of the G&McP pot. KM has had some kick-back from retailers in the High Street because the event will run from 10.30 am until 7pm. Some retailers are asking for the stalls to only sell items unavailable in the High Street.</p> <p>However, GDC is an umbrella event, encompassing not only stalls but events run by the Museum, the Lego Trail along the High Street and the Xmas Tree festival, and as such draws people into the town.</p>	

	<p>Janet Hartree from Ewe and Me had asked if the Xmas lights switch-on could happen on the same weekend, but this may be difficult to arrange on a weekend. In general, retailers prefer the lights to go on as soon as possible. KD recollected that in the past, children from the Primary School sang at the switch-on of the lights.</p> <p>KM stated that 2023 would be the last GDC event that she runs.</p> <p>KM also mentioned that Andy Kitchen has resigned from his role at the Cairn Distillery, and that Tim Belton has taken over as Visitor Experience Manager. KM is planning to speak to him.</p> <p>Action: KM to speak to Tim Belton</p> <p>iii. Torchlight Parade (IA) Meeting at the beginning of August to plan this year's event.</p> <p>iv. Hogmanay (BC) BC reported that a planning committee meeting was held on 20th June. Bookings have been made for fireworks, band, toilets. Road closure licence and road management will be completed in August. Phone call received last week from Fireworx Scotland regarding woman who received injury at Hogmanay 2022 (debris in eye). Claim being made – awaiting info on what will happen. BC has supplied accident info to Fireworx Scotland. Concerns around number of volunteers to help with the event and getting a new bar licensee.</p> <p>v. Thunder in the Glens (MC) MC joined the meeting at this point. He informed the Board that the bikes would pass through Grantown on Saturday 26th August, coming from Aviemore. A GPS tracker will be put on the lead rider so footage will be streamed on the website so that people can see where the riders are. There will be publicity around this in advance of the event.</p> <p>MC noted that there will be a Farmer's Market in the Square on the same day, with 13 vendor's stalls, each paying £30.</p> <p>The paperwork for the road closure has gone in. MC is going to contact potential stewards, and feels that there should be enough.</p> <p>The Board requested that MC attend the next meeting on 8th August to provide an update and he agreed to attend.</p>	KM
14.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Grantown Society with money from the Scottish Land Fund is planning to purchase the former SSE property on the High Street, with a view to opening it up and offering services and space for the community to use. The Board heartily welcomed this news, which will be a great improvement for that section of the High St. There was a short discussion about some negativity coming from one or two members of the public towards GI board members who are only trying to do their best for the town. 	
	Date of Next Meeting	

	The next meeting will be held in person on 8th August 2023, hopefully in person . Venue to be confirmed.	
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