



Grantown Initiative - Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 8 March 2016

– at Town House, Grantown-on-Spey

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

Members – James Beveridge, John Bruce, Carol Bulloch, Gordon Bulloch, Karen Derrick, Margaret Dick, Anne MacLean, Kathy Maxwell, Naomi Miles, Alan Shute, Bill Steele **Associate Members** – Grantown Enterprises Ltd, Grantown and Vicinity Community Council, Grantown Museum, Strathallan B&B, The Grantown Society, Inverallan Church

Proxies (from Members) – 1 for David Lyle, 1 for Bill Steele

Advisers: Karen Derrick, VABS, David Lyle, Company Secretary

Apologies: **Members** – Joyce Lyle, Rebecca Reid, Joan Steele **Associate Members - Advisers:** Jaci Douglas (Councillor)

Quorum

1 The Quorum (15 Members / Proxies for Members, with the Members ordinarily resident in the community being in the majority) was achieved.

Welcome

2 The Chairperson welcomed all to the Meeting and thanked them very much for turning out to support Grantown Initiative.

Chairperson's Report

3 Dan Cottam, as Chairperson, reported to the Meeting –

“This has been another fast year, the Board of Directors has been at full capacity and everyone involved has worked hard to bring projects either to fruition or to development stages.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the Members and Directors who have contributed, to our advisors - Karen Derrick and Jaci Douglas (Councillor) and our Company Secretary who has as ever done a sterling job.

Looking back over the year it is gratifying to realise that we have achieved a good deal: the Grantown Times is now in its fourth issue. Its great to see a community paper back in operation especially taking into account the enormous amount of time that it takes to put it all together. I really hope to see it continue and flourish as it deserves.

Thanks to funding both from the CNPA, Highland Council and money from the old Grantown Initiative, the community web site is at the final stages of development from our end and it will not be long now before we have it working for our community. A good deal of thought and energy has gone into this process and I am looking forward to seeing the result.

Also we are close to finalising the Community Storage Facility, licenses are being signed off from various groups and we hope to see these groups move in imminently.

The Grantown Tourist Map is also all planned and at the final stage, ready to be printed in time for the tourist season which will be a very welcome edition ensuring tourists can find their way to accommodation and have an awareness of the various businesses in town.

Some projects have been taken through development planning and await further action; namely a new wall for the cemetery entrance, Mossie Play Park upgrade, and a public art project at the entrance roundabout. Before looking for funding to take these further it was considered wise to question priorities and reflect on what Grantown really needs to improve it, this was particularly pertinent after participating in the CNPA's Pilot Project in community planning for the High Street and listening to what many other community stakeholders had to say.

Taking this into account we have accessed funds from the Cairngorms Leader in order to commission work on an action plan which will have an over view and take into account the various needs of different groups, look at the existing list of projects and outcomes that people want to see happen and create a clear set of objectives and outcomes that then can be put into a bigger bid for resources to make them happen. In effect we will be creating a 5 year plan to move Grantown forward in a coherent and strategic manner.

This is a really important and well thought out strategy. It was felt by many of us that we had been asked to take projects forward by people in the community and had a strong desire to see them through but did not feel we had the capacity to do it alone nor were we absolutely sure that applying for considerable sums of money for one

project would not mean another equally sought after project would fail to succeed when applying to the same pot. I feel more confident that while taking a longer route we will be able manage a lot more in the long run with a clear set of priorities and a professionally developed plan of action.

I am looking forward now to another year with Grantown Initiative where with the help and energy of Directors and Members old and new, we will see the true fruits of our labour”.

One question was raised, by Bill Steele, on the Chairman’s Report relative to the new Town Map for Grantown and this was whether it would be on paper or by an App. The immediate answer was that it was to be a paper map, but the thought that it might also have an App was a good one and would be considered by the Board in due course.

Thereafter the Meeting approved the receipt of the Report by the Chairman.

Company’s Annual Accounts, for Period to 31 July 2015

4 Karen Martin, the Company’s Treasurer, introduced the Annual Accounts for the second year of Grantown Initiative - to 31 July 2015. These had been circulated with the Notice of the Meeting. She reported on the satisfactory position of the Accounts.

There being no questions on the Annual Accounts, these were approved with full support of the AGM.

The Accounts would now go forward to be lodged at Companies House.

Special Resolution – Membership Subscriptions

It was explained that the Directors, at their Board Meeting on 14 April 2015, had considered the matter of the membership subscription being an annual one, and they felt it was important to have a joining fee, albeit a nominal one, but that annual payment was not necessary and would in fact be costly and needless expenditure in seeking renewal every year. Accordingly the Directors were seeking the approval of the members at this AGM to set the membership subscription at £1 on a one-off basis on joining. This Special Resolution required, in conformity with Article 46 of the Company’s Articles of Association, a 75% majority of the votes cast.

After discussion, the Annual General Meeting approved, with no contra, that the Articles of Association of the Company be altered to replace Articles 26 to 29 inclusive by

Membership Subscription

“26 Members shall require to pay a membership subscription which, unless and until otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, shall be £1 (one pound).

27 The membership subscription shall be payable on application for membership.

28 The members may vary the amount of the membership subscription by way of an ordinary resolution to that effect passed at an annual general meeting.

29 Not used.”

Directors of Grantown Initiative

5 It was explained that the Articles of Association of Grantown Initiative specified that the maximum number of Directors shall be 12 – with no more than 10 being Member Directors and no more than 2 being Co-opted Directors. At present there were 9 Member Directors – Dan Cottam, Melanie Dick, Stewart Dick, Basil Dunlop, Gavin Fenton, Katie Fenton, Jane Hope, Karen Martin, Bill Sadler – and two of them, Gavin Fenton and Katie Fenton, were now retiring from office.

The Chairman paid a most warm tribute to the substantial contributions made by the two retiring Directors to the progress of Grantown Initiative in the last year.

The newer Member Directors had been appointed by the Board during the past year and had never been subject to election at a General Meeting. These 3 Member Directors, who were all willing to act, were now presenting themselves for election –

Melanie Dick, Isla Game, William (Bill) Sadler

as Member Directors; and the General Meeting so elected them, with no dissension.

No other nominations as a Member Director came forward.

The 3 longest-serving Member Directors were retiring by rotation and, being eligible, were now presenting themselves for election –

Dan Cottam, Stewart Dick, Karen Martin

as Member Directors; and the General Meeting so elected them, with no dissension.

No other nominations as a Member Director came forward.

Independent Examiner of Accounts

6 The Chairman explained that it was necessary for Grantown Initiative to have its Accounts subject to independent examination – particularly essential for gaining charitable status – and the General Meeting authorised the Directors to appoint an Independent Examiner of Accounts; and the Directors were authorised to fix that person’s remuneration.

Any Other Competent Business

7 No points raised by Members.

Next Annual General Meeting

8 The next Annual General Meeting would be on a date to be fixed by the Directors.

9 Vote of Thanks

The Meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chairperson.

David A Lyle, Company Secretary