



Grantown Initiative - Board Meeting

Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 8 November 2016 – at Town House, Grantown-on-Spey

Present: **Directors** – Stewart Dick (in the Chair), Melanie Dick, Basil Dunlop, Jane Hope, Bill Sadler

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

Apologies: **Directors** – Dan Cottam, Isla Game, Karen Martin

Welcome

1 The Chair welcomed all to the Meeting.

Minutes of October 2016 Board

2 The Minutes of Board Meeting of 11 October 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved after certain amendments to Para 6.

Matters Arising

3 There were no matters arising from the October Minutes.

Declarations of Interest

4 There were no Interests declared by any Director.

Membership of Grantown Initiative

5 It was reported that an application for Ordinary Membership of Grantown Initiative had been received since the last Board Meeting from Andrew and Sally Gingell of Grantown-on-Spey (each having paid their subscription) - and they were approved for GI membership.

Grantown Forward – The Grantown Iconic Action Plan

6 A) Following the last Board (October 2016) on the Grantown Forward – Masterplan, an update was given by the GI Railway Group on the latest

developments on the Rails to Grantown project (R2G). In particular Basil Dunlop, as Chairman of the Railway Group, explained on the positive things so far achieved and the continuing interest in the Strathspey Railway Company (SRC) in extending the railway line from Broomhill to Grantown. The way forward was by establishing a Community Interest Company (CIC) and the Grantown-on-Spey and Vicinity Community Council (GOSVCC) had agreed this for R2G.

The question was raised by Karen Derrick as to why the already-established SRCT (Strathspey Railway Charitable Trust) could not or should not be used as the vehicle for the community's interest rather than setting up a new company (a CIC) with all the attendant problems with starting from scratch. SRCT had been established some years ago to be the vehicle for taking forward R2G and it seemed sensible to fully explore that option before going for a CIC. The main purpose of the vehicle (whether SRCT or a CIC) was the funding strategy and to be the conduit for funding to R2G, and it was not seen that one or other was in fact the better. One difference was that SRCT was a registered charity while a CIC would not be, but this was not seen as a problem.

In answer Basil Dunlop explained that SRCT had only one member (SRC) and that there were many stakeholders to consider and take on board which would mean opening SRCT to many more members. In addition, it was believed that the CIC approach was very much favoured by the Scottish Government for the community's interest. That was therefore, it was thought, the better option.

However, the Board felt that more information was needed on whether a re-invigoration of SRCT would be the better way forward or whether a CIC would be; and accordingly, Karen Derrick would take advice from appropriate bodies like HIE and the Scottish Government as well as consult with SRCT. She would report back to the Board in the following week.

Arising from the discussion on this item it was noted that the four B&S Ward Councillors were expected to have a meeting shortly with SRC to ascertain the interest and involvement of SRC in R2G.

6 B) Following the last Board discussion on CARS (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) for Grantown, Bill Sadler reported that the Grantown Society was very interested in CARS for Grantown and had agreed to pursue it as a project. Accordingly, the Grantown Society had taken the first step in undertaking an appraisal of the buildings in the Conservation Area with their preference being for Highland Council to be involved. After that the second step would be for a CARS application to be submitted. Bill Sadler would update GOSVCC and GI in due course.

7 Grantown Business Association

An update on the GBA relative to joining up with Grantown Initiative would be given to the next Board.

8 Grantown Community Website

With the Grantown Online website now nearing completion there was a need to have a comprehensive list of the Grantown and Area businesses as well as the local organisations – and this was being progressed actively.

9 Treasurer's Report

Deferred to next Meeting.

10 Website Traffic Report

Deferred to next Meeting.

11 GI Projects

Regarding the proposed Community Storage Facility for Grantown, it was noted that consideration was being given to a possible location next to Grantown Primary School.

12 AOCB

On Membership of Grantown Initiative, the Board was reminded that the GI territory included Cromdale, Dava, and Dulnain Bridge and that as VABS was currently involved with the Dulnain Bridge community perhaps Dulnain Bridge Community Council might place a representative as a Director of Grantown Initiative. This would be considered. Cromdale was possibly in a different position in the Cromdale also had its own Development Trust.

It was reported and noted that Bill Sadler would be representing Grantown Initiative at the forthcoming AGM of HTSI (Highland Third Sector Interface) as well as that for VABS (Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey).

Next Board

The next Board would be on Tuesday 13 December 2016.

David A Lyle

Company Secretary