



Grantown Initiative - Board Meeting

Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 12 January 2016 – at Town House, Grantown-on-Spey

Present: **Directors** – Dan Cottam (in the Chair), Melanie Dick, Stewart Dick, Basil Dunlop, Gavin Fenton, Katie Fenton, Janet Hartree, Jane Hope, Karen Martin

Advisers - David Lyle, Company Secretary

Apologies: **Directors** – Isla Game **Advisers** – Karen Derrick, VABS, Jaci Douglas (Councillor)

Welcome

1 The Chair welcomed all to the Meeting.

Minutes of December 2015 Board

2 The Minutes of Board Meeting of 8 December 2015 were submitted and approved.

Matters Arising

3 In respect of Para 4 (Mossie Playpark) of the last Board Minutes, it was reported that Jaci Douglas had sought from Highland Council, per Ian Reid, updated costings and that once they had been received she would meet with Dan Cottam and Janet Flannery to progress.

Relative to the Project Officer for GI (Para 10), it was reported by Jane Hope that an application had now gone into the Small Grants Programme, through Cairngorms LEADER, for funding (at £5,000) for a person to develop the Master Plan for GI, on the important opportunities for Grantown and the necessary financial assistance to be accessed. The Board was very pleased with the hard work done by Jane Hope.

On this matter, it was noted that Grantown Initiative would continue its discussions with Grantown Business Association on developing their closer relationship, and on developing better communication with the retail businesses of Grantown.

On Para 13, re the Grantown Times, it was noted that the next edition would be ready for distribution, free, on Saturday 5 March. Stewart Dick, as a GI Director, had now joined the GI Committee overseeing the Grantown Times and he would consider as to his discharge of the accountability of the Committee - to Grantown Initiative.

Further to Para 13 (The Lochan), there had been correspondence received from Dr Kevin Murphy of Grantown-on-Spey on the best way forward for cutting the weeds – and this had been referred to Anagach Woods Trust (AWT), per Gavin Miles, as AWT had the responsibility for the Lochan as well as funds to deliver the project.

Also on Para 13 (Entrance Signs to Grantown), although there was a view that the signs were owned by Grantown Community Council, the complete understanding of GI was that they did in fact belong to Highland Council.

Strathspey Railway Company (SRC) and Rails to Grantown

4 Arising from the consideration at the last Board (8 December 2015) at item 2, on the Strathspey Railway Company (SRC), the Chairman (David Fraser) of the Strathspey Railway Charitable Trust (SRCT) had submitted a letter to Grantown Initiative, which formed an Annex to the last Minutes.

The SRCT asked Grantown Initiative to –
develop the case for Grantown as a tourist destination;
apply political pressure to the Scottish and UK governments;
focus on the need for SRC/SRCT to have (feet and hands) assistance in 2016.

After discussion, the GI Board enthusiastically endorsed supporting SRC/SRCT in the Rails to Grantown campaign – and agreed to submit representations on behalf of Grantown-on-Spey to the Scottish Government Ministers. The draft text would be prepared by the Company Secretary.

In respect of this item the declaration of interest by David Lyle, as a SRC shareholder, was noted.

Declarations of Interest

5 There were no Interests declared by any Director.

Membership of Grantown Initiative

6 No applications for Membership of Grantown Initiative had been received since the Last Meeting, and there had been one Ordinary Member resignation.

Treasurer's Report

7 Karen Martin, the Treasurer, had submitted the latest Receipts and Payments Report, to end December 2015. The funds available to GI at present showed a healthy amount.

Annual Accounts for 2014/15

8 Relative to the draft G I Accounts for 2014/15, these would be finalised by Karen Martin and then submitted, via Dan Cottam, to the independent examiner, Catherine Williamson - an accountant. Once approved, the Accounts would go to the GI Board in February 2016 before going to the AGM (8 March 2016) and then to Companies House.

Grantown Initiative – Website Report

9 Gavin Fenton had circulated the monthly (end December 2015) report on the website traffic. This had shown a bit more traffic than previously, but it was still not high because as yet the site was not actively being promoted.

Arising from the discussion, the GI Board agreed that Grantown Initiative would renew, for another two years, its licence for the domain name – grantownonline.com

Grantown Post Office

10 Stewart Dick updated the GI Board on the Post Office's proposal to re-locate Grantown Post Office from 5 High Street to 17 High Street (The Wishing Well). This had gone out to public consultation on 8 December 2015.

It was uncertain at this time as to what would happen to the old PO building, if the relocation went ahead.

Correspondence

11 The Board discussed and approved the procedure for dealing with correspondence, including correspondence via the GI website, to Grantown Initiative.

One contact had been from Grantown Twinning Association, who were interested in having some of their members trained and certified for catering. It seemed to the Twinning Association that other organisations in Grantown would also like to have some of their members similarly qualified, and that accordingly Grantown Initiative should act as a co-ordinating body for such. The GI Board were supportive of the proposed training course and would provide contacts for the Twinning Association, and place details on the GI website, but felt unable to be the co-ordinator.

Another contact had been from Grantown Primary School, of which a swimming class had won through to a national competition and wondered if GI might give a small grant (say £50) to enable team swimming caps to be purchased. The GI Board saw it as outside their role to be a grant-giving body, but hoped that some way would be found for somebody to support this worthwhile cause.

GI Projects

12 Relative to the **Grantown Community Website**, Stewart Dick updated the Board on current progress with the invitation for tenders for developing the

www.grantownonline.com website. Additional members were being recruited for the Website Committee. They were still on course to have an advertisement in The Strathy, with a closing date of 19 February 2016.

It was noted that a local graphic designer, Jules Akel, who had designed the website for Laggan, was available to assist with the design of the Grantown website. This was seen by the GI Board as a suitable input to the tendering process, and it would be taken forward

Tourist Map of Grantown

13 Jane Hope, with Janet Hartree, had made good progress with the Tourist Map of the Town, which would provide the locations of the current accommodation providers of Grantown, along with the local eateries, and include a list of the Grantown businesses. The Map would be A3 size and a quote of £600 (1,000 copies) had been received for design and printing. The target for advertisements (at £30 each) had been reached, so it looked as though the project would more than break even. This was a most commendable position, and the Board agreed that all was in place to finalise the print contract.

RBS Grantown Community Calendar 2016 for Grantown

14 The Company Secretary 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 approach 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 was content with the style and content of the draft Calendar and it was suggested that it should be for RBS to publish it – either in paper or digital form, or both, under the RBS logo.

AOCB

Board of Grantown Initiative

15 The Board was alert to two Directors (Gavin Fenton and Katie Fenton) retiring at the forthcoming AGM, and a Member was proposed for co-option to the Board. This would be followed up and the Member would be invited to join the Board.

Grantown 250 Foundation Week

16 Plans for the Grantown 250 Foundation Week (18 to 26 June 2016) were being progressed; and it was agreed that the events / activities involved would come under Grantown Initiative. There would be a Programming Group, and a Marketing Group.

Revack Estate / Former Grantown East Station

17 The GI Board was pleased to note that the Revack Estate had recently received planning permission from the CNPA for a tourist venture, including highland games activities, on the site of the former Grantown East Station, which – although it lay in Inverness-shire and thus outwith Grantown, which was in Morayshire – was within the area of Grantown Initiative.

Highland Games – 200th Anniversary in 2016

18 Basil Dunlop reminded the GI Board of a recent item in The Strathy which pointed to 2016 being the 200th Anniversary of the (modern) Highland Games and that as the Highland Games had started within one of the counties of the GI area it was very appropriate for this anniversary to be marked in some way that would attract interest and tourists. Although 2016 was not the 200th anniversary of Grantown Highland Games it was felt nevertheless that our Highland Games Committee should be approached to encompass marking the 200th anniversary, and this would be done by Melanie Dick.

Speyside Whisky Festival 2016

19 Karen Martin reported that the 2016 Speyside Whisky Festival had plans for a number of events in Grantown – 28 to 30 April; and the GI Board indicated their support for these events and was pleased to encourage other organisations, like Grantown Museum, to involve themselves with the Festival.

Grantown Big Lunch

20 An event being progressed for 2016 for Woodside Avenue in Grantown was the Grantown Big Lunch, scheduled for the last week-end of May, and Karen Martin wondered if this event might this year become a Grantown event for the whole town.

The GI Board was hesitant to take on the organisation of the Grantown Big Lunch and accordingly Karen Martin did not seek to pursue the matter.

Next Board

The next Board would be on Tuesday 9 February 2016.

David Lyle, Company Secretary