



## **Grantown Initiative - Board Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 10 May 2016 –  
House, Grantown-on-Spey**

**at Town**

Present: **Directors** – Dan Cottam (in the Chair), Melanie Dick, Stewart Dick, , Jane Hope, Karen Martin, Bill Sadler

**Advisers** - Karen Derrick, VABS

Apologies: **Directors** – Basil Dunlop, Isla Game, **Advisers** – Jaci Douglas (Councillor), David Lyle, Company Secretary

### **Welcome / Directors**

**1** The Chair welcomed all to the Meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

**2** There were no Interests declared by any Director.

### **Membership of Grantown Initiative**

**3** One application for Ordinary Membership of Grantown Initiative had been received since the Last Meeting, from Brigitte Vallance this was approved.

### **Grantown Business Association**

**4** At the last Board Meeting (March 2016) Stewart Dick had raised the matter of Grantown Initiative working more closely with Grantown Business Association, and he had tabled a paper setting out one way by which the two important Grantown organisations (GI and GBA) might join forces for the benefit of Grantown. The Board had been very supportive of the concept of a closer union and it had been settled that the paper should go forward to Grantown Business Association to allow GBA to consider the matter.

It was now reported by Stewart Dick that the proposal which was prepared in concert with Neil Martin (GBA Chair) and Stewart Dick and had been considered by the committee who gave it their assent and agreed to present it to GBA membership for their consideration.

It was reported that there was much discussion at the AGM surrounding the proposal which had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Much of this discussion related to the content of the “how it could work” section of the proposal. The key question being asked related to funds currently held by The GBA, which, it was explained, would be transferred to the bank account of the GI and that they would be ring fenced for use by the Business Association Subcommittee. There was further discussion about the pros and cons of the merger and it was felt that the merger would offer significant advantages in terms of manpower, cost savings and representation. It was also explained that the proposal represented the broad strokes of the merger and that there would be further discussion to work out the finer points of the process. Following the discussion, all members present voted for the proposal to move forward.

It is the intention of the GI that a new subcommittee will be formed to finalise the details of the the merger. It is expected that the merger will take place sometime during the autumn/winter after the major events of the year, including Thunder in the Glens are passed.

### **Grantown Town Centre – Pilot Project**

**5** Relative to the Town Centre Pilot Project, it had been noted at the last Board (March 2016) that all the responses received would be taken into account by the CNPA (Cairngorms National Park Authority) and VABS (Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey) in developing the final version of the Town Centre Plan.

The final version (April 2016) of the Pilot Project had now been published – and it would be a major part of the Grantown Forward – The Master Plan.

### **Grantown Forward – The Master Plan**

**6** Jane Hope reported on the latest developments for the Master Plan for Grantown, following the Briefing Meeting held with the consultant, Ian Clark of Iconic Consulting, at Grantown on 12 April 2016. Ian Clark has been in contact with various groups whom he was unable to speak to during his visit to Grantown. The project as a whole is moving forward and Ian has found several potential avenues for funding including the Heritage Lottery fund and CARS scheme. He has been looking in particular at the built heritage as an avenue for funding applications. There is also potential for funding from the new Vattenfal windfarm which has the potential to generate significant revenue for the area through community buy in. There will be a workshop on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June for key stakeholders.

It was reported that Ian Clark believed the Rails to Grantown is the biggest potential boost to the high street and likely the only way to significantly boost high street business. Rails to Grantown was said to be of the opinion that there is not business case for the Strathspey Railway to undertake the project and that it required substantial support from Grantown and Grantownians. It was felt by the board that whilst there would obviously be a huge advantage and boost in visitor numbers to Grantown, there would also be a boost to visitor numbers to Aviemore. It was suggested that the GI should approach our counterparts in Aviemore for support.

## **Grantown Community Website**

7 Stewart Dick reported on latest position with 3<sup>rd</sup> Pixel, the web development company awarded the contract for the development of the Community Website for Grantown. He explained that the subcommittee were currently waiting on the next stage of the project from the designer which was expected to ready by early June. It is expected that 3<sup>rd</sup> Pixel will provide a design proposal at this point. Stewart informed the board that once there was a design which the subcommittee was happy with, it would be submitted to the board for final approval.

## **Tourist / Town Map of Grantown**

8 Jane Hope was pleased to report that the Grantown Town Map had now been produced and she presented the finalised version from the printer, Ian Grover. This was considered very fine. The publication, with a print run of 11,000 had attracted local advertising and in that respect the publication was self-financing. The final printed versions were reported to be available from the Grantown Museum and were there for both visitors to pickup and for businesses to collect.

It was explained that there was likely to be a review of the information out of season and a second run printed ahead of the 2017 season. Due to the way it was created, the map and the information within can be easily edited and updated.

## **Treasurer's Report**

9 Karen Martin, the Treasurer, had submitted the latest Receipts and Payments Report, to end April 2016, and this was noted. Karen had updated the accounts to make it cleared what funds were free and what were ring fenced. This was appreciated by the board.

## **Grantown 250 Foundation Week – Update**

10 Bill Sadler appraised the Board with the latest position on the events and activities of the Grantown 250 Foundation Week (19 to 26 June 2016), with particular regard to the outcome of the 250 Foundation Group Meeting on 12 April 2016.

He explained that there were a number of events and features now moving forward. The costume group is up and running, the Fiddle Competition has received national press and the Photo competition was up and running. Bill also explained that the programme of events was taking shape and there had now been a new information board installed beside the Regality Cross. There is also now sponsorship in place to create a flag with the town crest.

It was also highlighted to the board that significant funding was still required with £1,000 required for marketing alone. The co-op had agreed to fund the marquee which would be in place from the Wednesday until the Monday.

## **Grantown Initiative – Website Report**

**11** The monthly (April 2016) report on the website traffic had been circulated and this was noted.

## **GI Projects**

**12** Relative to the **Grantown Times**, it was reported by Stewart Dick that the next (fifth) edition (Summer 2016) would be published in June.

There was a question raised about the money collected in the C-Op for the Mossie play park renovations. It was established that this money had been collected by the Co-Op themselves without prompting from any party involved. It was agreed that this would be investigated.

The Cemetery wall project was raised by Stewart Dick at the request of Janet Flannery. It was reported that this project had been specifically flagged to Ian Clark and it was being included in the Master plan.

## **Dulnain Bridge – Speyside / Heather Centre**

**13** There had been a major fire at the Heather Centre on 29 April 2016, with much damage to the building, and members wondered how best support from and by the local community – both Dulnain Bridge (which had its own Community Council) and Grantown (which likewise had its own Community Council) could be taken forward.

The Lambie's had previously been contacted by Karen Martin and Lyn Boden to offer support. Karen had also supplied a list of available job vacancies in the town for out of work staff. It was reported that a stock of tea towels was being sold around the town to help raise funds and that there was to be a sale of all outdoor stock on the site.

It was highlighted that whilst the shop is out of action, the Landscaping and Garden maintenance business is still running.

The board concluded that whilst it could offer moral support to the Lambie's there was nothing tangible that we could offer in terms of support at this point. It was agreed the Karen Martin would attend the next meeting of the Dulnain Bridge Community Council and would offer the support of the GI in any way we could.

## **AOCB**

Jane Hope highlighted the fact that a section of the Dava way was currently being re-laid and resurfaced. This was received positively by all in attendance.

The board would also like to extend its congratulations to Gordon and Carol Bulloch of The Dulaig who had recently won best B&B award from the AA. Additionally, the Bookmark had been shortlisted for best independent bookseller.

**14**

## **Next Board**

The next Board would be on Tuesday 14 June 2016.

**Minutes Secretary (Interim)**