



Grantown Initiative

Iomairt Bhaile nan Granndach

Grantown Initiative - Board Meeting

Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday 13 February 2018 at The Court House, Grantown on Spey at 7.30pm

	Item	Action Points
1,2	<p>Welcome /Apologies</p> <p>Present: Directors – Stewart Dick (in chair),Mel Dick, Neil Martin, David Duncan, Jane Hope, Basil Dunlop, Bill Sadler Advisors- Karen Derrick</p> <p>Apologies: Tom Clark, Dan Cottam, Bill Sadler,Isla Game</p>	
3	<p>Approval of previous minutes</p> <p>Minutes of Dec 2017 approved. (Meeting of 9 January 2018 cancelled). Proposed – NM Seconded –BD</p>	
4	<p>Matters arising from Minutes (not otherwise on agenda)</p> <p>(AOCB): Gordon Strang had been invited along to the January GI meeting; however the meeting had been cancelled, and a revised approach was now that there would be a single meeting with the Minister on Thursday 1 March 2.00pm for all those groups with an interest. Several GI Directors expressed an interest in attending.</p> <p>Hogmanay: Had been a success. Buckets had collected very well on the night and bar had made good profits. Projected figure in bank for end of March was £6k (comparing very well with equivalent the previous year). However, the public message remained the same: we need to do more to keep the Hogmanay event sustainable by looking for corporate sponsorship etc.</p> <p>The terms of reference bringing the Hogmanay Committee under the auspices of GI to be recirculated by SD around GI Directors and NM to circulate to existing Hogmanay Committee; March meeting of GI will formally adopt.</p> <p>BS noted that several trees in the square are dead and will need to be removed – this may have implications for the PA system at Hogmanay. GVCC has the matter in hand.</p>	SD,NM
5	<p>Declarations of Interest</p>	

	BD – Director of SCRT	
6	Membership None to report.	
7	Rails to Grantown (R2G) BD reported. SD is being invited onto the board as a coopted member. More Directors are needed – particularly useful would be people with legal, fund-raising or publicity experience. A Chair is also needed who would be able to engage with Government and potential backers. A further delay in progress with the TAWS order seems likely with the resignation of David Fraser expected at the AGM on 24 March. TAWS order will not be completed by then. Added to this, Transport Scotland are asking for additional information about land ownership. A pressing question remains the matter of finding the resources to run the trains once the extension to Grantown has been completed – the current SRC is already stretched providing the current level of services. Various consultants have been used during 2017 to help support the TAWS, with the result that the company made a £17.5k loss in that year – while some cash reserves remain, the company will not be able to stand another year's losses on this scale. There will be a model railway exhibition in the Grant Arms 4-8 April, incorporating promotion of the R2G.	
8	CARS (Conservation Regeneration Scheme) BS reported. The draft Conservation Area Report (prepared by consultant) will be finalised at a steering group meeting on 27 April, and then formally submitted to Highland Council; they will in due course prepare a response (which should include consideration of the Conservation Area boundaries). After an appropriate consultation period, this response will be considered by the full Council. In due course, if changes are to be made, GI will need to secure suitable funding. The Directors congratulated BS for his work in taking this project forward.	
9	Grantown Community Website No particular developments – continues to tick along.	
10,11	Tourism /Marketing/ GBA No progress to report – effort all directed to Hogmanay since last meeting. DD reported on a Wildlife Book Festival being held in Grant Arms over Easter (in conjunction with Marjorie of Bookmark). 13 authors expected over three days, with talks open to visitors.	
12	GVCC Joint meeting between GI and GVCC to be immediately following GI AGM on 13 March.	
13	GI Projects	

	<p>Community Storage: KD to investigate possibility of BT building car park as a site for a storage container.</p> <p>Cemetery Wall: SD to investigate further a report from TC that a generous benefactor had offered to fund the cemetery wall.</p>	
14	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Following on from the ICONIC report, the time was ripe for the GI to state that its long term aspiration was pulling all projects and ideas together into a community development plan, as a basis for funding. Include on agenda for meeting with GVCC.</p> <p>SCIO: Karen Derrick had drafted and circulated a new SCIO constitution for the GI. Among other things, this would allow the GI to seek Charitable funding, and to claim gift aid on donations. All at the meeting thanked KD for her work, and agreed it should be brought to the AGM as a resolution for adoption.</p> <p>Grantown Times: March edition will be the last one – current editorial team (Katie Fenton and Naomi Miles) have done an excellent job, but no longer have the time. Unless people step forward to take on the task, the newspaper will fold.</p> <p>A further complaint had been received from a previous complainant – the GI Board considered that the recent letter contained raised no new or relevant issues.</p> <p>BS provided an update on Scottish Town Partnership (see appendix 1).</p>	
	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 13 March, immediately before the AGM at 7.00 pm.</p>	

List of Action Points C/F from Previous Meetings

Date	Item	Discharged
17/10	Mossie Play Park- MD and DC to meet to progress.	
17/10	Money from Harleys event to be identified and ring fenced for the Tourism Sub Committee. (MD)	

Jane Hope
14/2/2018

Scotland's Towns Partnership- Maximising Tourism Opportunities in Towns

Wednesday 7th February Murrayfield Edinburgh.

Background

STP has a record of running very informative and useful events, some of which I have previously attended.

Furthermore, last August the Grantown Society applied to STP for an award from the Scottish Government's Digital Towns Pilot programme. The application was for assistance to create a tourist app which would link with the Grantown street parade website and provide instant information on the buildings and the businesses. It also would provide a form of local credit card.

Whilst The Society was awarded no funding in November it was promised one day's consultancy to assist development of the programme. Unfortunately at the same time The Highland Council announced that Grantown was not one of the fourteen sites destined to get public WiFi. In fact the consultancy has shrunk to a place at a conference in Perth on February 20th. The opportunity is now being taken to lobby both politicians and officials to include Grantown in the WiFi rollout.

In response to my request for the opportunity to attend under the Highland Council membership of STP, I eventually got the answer that this would not be possible although on this one occasion it would be allowed. By this time I had taken out a personal membership of STP.

The Edinburgh STP Event

Largely this was attended by paid professionals though at least one other Community Councilor was present.

Topics included welcome from STP and Visit Scotland, whose interest it is clear lies in supporting major events and for this year they include activities related to the Year of Young People.

There was a presentation on the VisitScotland Growth Fund for marketing and again this is designed for larger organisations and requires a bid for at least £10k of which half must come from industry. Grantown could do well to spearhead an application from a "Visit Strathspey" organization including communities from both Highland and Moray.

One other presentation covered inclusive tourism which is very relevant to this area: disabled, seniors, families and children. One third of day visits are by over 65s and it is this day visit market that the Grantown Initiative is planning to target. There were also other presentations and round table discussions. One was about applying for BID funding though again our community is too small. The Development Trust approach was recommended.

As is so often the case it was quite obvious that small towns not on main routes or railways, not in strong tourist bodies, not in the Central Belt and not designated as "honey pots" are disadvantaged. This in a way is something which could be turned around to Strathspey's advantage. For example roads less travelled!

Bill Sadler February 2018