

## Minute of AEF Meeting – Wednesday 10 August 2011

**1. Attendees:** Brian Martin (Secretary), Ron Reid (Treasurer) Nick Orpwood, Colin Stirling, Sue Edwards, Griselda McGregor, Mavis Wainman, Brian Turnbull, Monica Turnbull, George Niblock, Karen McKenzie, Hazel McLaren (Aberdeenshire Council, Mar Area CPO), Colin Stirling

Apologies: Brian Evans (Convenor), Jackie Cumberbirch (Vice Convenor), Douglas Gooday, Genevieve Jones, Linda Mathieson (Aberdeenshire Council Officer), Kevin Michie, Bill Rawles, Kath Hamper, Mary Scott, and Thomas Tait. Brian Martin welcomed all those present and mutual introductions were made.

**2. Minute of previous meeting and Matters arising**– For new attendees, Griselda provided information on Green Diary and made the point that the workload and consequent cost of collecting, collating and editing information had been a significant factor and would still be required even for an electronic version. Also, George provided a condensed history of the Forum and relationships with Aberdeenshire Council. Minute Accepted.

**3. Treasurer Report:** Treasurer's Report — 10th August '11

Current Balances (proposed)	Current A/c	Savings A/c	Totals
General Fund	£ 398.49	£ 15,145.95	£ 15,544.44
Ali Project	£ 63.94	£ 1,050.78	£ 1,114.72
General Landfill Projects	£ 2.18	£0.00	£ 2.18
Total	£ 464.61	£ 16,196.73	£ 16,661.34

'High Interest' Account Total £ 16,196.73 allocated against other accounts *pro rum* though this now does not hold any LTC funds.

### Transactions since last report excluding interest payments on General Current Accounts

Effectively no transactions, though, as I have had some difficulties in communicating with Bank of Scotland after they reduced the interest rate on our current account from a miserly 0.11% to a derisory 0.02%, I propose moving a further £3,900 to our higher interest account (currently attracting 1.0%) with Scottish Widows. £3,500 from the general fund and £400 from Ali.

I feel secure in doing this as since April 2010 till present, we have only spent £ 175.97 except for the Natural Energy show for which we shall have no financial responsibility this year.

The Scottish Widows funds are accessible within a week if necessary.

Colin asked if the Forum could consider contributing to funding of a Composting toilet at Pitcaple (Estimated at £ 6 to 6.5 K)

**4. Convenor Report** - In absence of the Convenor, no report presented.

### 5. Working Groups

Housing group had not had a meeting – No report.

Waste Group had met and agreed that the group should continue particularly in view of the Zero Waste policy being developed at behest of the Scottish Government. Zero Waste will replace the Master Composter program and Karen advised that Aberdeenshire Council are supporting school composting as part of that initiative, some housing developers are also reported to be supportive to some degree. Amanda Ingram is the lead Council Officer on this front. Measures to link school gardens with local gardeners and communities are being encouraged (already established, particularly in rural Primaries). It was noted that Aberdeenshire Council agreement with SITA effectively releases and Land Fill Tax elements from local influence and consequently that contribution is potentially diverted nationwide. George advised that he has a 'Beginners Guide' to Land Fill Tax operation.

**6. AOCB** – Official opening of Heritage Garden at Pitcaple Saturday 3 September 1030, general preference that we should, where possible, attend on that date..

Discussion on insulation – information on file re 'Perlite' to be circulated.

Natural Energy Saturday 8 October– do we want a stand there – consensus 'No'

Meeting/discussion/visit program for next year – ideas, publicity plan, and venues needed for next meeting.

Suggested visit to Hydrogen project at Methil, George advised that he had visited and had some information but felt that, as it stands at present, an arranged visit would be unjustified.

Suggested, and supported in principle, that Douglas Milne, new Area Manager for Garioch, should be invited to a future meeting. It was noted that we should be very clear in what the Forum wanted to gain from such a meeting. There being no other business, Brian Martin thanked all attendees and the meeting closed.

Ron provided copies of 'Energetica' presentation and notes, being circulated with this Minute..

**Date of Next Meeting – 12 October – Subsequent Meetings 9 November (AGM?) – 14 December 2012 – 8 February**

Brian Martin – Minute Secretary