

Minute of AEF Meeting – Wednesday 12 October 2011

1. Attendees: Brian Evans (Convenor), Jackie Cumberbirch (Vice Convenor) Brian Martin (Secretary), Ron Reid (Treasurer), Colin Stirling, Chris Edwards, Mavis Wainman, Brian Turnbull, Monica Turnbull, Emma Self

Apologies: Mary Scott, Kath Hamper, George Niblock, Nick Orpwood

2. Minute of previous meeting and Matters arising– Brian Evans asked if the Waste Group had decided on any specific interest or programme. This had not been discussed at the June meeting. Minute Accepted.

3. Treasurer Report:

11 October 2011

Current Balances (proposed)	Current A/c	Savings A/c	Totals
General Fund	£298.49	£14,745.95	£15,044.44
Ali Project	£63.94	£1,050.78	£1,114.72
General Landfill Projects	£2.18	£0.00	£2.18
Total	£364.61	£15,796.73	£16,161.34

'High Interest' Account Total £15,796.73 allocated against other accounts approx. *pro rata* though this now does not hold any LTC funds.

Transactions since last report excluding interest payments on General Current Accounts

Buchan Countryside Group (Kath Hamper) for website revamp £500.00
(£400 withdrawn from 'savings' account to help cover this expenditure)

Annual auditing of our books has to date been done on a grace and favour basis — I seek authority to provide a gift to our auditor (Alan Jardine). This gesture was approved.

4. Convenor Report :Presented by Brian Evans

Upgraded web site now operational and generally considered to be on improvement – Kath is happy to update existing and new information as and when desired but is wholly reliant on input from working groups et al. Where enquiries come in via website there is a need for officers to establish a regular routine, perhaps weekly, to ensure a reasonably prompt response.

Some discussion ensued: Genevieve suggested that there should be an indication that a response could be delayed due to the voluntary nature of the organisation.

Items of general or specific environmental interest could be posted.

Colin would be happy if mutual links between PEP and the AEF web site were established.

Variations in VAT on building works, Genevieve agreed to provide a breakdown for the web site.

Monica offered to provide any assistance required to assist in further development of the web site.

Natural Energy Event – Some 450 attendees were reported. Pre-publicity seemed to be lacking. From feedback. Vendors were apparently happy with the level of interest received. (Attendees more informed with more 'serious' enquiries.) Brian advised that he should be able to participate in developing the show next year.

Mon 21 November – BERI all day event on 'Hard to Insulate Houses' at Woodend Barn, Banchory

5. Working Groups

No working group reports were presented.

Colin advised that PEP had received funding for a composting toilet but were seeking funding to construct a 40 foot square log cabin with a sedum roof. Estimated cost was about £ 4,500 and the Forum was asked to consider whether it would be prepared to provide some funding towards the project. The proposition was discussed at some length, the debate covered the pros and cons of the proposed roofing and water collection and eventually led to asking how the Forum should put to best environmental use, such funds as it has available. No decision was reached on funding this particular proposal and the Convenor agreed to consider funding options and discuss his thoughts with Officers prior to presenting a proposal at the next ordinary meeting. Given that Genevieve has significant knowledge of this type of building it was suggested that she could provide some advice on suitable vendors/advisors to PEP.

6. AOCB – Time being limited AOCB was limited to suggestions for Events during 2012:
Millenium arboretum at Aden Country Park
Straw house at Drumblade (Jonny Barton?)
Green roofs in Aberdeenshire.
SEPA Representative – Storage and use of road shavings in Aberdeenshire.
Stoneywood Paper Mill – Water handling and processing.
Haddo Sawmill and Archimedean Screw generator.
Birse – Bucket Mill.
PEP

There being no other business, Brian Evans thanked all attendees and the meeting closed.

Date of Next Meeting – 9 November (AGM?) – 14 December

2012 – 8 February – 11 April – 13 June – 8 August – 10 October – 14 November (AGM?) – 12 December

Brian Martin – Minute Secretary