

Minute of AEF Meeting – Wednesday 14 December 2011

1. Attendees: Brian Evans (Convenor), Jackie Cumberbirch (Vice Convenor) Brian Martin (Secretary), Ron Reid (Treasurer), Colin Stirling, George Niblock, Nick Orpwood, Brian Turnbull, Griselda McGregor.

2. Apologies: Mary Scott, Kath Hamper, KarenMcKenzie, Mavis Wainman, Monica Turnbull, Emma Selfe

2. Minute of previous meeting and Matters arising– Subject to inclusion of Genevieve Jones among attendees at that meeting, Minute accepted.

Brian Evans had attended seminar on hard to insulate homes, notes taken being edited into a report. No formal invitation to attend AGM had been sent to Council Officials, he suggested that it would be appropriate to extend a formal invitation to recently appointed senior officers within Garioch plus Councillors Davidson and MacRae to discuss matters of common interest, at a mutually convenient meeting preferably sooner rather than later. The proposal was agreed. During discussion it was noted that, while the 'Zero Waste Initiative' presented by the Edinburgh Government is commonly referred to as a plan, it is actually aspirational.

3. Treasurer Report: 14 December 2011

Current Balances	Current A/c	Savings A/c	Totals
General Fund	£248.49	£14,745.95	£14,994.44
Ali Project	£ 63.94	£ 1,050.78	£ 1,114.72
General Landfill Projects	£ 2.18	£ 0.00	£ 2.18
Total	£314.61	£15,796.73	£16,111.34

'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 (11 October 2011) excluding interest payments on General Current Accounts

Auditor's fee - £25 to Alan Jardine

AGM Expenses - £25 to the Pitcaple Project

4. Convenor Report : Presented by Brian Evans

Brian thanked Colin for providing facilities at Pitscurry for the AGM. Overall the event went well with awards being presented by Cllr Martin Ford to five candidates, each providing their unique presentation on their project. Forum officers had a meeting to discuss options on practical use of funds available.

Natural Energy 2012 - possibly being brought forward, Brian indicated that, on a personal level and also to the long term benefit of the Forum, it was desirable that the links to/with that event should be maintained.

Some concerns regarding limited feedback obtained from visitors ((just over 1%).

Jackie Expressed concern that the wider picture was not being covered but Nick believed that the presentations given by the Energy Saving Trust largely achieved that. Brian T suggested either Time Tabled (and advertised) presentations or continuous loop/s system might assist. Agreed that Forum should be involved in discussions about mid year.

Report on the BERI Hard to Insulate homes being prepared for issue (date undetermined).

Disbursement of Funds – Officers proposal discussed – Desire to provide 'Start Up' to be arranged or 'See to Completion' funding for groups or individuals (probably not including commercial Companies). Maximum Awards £ 500 with option to offer lower sums where appropriate. Criteria based on existing 'Green Butterfly' categories. Ideally applications accepted January/February, visits and presentations to assessment panel to be arranged with a view to making awards by late March/early April. Application forms to be based on existing, appropriately amended, Green Butterfly applications, Brian T agreed to act as focal point with ability to seek assistance/advice if needed from other Forum members. It was accepted that given preparation time plus the 'mechanics' of arranging visits etc. it would be challenging to achieve the schedule for 2012 but every effort should be made to do so as, whatever is planned, reality is the best teacher.

5. Working Groups

No working group reports were presented.

Waste Group – Ali ticking over but needs to recruit new blood. Awaiting clarification of the Zero waste Regulations.

Housing Group and Wildlife Group – No meetings – Perhaps should consider termination.

6. AOCB – Events during 2012:

Jackie agreed to co-ordinate and present events programme for consideration.

Nick advised that he had received a suggestion that the Forum might wish to participate in a visit (by invitation) to the Trump Menie Project, it was agreed that, if invited, representatives would accept with an open mind.

Strategic – Aberdeen City and Shire Main Issues Report – responses required by 6 January.

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

**Date of Next Meeting – 2012 – 8 February – 11 April – 13 June – 8 August – 10 October – 14 November
(AGM?) – 12 December**

Brian Martin – Minute Secretary