

**PARTNERS' MEETING - MARR AREA PARTNERSHIP – MINUTES (DRAFT)**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> March, Alford Academy**

<u>Present</u>	Action & by whom
<p>John Lewis                      Chair, MAP; Donside Community Council            Jean Henretty                Vice Chair, Banchory Community Council            Cllr Rosemary Bruce        Aberdeenshire Council            Donald Boyd                  Huntly Development Trust            Natalie Hutcheson         CLD, Aberdeenshire Council            Nigel Healey                 Cromar Community Council            George Wordie                Strathbogie Community Council            Patricia Fraser               Crathie Community            Nick Maddall                 Deeside Donside Development Project</p>	
<u>In Attendance</u>	
<p>Mike Powell                    Development Officer, Marr Area Partnership            Lizzy Shepherd                Development Officer, Marr Area Partnership            Natasha Pawlukiewicz       Development Officer, Marr Area Partnership</p>	
<p><b>1. Welcome:</b> John Lewis welcomed those present.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies</b>            Les Allan                      Aberdeenshire Council            Hilda Lumsden Gill         Huntly Community Council</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:</b> Approved with changes.</p>	
<p><b>4. Matters Arising from Minutes:</b> Donald has not received clarification from HDT Board about becoming a Director of MAP.</p>	
<p><b>5. Development of MAP as a Company Limited by Guarantee:</b></p> <p>Mike outlined that approval had been obtained from OSCR and registration with Companies House has been completed. OSCR still need some paperwork to be sent. The company will commence operation from 1<sup>st</sup> April and it was agreed, in accordance with the resolution passed at the last AGM that all assets and liabilities, including staff, of the current organisation would transfer over to the new company on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Mike and John have progressed arrangements for the bank account to be changed. The accountant will need to do the accounts in a different format and the Directors will be required to provide an annual return to Companies House. Donald asked whether the new company will need to register for VAT.</p>	<p>Mike to clarify VAT status</p>
<p>A discussion of management of the organisation, role of directors, frequency/ content of meetings was held. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• having a sub-committee to decide on IGS applications and reduce timings of MAP Board meetings – no decision made</li> <li>• development of business plan to direct future priorities/activities –</li> </ul>	

<p>SLA's and Annual report for CED currently fulfil this requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• putting MAP forward for possible HMIE inspection at Aboyne – MAP happy to be put forward</li> <li>• social accounting could be a good way of showing what MAP is achieving and may be required for potential future grant applications – this could be investigated further</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Initiative Grant Scheme (IGS):</b> Mike presented a summary of grants awarded and funds available (£8, 500). New Grant Applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens Advice Bureau Westhill and District. – funds sought to establish CAB in Alford.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. MAP Finance update:</b></p> <p>Mike said that he expects MAP to have a small surplus in the current year but there is likely to be an initial deficit next year following decisions of Aberdeenshire Council on allocations to rural partnerships.</p> <p><b>8. Partners' Updates on Community Issues:</b></p> <p><b>John Lewis, Donside CC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parks committee has been established in Alford to plan development of facilities in parks and possible management options</li> <li>• Looking for local expertise to investigate possible community ownership of caravan park</li> </ul> <p><b>Donald Boyd, Huntly Development Trust</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HDT assisting School Sports Scotland to develop potential business plan for Nordic Outdoor Centre to allow it to remain functioning in the short term. Scottish Cycling investigating possible use as cycling centre.</li> <li>• Ran successful workshop looking at social needs of Huntly over a 3-5 yr timescale</li> <li>• Income generation projects ie. renewable energy projects are progressing</li> <li>• Swimming pool in Huntly now open</li> </ul> <p><b>Nigel Healey, Cromar Community Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation report on proposed closure of Logie Coldstone School recently issued</li> <li>• MacRobert Hall renovation project received £50k from Aberdeenshire Council</li> <li>• Tarland to Aboyne cycle path received £80k from Climate Challenge Fund</li> <li>• Compost group have failed to get further funding from Aberdeenshire Council</li> <li>• Tarland Have Your Say – 2 event to be held, focussing on development of business units and creation of employment opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Patricia Fraser, Crathie Community</b></p>	<p>Donald to send details of HDT social accounting process</p> <p>Agreed</p>
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- Serious problems experienced with mobile phone reception and increase in petrol prices
- Braemar Castle opening on 1<sup>st</sup> April with many events planned over season
- Concerns that recently closed shop will be sold by estate, but Community Council not prepared to support community ownership scheme
- National Park notice board erected in Crathie
- Community ceilidh on 9<sup>th</sup> April

**Natalie Hutcheson, CLD**

- Marr Youth Action Plan consultation planned for May and Youth Forum will be involved with dissemination of results
- Early years forum established focussing on family learning and will be running various events

**Nick Mardall, Deeside Donside Development Project**

- Broadband funding applications with LEADER likely to be unsuccessful
- Successful event held in Crathie to explore local business initiatives and support, another planned for Donside in April
- Hydro scheme in Braemar received provisional approval from SEPA
- Master planning event to be held in Braemar
- V&A Halls in Ballater to become Trust to assist in fundraising
- Glenbuchat Hall have decided on future development plans and now seeking funding

**Jean Henretty, Banchory Community Council**

- Concerns expressed about effect of Tesco on Banchory high street, three shops closed. Possible use of planning gain money to investigate this further and forum planned in May to involve local groups and businesses in discussion
- Tidy up day in Banchory to clear up river bank, involving local fishermen and young people
- BERI received additional funding from Climate Challenge Fund

**George Wordie, Strathbogie Community Council**

- Police presence at Community Council meetings very beneficial. Concerns expressed that plans for single police force will affect local policing negatively

**Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Aberdeenshire Council**

- Aberdeenshire budget passed.
- Police have reported low crime rates. New speed limits have been implemented.
- Lumphanan Community Council has new members and is functioning.
- Torphins is progressing with its Community Action Plan and will be running survey about recycling bins.

**9. Proposed revision of web site and draft leaflet: Comments on style**

were made about leaflet. Natasha presented plans for the new web site

**10. Development Officers Report – Noted.**

**11. AOCB:** Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Working to establish Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) Network - John distributed the paper and explained the proposed role of the AVA Network, to facilitate community and voluntary sector support organisations to work effectively. Members were asked to contact Mike with any queries on the paper and to indicate their support, or otherwise, for MAP becoming part of the Network

All – by 30<sup>th</sup>  
April

**Date of future meetings:**

Next meeting is Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm, Alford Academy

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