

**PARTNERS' MEETING - MARR AREA PARTNERSHIP – MINUTES**  
**25th May, 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            Les Allan                        Aberdeenshire Council            George Wordie                Strathbogie Community Council            Patricia Fraser                Crathie Community            Nick Mardall                  Deeside Donside Development Project</p>	
<u>In Attendance</u>	
<p>Mike Powell                      Development Officer, Marr Area Partnership            Lizzy Shepherd                Development Officer, Marr Area Partnership</p>	
<p><b>1. Welcome:</b> John Lewis welcomed those present.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies</b></p>	
<p>Nigel Healey                    Cromar Community Council            Donald Boyd                    Huntly Development Trust            Nicola Kenyon                  CLD, Aberdeenshire Council</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:</b> Approved with changes.</p>	
<p><b>4. Matters Arising from Minutes:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike confirmed that MAP does not need to be VAT registered and based on cashbook MAP was in surplus for 2010-2011.</li> <li>• AVA Memorandum of Understanding of Joint Working – agreed, having been tabled at the last meeting. Les will forward to Marr Area committee and Scrutiny and Audit Committee for information.</li> </ul>	<p>Les to forward documents</p>
<p><b>5. Development of MAP as a Company Limited by Guarantee:</b></p>	
<p>Mike gave an update on progress. Bank account has been changed but John needs to ensure, as agreed with the bank, that bank charges will not be applied. The accountant is confirming whether MAP needs to pay corporation tax and will need to synchronize accounting process to the end of the financial year. OSCR will wind up the old organisation when end of year accounts are produced.</p>	<p>John to check on bank charges</p>
<p><b>6. Development of MAP and the role of directors:</b> No queries raised</p>	
<p><b>7. Initiative Grant Scheme (IGS):</b> Mike presented a summary of grants awarded and funds uncommitted up to the end of the financial year (£8,008). An additional £8,500 has been received from the Marr Area Committee. New Grant Applications:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Orienteering Championships 2012 – £1000 grant for promotion of event</li> <li>• Alford Farmers' Market Mural - £470 grant for artists fees and material approved subject to clarification on planning consents and whether the mural can be removed during renovation works.</li> </ul> <p><b>8. MAP Finance update:</b></p> <p>Mike presented Planned Budget for Income and Expenditure 2011 – 2012. Only line change is increase in £400 for accounts/insurance/payroll. Marr Area Committee confirmed reduction in 2011-2012 funding of £3000 for MAP but this has been partially offset by £2000 fee for Public Entertainment Licence conditions review project. Les confirmed that funding may be reduced further in future. Group agreed that budget does not need to include contingency but any possible overspends should be flagged up early. In view of staff salaries not having been increased since 2008 Mike and Lizzy were asked to leave the meeting. In their absence members agreed to increase staff salaries by 3% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council want MAP support to focus on supporting communities to take on services but this will be in response to requests from communities. 2011-2012 IGS grants should also be used to support such projects where possible.</p> <p><b>9. Partners' Updates on Community Issues:</b></p> <p><b>John Lewis, Donside CC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wind farm developer is discussing a site near Alford at the next Community Council meeting, advice will be sought from Prof Bill Slee</li> <li>• Achbuie House planned to be used to house 4 adults with learning disabilities</li> <li>• No one has come forward to lead community ownership of caravan park</li> <li>• International Youth festival being held in Alford in July/Aug</li> <li>• Scout Hut – long lease agreed, to be used for uniformed groups in evening and community facility during the day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Patricia Fraser, Crathie Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious problems with mobile phone reception continue in Glenshee.</li> <li>• Concern about possible closure of Crathie School, Cllr Bruce confirmed that this was part of normal review procedure</li> <li>• Church is holding meeting to discuss community development plans</li> <li>• Community ceilidh on 9<sup>th</sup> April very successful.</li> </ul> <p><b>Les Allan, Marr Area Manager</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of Area Top Up Budget committed</li> <li>• Huntly Flood team got silver employee achievement award</li> </ul>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved subject to clarification</p> <p>John to authorise increase with payroll</p>
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**Nick Mardall, Deeside Donside Development Project**

- Broadband funding being sought from Scottish Government with Broadband UK, consortium with councils in CNP and community representatives.
- Ballater Adult Learning Partnership – proposal to set up learning centre in Ballater with LEADER funding, possible satellite centres in Braemar and Donside
- Hydro scheme in Braemar through to final stage of Community Energy Scotland loan scheme. Community will consult on transparent use of funds emanating from the project.
- Awareness raising event being held in V&A Hall in June/July for various community initiatives
- Glenbuchat Hall have decided on future development plans and now seeking funding

**Jean Henretty, Banchory Community Council**

- BDI working on employability project for young people, being lead by Marion Boland and working with two young volunteers
- BERI Climate Challenge Funds to be used for hall insulation, transport project, bike racks in Banchory and hard to insulate building project.

**George Wordie, Strathbogie Community Council**

- Huntly Development Trust working with local Community Council reps on proposals for community wind turbine, as part of commercial wind development.

**Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Aberdeenshire Council**

- Traffic management consultation for Banchory and Huntly passed by Marr Area Committee (MAC) and soon to be implemented.
- Economic development report to MAC highlighted low levels of unemployment, business awards and help available for businesses.

**10. Development Officers Report:** Noted

**11. AOCB:** None

**Date of future meetings:**

Next meeting is Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm, Alford Academy. Please note that this will replace the July and September meetings.