

Marr Area Partnership

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 22nd September 2012

1. **Welcome** – Jean Henretty, Chair, welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted.
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 24th September 2011** – approval of the minutes was proposed by Eleanor Anderson, seconded by Jane Angus and accepted.
3. **Chair's Report** – Jean referred to the Annual Report which gives the Chair's report in full. Jean noted that this is MAP's first year as an incorporated company, which is giving the organisation less financial liability, and should be a way forward for similar organisations. Jean thanked Les Allen and Belinda Millar and the funding received from Aberdeenshire Council and the CNPA. Mention was made of capacity building i.e. passing on knowledge and skills to others in the community and Jean referred to the example of the refurbished hall in Tarland. There was also mention of the youth work being done locally and that through the Youth Action Plan more and more youngsters are getting involved in this type of work. There was thanks to NES and COAT for use of office space and to the Development Officers for their work.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – Nigel noted that full copies of the accounts were available but a summary was to be found in the Annual Report. The total income has reduced while expenditure has risen (due to a staff pay rise). The surplus has reduced but charities should maintain a backing of 6 months which MAP maintains. The change to a limited company has not made any change to the finances.
5. **Development Officers' Report** - was presented by Mike who said that we provide an annual report every spring relating to our work done through the service level agreement with Aberdeenshire Council. This is monitored by the Community Economic Development team and a report is made to Marr Area Committee.

Mike then took a question on community action plans replying that he is supporting Braemar to develop a plan. He is also helping residents of Kildrummy, Lumsden and Towie to develop an action plan which has come about as a result of wind farm community benefit funds. In response to a question as to how action plans develop, Mike replied that the process has to be owned by the community and that a plan is driven by the energy and enthusiasm of people in the community.

Mike explained that although the list of IGS grants is not in the annual accounts it will go on the website.

Mike gave information about the work he has been doing on the review of the Public Entertainment Licence for community halls which currently has 86 conditions attached to it, and has made recommendations to Aberdeenshire Council that it is simplified.

With regards to project support and advice Mike explained that with reductions in public sector funding there is pressure on groups to find funds, and they must be creative especially as some funds are more restricted. The LEADER rural development programme is coming to an end and so there will be a couple of year's hiatus until new funding streams are put in place. There was then a valuable discussion about funding. It was reiterated that national funding is much easier to acquire if local funding is already promised, and in this respect the IGS is very useful. There are concerns about funding expertise within community groups, and how to develop this specialism. It was felt that there are volunteers with this knowledge, but that groups must build expertise and share experience, as different funders want different things.

Dr. Anderson asked if IGS recipients could explain why their funding was successful on one page. It was suggested that groups should always speak to a person from the funder before applying. Donald Boyd, who with Claudia Zeiske from Deveron Arts, recently ran a funding advice session to groups in Huntly. The community ward forums organised by MAP have done this and been successful.

6. **Elections of directors** – Donald Boyd and Ruth Sim had been co-opted to the MAP Board during the year. As a result they were required to stand down at the AGM but were eligible to be elected, and were prepared to be nominated. Donald was proposed by Jane Angus and seconded by Pat Fraser. Ruth was proposed by George Wordie and seconded by Eleanor Anderson.

Jean reminded everyone that MAP is open to people wishing to join the Board. There can be up to 12 directors, and MAP would like to represent all the areas within Marr, but that at present there are some gaps, particularly in mid-Deeside and Donside. In response to a question regarding further commitment beyond attending meetings (four to six per year, usually in Alford), she explained that there is very little commitment required unless they are undertaking a role on behalf of MAP. They are also needed to represent the needs of their communities on the Board.

7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts** –The services of Alan Howat, Chartered Accountant, were proposed by Eleanor Anderson and seconded by Jean Henretty, and approved.
8. **AOCB** – No other competent business was raised and the meeting closed in order for the Community Gathering to proceed.