

Item Issue

1. Welcome & Apologies

John Chapman, Chairperson of The Garioch Partnership, welcomed all to our EGM and Winter Forum 2018.

Attendees and apologies are listed in Appendix A.

2. Entertainment

Valerie Chapman entertained attendees by singing “Somewhere only we know” and “What a wonderful world.”

3. CIGS Presentation

Dawn presented a cheque to representatives of groups who have received Community Initiative or Resilience Fund Grants so far in 2018/19. The combined total of grants awarded is £4,921.20.

4. EGM 2018

a) Minutes of AGM 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Marion Chapman, seconded by Sue Wainman

b) Matters Arising

(2.d) The Accounts which had not been examined at the time of the 2018 AGM have now been completed and signed off by the accountant. She has now done the accounts for two years and is willing to stay on, which should make the process quicker next year.

The final report has been submitted to, and agreed by, OSCR.

We ended the financial year with a surplus of approximately £10k. We do maintain reserves; having a duty of care to two employees.

We hold funds on behalf of other groups, including those just setting up who have no access to a bank account: TGP act as a holding account on their behalf. We currently have approximately £20k. in funds, held on behalf of groups from Insch, Kintore, Kemnay and Port Elphinstone. Eventually, these funds will be passed to the groups.

John asked that the report be approved; Sue Wainman seconded the proposal.

c) Election of Board Members

After the AGM, unfortunately two board members stood down due to work and time commitments. Kay Diack and Graham Geddes had been with TGP from Day 1; both were on the steering group prior to the Partnership being set up. John gave huge thanks to both of them, for the sterling work. Fortunately, they will both remain members of the Partnership, as representatives of member organisations.

We are on the lookout for new trustees. Two people have indicated that they are interested; one has submitted the application form and the other is pending. John welcomed Fiona Cooper onto the Board. He also pointed out that of the seven board members, he is now the only remaining member of the original

steering group, but added that it is always nice to get fresh blood! He also thanked the staff for their hard work throughout the year.

John also pointed out that the Partnership's Constitution allows us to adopt trustees without an AGM/EGM. If anyone is interested, they can e-mail trustees@gariochpartnership.org.uk and they should receive an auto-email with information on the role and responsibilities of the position, as well as an application form. Formal notification of the Constitution will be made to OSRC now the accounts have been accepted.

d) AOCB

The Partnership had funding from Awards for All for new computer equipment. We have now added Office 365. John wished to highlight that by registering as a charity with TT Exchange, we have been able to get Office 365 for free and he encouraged other groups to look into this. Up to date software and technological equipment allows us to work smarter, not harder! For more information, see <https://www.tt-exchange.org/>.

5. Presentation: Market Place School Community Asset Transfer

The Partnership's request for an asset transfer was rejected by the Garioch Area Committee at the end of August. We have since put in an appeal of that decision. We believe that the information given to the committee at the time was incorrect, with the council costings having been inflated as opposed to our own costings. We also feel that the ethos of the asset transfer scheme has not been followed. The appeal will be reviewed at the end of this month (November) by a different panel.

We feel that we've had a lot of support for our plans, from the business community, community groups, community council etc. and we intend to pursue the asset transfer as far as we can, although we recognise that it may take some time. We will keep you posted, and it will likely be in the press too.

It was commented that residents living near Market Place School are against the idea of a car park, but would welcome a community hub. This was supported from the floor.

When asked what happens if the appeal is rejected, John explained that the next stage would be to appeal to the Scottish Government. We are already preparing for this and have contact with the Community Empowerment Team who support the Minister, Kevin Stewart, and will organise the independent review panel.

John added that our original plans for the asset transfer were submitted before the Council released their Strategic Plan. We could have been in the building over a year ago and now there are concerns arising regarding the potential deterioration of the building. We did offer to take on a short-term lease, paying the business rates for the building but the council refused.

TGP will keep persevering and hopefully will come out with a community hub. Our revenue grant has decreased and the hub would help us to generate income and hopefully allow us to expand our staffing. John said that he is aiming to have 2-3 development workers to cover Garioch. We will pursue this as far as we can.

6. Democracy Matters Conversations

Dawn reported on the Democracy Matters Conversations that she has hosted across Garioch recently. She thanked all who attended and took part. She has compiled their responses into one response document, this will be distributed via e-mail to all who asked for a copy.

The key points raised across the conversations included space, services, bus routes and broadband, so no real surprises. What was clear is that people in our local area feel that democracy matters.

7. Updates from local groups

For the Love of Garioch

This group of volunteers have been carrying out a variety of tasks, including doing people's gardens; helping people move house; visiting people and organising entertainment. The aim is to target those who are lonely

and may not be able to get out.

They are currently organising their Christmas event: a community lunch, with an open invitation for anyone who is lonely or hard up to come down for Christmas lunch. Having had 25 people at an event organised last year, with the help of a local church; this year they are expanding and expecting around 80 people to attend.

Food has been donated; the Town Hall is being provided free of charge by the council as a venue, and Premier Coaches have offered to provide transport on the day. Now they are trying to spread the word far and wide, and they are hoping that TGP member groups will help. If you would like more information or are able to help in any way, please contact them at loveofgarioch@gmail.com.

Following the Christmas Lunch, once they have an idea of who is out there, they may hope to organise local mini-groups to help reduce isolation and loneliness in Garioch.

Ury Riverside Park

Currently working towards a community asset transfer of land which is currently owned by Aberdeenshire Council. They are looking for volunteers to participate in tree planting on Saturday, 1st December. They also have paths being built to help make it a community space.

The aim is to make it a true community space, including a playpark, nature walk and playing fields. It will be environmentally friendly, with solar lights being fitted and will be fully inclusive. If anyone is interested in helping, please visit www.facebook.com/Uryriversidepark/

8. Close of meeting

John finished the formal part of the evening by thanking everyone for attending and encouraging people to network, chat and enjoy the buffet provided by Fly Cup.

Appendix A: Attendees and Apologies

Attendees:

Margaret Aitken	Lynne Copland	Katherine Gerrard	Linda Singer
Margaret Basley	Denise Cromar	Stephen McCann	Sharon Strachan
Dawn Brown	Kirsty Cruickshank	Janet Newberry	Louise Thorburn
Marion Chapman	Jackie Cumberbirch	George Petrie	Dave Valentine
John Chapman	Heather Fulford	Jamie Robertson	Sue Wainman
Fiona Cooper	Ilene Fyfe	Kath Robertson	Nom Wright

Apologies received from:

Jill Averell	Culsamond
Gillian Martin	MSP
Judy Whyte	Councillor
John Smith	ICC
Doreen Adams	
Fiona Allan	Fly Cup
Deborah Armstrong	Steps for Wellness
Jill Averell	Culsamond
Biff Barrow + 2	Amal
Carol Beattie	KBASC
Peter Chapman	MSP
Jayne Chappell	
Ian Clark	Inverurie Music
Eveline Crossan	SWACAB
Kay Diack	
Reid Hutchison	Aberdeenshire Council
Gillian Martin	MSP
David Porter	Inverurie Advertiser
Steve Portelly	
Archie Peebles	ICC
John Smith	ICC
Suz Strachan	SensationALL
Judy Whyte	Councillor

Member Groups Represented:

Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	ICAN
Alehousewells Primary School Parent Council	Inverurie Hockey
Baillies of Bennachie	Kemnay CC
Bothie	Kemnay Community Association
For the Love of Garioch	Kemnay Village Hall
Garioch Women for Change	Kintore & District CC
Garioch Youth Musical Society	Kintore Childminding Group
Grampian Opportunities	Port Elphinstone Community House
Greener Kemnay	Ury Riverside Park
Hatton of Fintray CC	