



MORAY FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY HALLS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of the Federation Meeting held in Margach Hall, Knockando, on Sunday 16 September 2007

(To be considered at the next meeting of the Federation in February 2008)

Present: Pat Smith, Convener; Rosella Smith, Vice-Convener, Portessie; Jackie Owsnett, Secretary, Mosstodloch; Tony Bowmer, Treasurer; Molly Forsyth, Vice-President; Jennifer Shaw, Vice-President; Jim Anderson, Vice-President; Rita Marks, Glenlivet; Sandra Dow, Moray CAB; Anne Watson, Bishopmill; Vera Gaskell, Bishopmill; Anita Milne, Lhanbryde; Moira Stewart, Boharm; Moira Tweedie, Craigellachie; Paul Ralph, Urquhart; David Silvester, Glenrines; Ogilvie Smith, Heldon Community Council; Jim Gray, Ian Robertson, Innes Shaw, Charlie Alexander, Lorraine Todd, Amanda Turner, Knockando; Fraser Marshall, Birnie; Richard Smith, Portessie; Doreen Aldridge, Archiestown; Beattie Mitchell, Edinville; John Fleming, Mortlach; Jean Maciver, Hopeman.

Welcome: Mr Ian Robertson welcomed us to the Margach Hall, Knockando. He told us that Mr Peter Marshall, a 'Poor Inspector', had left some money in 1909 for the building of a community hall.

1 Apologies for Absence: Louise Ellerby, Elaine Ross, New Elgin; Angela Mitchell, Rafford; Kay McInnes, Miltonduff; Margaret Hutcheon, BKV; John Ferguson, Moray Council; Sally Hodder, BKV; Reni Milburn, Moray Council; R Caunt, Carron; Michele Birnie, Tomintoul; Eleanor MacIntosh, Glenlivet; Ann Oliver, Archiestown; Chris Hennan, Clochan.

2 Minutes of Meeting held on Sunday 13 May 2007: Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Moira Stewart and seconded by Jean Maciver as a true record. All agreed.

3 Matters Arising: a) Food hygiene courses at Lhanbryde had not started yet. Will be on website next week. Pass details to Jackie to put in Minutes; b) Mr Fleming of Dufftown reported that the Community Centre was safe at the moment; c) Knockando feasibility study still awaited; d) Rita asked if any details reference cheap electricity. Details in Secretary's report; e) Rosella said five halls had got back for details of MAC money.

4 Convener's Report: Pat reported that her chief activities have been in connection with the Best Kept Village competition. Two meetings were held in Elgin on 11 June and 13 August. Competition has run very smoothly, with thanks to Sally Hodder for all her hard work. Pat escorted the judges on 31 July. She has copies of CDs of photographs of the competing villages which halls may borrow. The awards were presented in Elgin Town Hall on 30 August by Richard Lochhead, our MSP. He showed an interest in the Federation and offered any help he could. Refreshments were provided by Lhanbryde and Urquhart branch of Macmillan Cancer Support. They raised £84 22 and the Federation donated £20 towards their expenses. Pat attended plant sales in three halls and thought it a good way of raising funds. Pat and Rosella had meetings to discuss MAC funding for halls and devised a plan to involve halls in training proposals. There are now 86 email addresses covering most of the halls. An enquiry from Andrea Hauxwell of Kincardine and

Deeside Voice was directed to the website. Pat had a letter from Bill Reid, the President. He apologises for non attendance at meetings but has had a lot of health problems. He is hopefully recovering. Pat, Jackie and Tony had a meeting with John Ferguson to decide on distribution of the maintenance grant. Pat will attend the AGM of MVSO and will forward any issues from members. Pat proposed that the Minutes of meetings be put on the web site. Paper copies would be sent out with the next meeting's mailing.

5 Secretary's Report and Correspondence: 1) Reply from Bill Anderson, Moray Council, reference discounted electricity for halls. He sent apologies for not replying sooner, but said he does not have authority to add our halls directly to the electricity account. There are several legal matters to be considered. He will get back when further information is available.

2) The Moray Council Service Level Agreement Review. I attended a working party meeting at the Moray Council offices on 30 August. The attendees included representatives from such community care organisations as Deaf Society, Action Poverty, Victim Support, Moray Women's Aid. The meeting was mainly along the lines of discussing situations arising from an imbalance of relationships in some areas between the MC and the service provider. The suggestion was that a Voluntary Sector Hub would be organized to provide easy access to services by providing a single point of contact/reception. I shall attend the next meeting in October and see what happens, but I felt that we are not likely to benefit from this dialogue.

3) Moray Core Paths Plan-Consultative Draft 2007. This was an invitation to participate in the public consultation exercise. The plan is required to be produced by the Moray Council to address key priorities in the Moray Community Plan by promoting physical activity and healthy modes of transport. Rita Marks gave some more detailed information on this Plan. It can be viewed and responded to online at www.moray.gov.uk/corepaths till the end of November 2007.

4) Governance Seminar on Wednesday 26 September at the Conference Room, Moray College, Elgin, hosted by MVSO and The Volunteer Centre.

6 Treasurer's Report: Tony reported that we have a healthy bank balance of £26,249.24. The maintenance grant allocated by the Moray Council was £20,000. He had received applications from all halls; all paperwork was in order and had correct signatures.

7 Distribution of Maintenance Grant: The sum divided into £416.16. The committee proposed that this be rounded up to £420 per hall, with the balance from Federation funds. Jennifer Shaw proposed, and Moira Stewart seconded this. All agreed. Tony was thanked for his hard work.

8 Report on Best Kept Village Competition: There were 14 entries this year and the judging was completed in four days. Beautiful Scotland sent two judges, Jim and Pat MacCallum from Stirling. They had a fine week after all the bad weather and enjoyed our Moray hospitality. The judges said that despite the atrocious weather every village had put on a commendable display. The winners of each category are: Large village – Dufftown; Small village – Duffus; Scattered Community – Miltonduff; Junior Section – Archiestown. All results can be viewed on our website. It was requested at the meeting that the judging be a couple of weeks later in August and this would be put to the BKV committee at the start of next year's competition. Rita Marks said that there was a problem in scattered communities for the judges to get round in time. She, or a representative, will be invited to the next meeting in March. Molly gave thanks for the Macmillan people for their hospitality and Pat gave thanks to Ken Kennedy and all the other helpers.

9 Exchange of News from Halls:

Archiestown: Doreen Aldridge reported that the fete on June 16 was successful with a profit of about £1700. They spent most Monday evenings getting ready for BKV. They had a Summer Serenade musical evening at the end of August with violin and keyboard. The Doric Evening in September was much enjoyed as was the story telling event and the Fun Day. There will be quiz nights and Bingo later in the year.

Birnie: Fraser Marshall reported business as usual with the hall being hired regularly. They had received money from the windfarm and this will pay for upgrade of lighting and electrics. Quotes for upgrade of toilets. Will be paid from successful Spring Fairs. The floor is being lined and there are plans to buy equipment to allow badminton. There will be a ceilidh in November and a children's Christmas party in December.

Bishopmill: Ann Watson reported ticking along with the usual events and organizations using the hall.

Boharm, Mulben: Moira Stewart reported that the Feel Good Day in May, the Quiz Night in June and the Midsummer Ceilidh raised funds for the hall. Forthcoming events include Table Top Sale on 30 September and a Craft Fair on 28 October.

Craigellachie: Moira Tweedie reported that £500 was donated towards the Telford Bridge lighting. Goalposts and nets were donated for the village park. Some lovely framed black and white photos were donated by a local couple and have sparked much interest.

Edinville: Beattie Mitchell reported they had oil central heating installed. There will be a Craft Sale in November.

Glenlivet: Rita Marks reported usual things going on. The Fete and Duck Race made over £1000. T in the Park in August raised over £9000. They have applied for a Public Hall licence. Funding of £9-10k required for complete renewal of toilets. Received £2800 from Scottish Executive Capital Equipment Grant for a cooker and fridge. For further details contact John Ferguson at Moray Council.

Glenrines: David Silvester reported that the car boot sales from June to Oct were always well attended. Future events include quiz night, harvest dance, family Halloween party, fireworks and bonfire, sports evenings, family dance, Christmas party and carols. Improvements include disabled parking, removal of trees from perimeter of grounds, purchase of a ride-on lawnmower, shed and new fencing around Burn, curtains and blinds. Future projects include partition wall and erection of car parking sign.

Hopeman: Jean Maciver reported business as usual with regular use. New showers have been installed. Hall is being hired for more and more special events including dog training classes. The Gala was a great success. The Hopeman Church 150th anniversary party ceilidh will be on Friday. A tea party in aid of Christian Aid will be held on 28 September.

Lhanbryde: Anita Milne reported their European Funding ends in December and they were looking for other sources. With grants from HIE Moray had purchased six laptop computers, camera and projector. To borrow equipment ring 01343 843025. The Gala Day was well supported with press coverage and raised £700. There will be a family ceilidh on 21 September.

Margach: Charlie Alexander reported that the Knockando Millennium Group presented the hall with a PA system and £693 when the Group folded. Their chairman Alasdair Anderson, completed a sponsored cycle run raising over £600 which was match funded by the Edrington Group. Awaiting results of a study for siting a water turbine in the Burn. There will be a Halloween theme dance on 27 October. Usual Hogmanay dance with games and raffle. Refurbishment plans awaiting approval. Fundraising events will be held.

Mortlach: John Fleming reported business as usual. He thanked the Federation for insurance information. They had joined the Highland scheme and would save £1000 a year. The fundraising calendar of views of Dufftown raised £1300. The Annual Concert raised £1500.

Mosstodloch: Jackie reported that the hall was busy with weekly use. The Flower Show was a great success. Future events include a quiz night, Halloween disco, soup and sweet and craft sale, hogmanay disco.

Portessie: Rosella reported business as normal. The floor has been resurfaced and the alarm system completed. Events include the over 60's outing to Biblical Garden and tea at Moray College on 19 September, coffee morning on 22 September, kids Halloween party on 27 October, BBC Radio Scotland show and variety night by the YOBS on 26 October.

Richmond, Tomintoul: Michele Birnie sent apologies and reported that the hall is still being well used. Ongoing maintenance will soon be completed.

Spynie: Mr Smith reported that things were quiet at the moment. There were new toilets, kitchen had been redone and new tables and chairs had been bought.

Urquhart: Mr Paul Ralph reported that there was a new committee. There will be a ceilidh at the end of November.

10 Any Other Business: 1) Jean Maciver asked if there was a scheme whereby halls could hire scaffolding for decorating/putting in lighting/false ceilings. Paul Ralph said he could negotiate a deal with Moray Council and will liaise with Jean. 2) John Fleming asked if the applications for maintenance grant could be organized earlier in the year as it can be overlooked by committees over the holidays. Pat said it had already been moved from October to August. Mr Fleming's suggestion would be considered. 3) Comments by several members regarding the Highland Council insurance scheme indicated it was a popular choice with lower premiums and better cover.

11 Date and venue of next meeting: Annual General Meeting on 25 November at Glenrinnnes Hall at 2 30 pm. If you have any items for the Agenda please let Secretary know by end of October.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4 pm when refreshments were kindly provided and served by Margach Hall members.

Jackie Owsnett
Secretary