



Present : David Purdie, Gaynor Allen, Laura Young, Aileen Clark, Fiona McNeilly, Helen Bruce, Dennis Walton, John Banks

Apologies : Kaela Scott, Betty Ramsden, John Williamson, Liz Johnston, David Wilkie, Shirley Banks

## **1. Minutes from last meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## **2. Matters arising**

### **a. Charitable Status**

A letter has been drafted in response to match the charitable purposes and the aims of the group in a more obvious manner. See Attached. Aileen talked the group through the changes.

We agreed to add further detail with respect to the SEPA position on beach bathing and add statement about working in partnership with various groups including ELC, the County Council, the HTA, etc.

**Action:** FM is to meet Paul Edie at ELC tomorrow and should ask the following questions:-  
Does the constitution need to be amended to reflect revised charitable purposes?  
What do they need in a business plan?

**Action:** FM should also phone the man who drafted letter from OSCR

The group agreed to adopt the revised charitable purposes. Proposed - Clive, seconded - David.

### **b. Community Engagement**

Application has been successful and the money will be transferred as soon as bank account is up and running.

**Action:** FM to check with Paul Edie if there is any deadline by which these monies should be received.

### **c. ELC Civic Pride**

Gaynor and Dennis worked together on the application, which has now been submitted via Helen Bruce. No acknowledgement received so far. There may be further drawings needed for planning and building warrant. There are some fees associated with these. We will seek council support for a community project.

**Action:** HB to check likely timelines for an indication if the application has been successful.

### **d. Beach Bathing**

SEPA panel has now approved application, We await confirmation from the Minister in January

e. Venue for local presentation

Charan Gill has agreed to allow us to use his space at the Quay, subject to the schedule of other commercial events. Other possible venues were discussed including Fisherrow Community Centre, library, The Brunton, church halls, FYC. The venue needs to be big enough, welcoming and with reasonable footfall.

It now seems unlikely we will be able to deliver the presentations in March. Perhaps in better weather a marquee by the harbour might be appropriate? It would be the ideal place to demonstrate how the harbour area might work? Bring people on board at this early stage, including local business.

Community Engagement Team has boards, which can be made available.

**Action:** FM to check with Paul Edie re terms of engagement for use of the Brunton, availability of other council facilities and the potential availability of a marquee.

### 3. Approval of new members

There are no new applications, but Gaynor has had contact from some potential new members. Forms have been provided.

### 4. Opening a bank account

Laura looked into two possible options and we have agreed to go with an RBS account suitable to this type of group. Signatures and office bearer details have been gathered, but the account cannot be opened without the charity number (see item 2a). Once we have this the signatories will be required to present themselves at the branch to confirm identity.

### 5. Communications

a. With new members

Action FM: Check the level of contact detail we have from the majority of members. On the form postal address is mandatory, email optional.

b. Good news and events

We expect to have some news to communicate in the new year. Perhaps we need a newsletter, or similar for members specifically. GA is happy to place news items in the papers. This may also inform flow of news on facebook/website

c. Facebook

LY has set up a facebook page and has posted some items, but has been unsure of what can currently be publicised. Currently we can publicise that the application to the Community Engagement Fund has been successful and that we are planning a consultation in a local public space – details TBC.

d. Website

Two of the group have done the training required to place items on the Musselburgh website, although neither feel very confident about doing this. There is a sense that the website is not really attracting much traffic, but DW also made the case that for websites to become busy they must be feed with news and that we should not give up on this potentially valuable line of communication before it really gets started.

**Action:** FM to ask Paul Edie if there are any figures relating to the traffic on the Muselburgh Community site.

e. Newsletter – to be discussed further once the optimum method of communicating with members is established.

## 6. Area Sub Groups

The meeting divided into 3 area groups, as discussed at the previous meeting.

### a. East Beach

Lots of general maintenance issues on the East Beach: Paint the railings and tidy up the sub station. Ideally the group would like to see the loop in the path around the links changed and subsidence issues should be dealt with. Longer term/more ambitious plans involve the tank traps which are linked to the history of the area and could be developed to serve educational, recreational and environmental use.

Immediate priorities are a general beach clean up and a meeting with the appropriate council staff to deal with recurring safety issues on the promenade.

### b. Harbour

This group focused primarily on the upcoming presentation on potential improvement to the area in front of the harbour. This sub group need to meet again very early in the New Year to progress detail. Ideally, they would like to seek further input from other members. (See item 5a – member comms). Prior to going to public, we should seek early launch with local councilors to ensure they know what is being consulted on.

Next Steps:-

- Develop the presentation.
- Work out a strategy on how people can easily feedback on various aspects of the presentation.
- What is the title for this event? What will attract people in? Suggestions for a user friendly title and format
- Date towards the end of February (may be later)
- Separate announcement and invitation & article in press and newsletter

### c. Backsands

FM had met with Duncan Priddle, ELC Countryside Officer re Seaside Awards – There are currently 7 in East Lothian. There is an annual charge of £300, plus some upfront capital costs (flagpole and noticeboard). We do not recommend for this year, but worth consideration for next year?

Although a longer term project, we do not want to lose sight of the Board walk plan. We would like to plan some family friendly activities on the backsands this summer, perhaps with some local sponsorship – e.g. Sand castle competition, Beach volleyball  
Interest in teaming up with Museum to share older peoples memories and activity day.  
Engage with Eskmuthe canoe club, whose vessel must be ready by the Spring.

**Action:** FM to circulate Seaside Award papers for interest.

Perhaps we should give some early consideration to setting a date for AGM. Following formal business some new plans could be aired in greater detail with a wider membership.

(Post meeting note: after some discussion, we have now confirmed that OSCR require neither and AGM, not EGM to make the changes to our consitution around charitable purpose, as we will only be a ahrtity at the point they agree our constitution using the revised wording).

**7. Proposed activities and funding possibilities**

- a. Crowdfunding - [http://www.senscot.net/view\\_art.php?viewid=12938](http://www.senscot.net/view_art.php?viewid=12938)
- b. Seaside Award
- c. 2014 Communities – Building a lasting legacy for communities across Scotland  
[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_2014\\_communities](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_2014_communities) no closing date.

Shirley Banks has done one of these previously and would be willing to help with any application. Backsands group discussed activity day around the working history of the harbour area.

**8. Any other business....**

Issues surrounding the front of CA's house were raised again. We would not know about this if CA were not on the group. He is liaising with the Council on his plans.

Could there be a slot for new council business on agenda? Councillors see all applications for planning permission and could raise those relevant to the area?

**9. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm – Fisherrow Yacht Club