**Minutes of TBI Admin meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 online by Zoom**

**Present** Julian Paren, Julie Gibson, Rose Grant, Peter Moffatt, Martin Sherring, Anne Thomas

Laura Donnelly HCWP project officer, for items 1 - 5

**1. Apologies** Alaine Macdonald

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| **Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **2. Minutes of meeting 03-10-23** | Accepted |  |

**ITEMS FOR DECISION - Introduced by Laura**

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| **3. H&I Climate Hub and other films** | It was agreed that arranging a number of monthly film evenings through the winter should be delegated to a sub-group of Peter, Laura and Lyn McLardy (HCWP project officer). Possible venues were Muir Hub, Cromarty cinema and North Kessock ticket office. | **PM, LD, LM** |
| **4. TBI members and volunteers** | Laura introduced a wide-ranging discussion about the need to recruit more members and volunteers, their expectations of us and ours of them. It was noted that newsletter subscribers greatly outnumbered members, felt that membership implied a greater commitment and willingness to volunteer, and questioned whether there was sufficient incentive to becoming a member.  Laura was considering a 'volunteer package' by which TBI and HCWP might jointly provide a support framework for volunteers. The need to involve more young people was emphasised, and there was reference to SG's youth employment strategy Developing the Young Workforce and to how TBI had managed volunteers (cycle trainers) during the Million Miles project. |  |
| **5. TBI and HCWP update** | Laura's HCWP monthly report referred to the recent Climate Café at Culbokie, an HCWP Delivery team meeting in Fort William, Laura's recent attendance at the Circular Communities Scotland conference in Glasgow, at which she made a presentation on Partnership working and the Black Isle Repair Café, and a Climate Café Black Isle meeting on the theme of re-use.  There was brief discussion on identifying potential suppliers for local larders and the possibliity of employing a Repair Café organiser. Partial TBI funding in the early stages was approved.. |  |

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE**

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| **6. Links with Forres** | Responding to an appeal for support from Transition Town Forres following Moray Council's rejection of their Community Asset Tramsfer bid and refusal to rebate a substantial proposed rent increase for their community garden and buildings at Bogton Road, Julian had written to the Forres members on Moray Council, asking them to revisit the council's decision to charge a commercial rent for the property, in the light of TTF's work to improve the wellbeing of Forres and its inhabitants through volunteer activities of which the local community should be proud. Julian was thanked and congratulated for writing the letter. |  |
| **7. Membership of HTSI** | TBI's membership of HTSI was confirmed. |  |
| **8. Website upgrade and Plexus** | Peter reported that the website upgrade was proceeding. though more slowly than he would like. |  |
| **9.Survey - charity finance** | Martin had nothing to report at present. | **MS** |
| **10. Sea the value research project** | Julian had attended the second workshop of this University of Aberdeen research project into the 'natural capital' of the Cromarty Firth. One of the issues discussed was oyster culture. |  |

**ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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| **11. New trustees for TBI?** | Two potential candidates had been identified, for one of whom it was thought involvement in a potential energy project might be a draw. Further contact would be made. | **JP, MS** |
| **12. New TBI office bearers** | Convenor: Pressure of other activities prevented anyone taking on the office on a permanent basis. A compromise was reached whereby the Convenorship would rotate on a three-monthly cycle, with Rose offering to go first and chair the rest of the meeting.  Vice-Convenor: The retiring Convenor's role, by default.  Treasurer: Julian agreed to take over this office from Martin. |  |

**The following items were chaired by the new Convenor**

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| **13. Black Isle Bicycles** | Anne is trying to find new partners to for BIB. At least half the trustees held the view that the bicycles should be sold or given away and BIB shut down. Rose had a contact who might be able to introduce a new method of operating, and it was agreed she should explore this before a final decision was taken. | **RG** |
| **14. Local energy projects** | Two documents on this topic were before the meeting: A proposal from Extinction Rebellion to Highand Council that it set up a Highland Renewable Energy Company to generate and sell electricity from a variety of renewable sources; and an invitation from Loch Broom and Ullapool Community Trust to participate with Changeworks / Home Energy Scotland in an application for Lottery funding for a Highland Community Energy Partnership with the aim of Increasing demand for retrofitting homes with energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating.  The meeting preferred the latter possibility, and Julian(?) would pursue it with LUCT with the aim of drawing some Black Isle people with energy interests into closer engagement with TBI. | **JP(?)** |
| **15. Battery storage**  **possibility** | Sale by HC of a quarry near Rosemarkie with potential for battery storage was agreed not to be something TBI should pursue. |  |
| **15a. Ban short UK domestic flights** | The link to a UK parliament petition to this effect would be circulated. |  |

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / UPDATE**

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| **16. North Kessock**  **Market and larder** | There was a problem with hall bookings not made in time for next year. Market organiser had resigned but might change her mind. | **AT** |
| **17Avoch-Munlochy active travel link** | Formalities done for HC to lead the project, with TBI represented on the managing group and £31,683 Sustrans funding available. |  |
| **18. Treasurer's report** | Retiring treasurer Martin reported continuing underspend on HCWP and suggested HCWP officers liase with treasurer(s). |  |
| **19. Newsletter** | Anne was thanked for her work as editor. She would be glad of an assistant and possibly an alternative system to Mailchimp (??) |  |
| **20. Food & growing report** | Report circulated on recent Food Group meeting. Noted that new Local Larder website editor John Tuach was not responding to invitations to the Food group or updating Local Larder Facebook. |  |
| **21. Membership report** | Birgit (and Brian?) Von Tiedemann (Culbokie) had been approved as member(s) since the last meeting. |  |

**AOCB**

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| **Transition skillshare** | It was agreed Lyn and Laura (and trustees?) might join a 'recruit and revive' online session on 13 December. Details on calendar. |  |
| **NFP Training** | There was little enthusiasm for half-day online courses on a range of subjects offered by a company in York, charged at £95. |  |
| **'Zero Carbon Britain' course** | It was agreed that TBI would cover the discounted (via SCCAN) cost of this one day online course for members wishing to take it. | **PM** |
| **HGFP** | Martin noted HGFP would benefit from an employed 'manager'. |  |

**Next meetings Tuesday 9 January 2024**

**Tuesday 27 February**

The meeting closed shortly after 10.00.