

Attendance: Ian Hunter, Cllr Carl Nelson, David Fleming, Raymond Christie, Cllr Mike Sullivan, Dennis Collie, Rodger Lyall, George McGillivray, Mike Burleigh, Ben Juffermans, Martin Moir, Linda Babbs

Apologies: Alex Johnstone MSP, David Davidson MSP, Cllr George Swap, Gordon Muller (Rector, Mackie Academy), Joanne Randle (Kidzact / Stonehaven Youth Theatre), Malcolm Finlayson (Radio North Angus), Murray Dawson (Station House Media Unit), Richard Baker MSP, Sir Robert Smith MP, Cllr Sandy Wallace, Sean Fraser, Shiona Baird MSP, Willie Munro (Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council)

Introduction

Ian Hunter welcomed all to the meeting and advised what a frustrating year it had been. There had really been no progress with the licence application since the previous AGM and it had been difficult to sustain the same level of interest as before. However activities included:

- Audacity training
- Meetings with community councils in Stonehaven, Laurencekirk, Johnshaven and Newtonhill
- A joint radio drama evening with Kidzact / Stonehaven Youth Theatre
- Training for youth development workers in Laurencekirk, and
- Input into the Stonehaven Town Hall consultation
- Very positive meetings with Aberdeenshire Council, including the Area Manager.

Treasurer's Report

Charlie Sands presented the Accounts for the period to March 2006. These had been audited by local accountant Alan Smith, and this was appreciated. The transactions were limited because the group had not been able to progress and so had not had to fundraise etc. The Accounts were approved by the meeting.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

| Post | Nominee | Nominated by | Seconded by |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Convenor | Ian Hunter | Carl Nelson | Charlie Sands |
| Vice Concenor | Doug McKelvie | Ian Hunter | Carl Nelson |
| Secretary | Charlie Sands | Carl Nelson | George McGillivray |
| Treasurer | Raymond Christie | Ian Hunter | Charlie Sands |

The application for a community radio licence

Ian Hunter advised that it had not yet been possible to submit the licence application, but confirmed the group had lodged a letter in intent with Ofcom. The new licensing round is being done by region and the window for lodging Scottish applications is for the three months to mid January. A fee of £600 is required.

Fund raising

There was a lively debate including the following suggestions:

- George McGillivray though K&D Voice (Andrea) would be able to help identify funding sources.
- Ian Hunter said Julie Sim – youth worker at the former Cheers centre – was very enthusiastic about running a “Stars in Your Eyes” event
- Ben Juffermans thought big business – Macphies of Glenbervie, Ross Deeptech and so on – should be approached for sponsorship. Some of these businesses want to do something for the community
- Mike Sullivan pointed out that Willie Munro had a “top-up” budge that could contribute 50% of costs to suitable projects.
- Rodger Lyall suggested Bussiness Gateway could help with a funding search, and that the Scottish Arts Council are supportive of similar projects.
- Dennis Collie referred to the grants available for the folk festival, and said to distinguish *involving* people from *educating* people. The latter was more likely to attract funding.

Premises

There was some discussion of premises.

- Carl Nelson asked about the Town Hall but this was in some disrepair.
- Raymond Christie commented that the old toilet block at the community centre was being used for only 2 hours a week.
- Rodger Lyall said he though the old manse in Inverbervie might be suitable, and the church there was *community conscious*.
- In Inverbervie the community centre was discussed but Raymond Christie expressed frustration at waiting 9 weeks for the Council to provide a couple of power sockets. It seemed the facility might have capacity in the evenings.
- Mike Burleigh from St Cyrus was in favour of a mobile studio to go around the outlying village areas, keep them involved and give the kids something to do.

Ian Hunter suggested a group be set up to look at premises and consider their suitability.

Items Members Wish to Raise

David Fleming asked about digital radio and Ian Hunter confirmed the current licence was for FM, but if there was capacity then DABS broadcasting was a possibility.

Ben Jufferman asked how much Mearns FM was going to be in the air. Ian Hunter said this was under discussion, but the RSL had broadcast 18 hours a day. There was no conflict between adults (who wanted daytime programming) and the youngsters who took over in the evenings. Several of the former presenters had gone on to careers in the radio industry.

Carl Nelson queries the licence and whether it was to broadcast so many hours a day or says a week. Ian Hunter advised that he envisaged that it would be local DJs with music most of the time, as radio drama took so long to make.

Rodger Lyall said he had recently staged a performance at the Grassic Gibbon Centre, and would be asked to do it again. The BBC had made a recording and he handed in a copy with permission for it to be broadcast by Mearns FM.

AOCB

Ian Hunter reiterated the ethos of the group – to make sure that the venture is *owned* by the community – and thanked those attending