

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF  
AEFF PROJECT ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2013 AT 1.15 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM C, WOODHILL HOUSE**

**Present**

Belinda Miller	FLAG Chairperson
Alistair Prior	Scottish Government
Jamie Bell	Scottish Enterprise
James Buchan	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Gavin Clark	Scottish Natural Heritage
Ian Hay	East Grampian Coastal Partnership

**Officers in Attendance**

Ann Marie Macaskill	Aberdeenshire Council
David-John McRobbie	Aberdeenshire Council
Vicky Thomson	Aberdeenshire Council
Anne MacLennan	Aberdeenshire Council

**Apologies**

David Cook	Banff & Buchan College
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**1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

1.1 Belinda welcomed those present and apologies were noted as above. For the benefit of Alistair Prior, introductions were made round the table.

**2. MINUTE OF LAST MEETING**

2.1 The draft minute of the FLAG meeting of 4 December 2012 was noted and will be considered for approval at the FLAG meeting on 21 March 2013.

**3. CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE**

3.1 An updated Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been received. Due to the emphasis on legal implications, this version has been forwarded to Aberdeenshire Council's legal team for consideration.

Aberdeenshire Council Finance has advised that AEFF grants cannot be disbursed to applicants until the SLA is agreed by both Marine Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council, acting as lead partner in the FLAG.

**4. CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATE**

4.1 The Co-ordinators update, which will be presented again at the FLAG, is summarised briefly below:

- Commitment to date is £357,000 with £603,000 remaining.
- There are 43 Expressions of Interest.
- A number of applicant meetings have been held and most of these

are in North Aberdeenshire.

- Ann Marie is keen to engage with communities in the South and it is hoped to organise promotional trips to South Aberdeenshire in the near future.
- With LEADER being fully committed, any projects coming forward to LEADER which could fit AEFf are being re-directed.
- Securing public co-finance is potentially a major issue for applicants.
- There is interest in AEFf and the scale of projects coming forward for the next round are larger, however, as the application deadline approaches, problems with securing co-finance means that applications are either delayed or withdrawn at the last minute.
- The claim form to enable drawdown of funds from Marine Scotland has now been received.
- It is hoped that the first claim for AEFf FLAG administration expenses only can be submitted shortly.
- The claim form template for drawdown of funds is the same as the applicant grant claim form. This does not relate particularly well to what is required in order to drawdown funds from Marine Scotland.
- AEFf Newsletter 4 has been issued.
- The Fisheries Project Officer has been actively promoting AEFf through facebook.
- AEFf continues to be featured on Aberdeenshire Live screens in various Council Offices.
- Members area of the website has been updated to include a database of Expressions of Interest.
- The Provost, Councillor Jill Webster, visited Peterhead and Fraserburgh on Friday 15 February. The day's events included an early morning visit to the fish market, a tour of Peterhead Harbour which included a tour of the pelagic fishing vessel, Quantus. A lunch of locally sourced seafood produce was prepared by Banff & Buchan College catering students and was served on the Quantus. The afternoon's events included a tour of Fraserburgh harbour, a trip on a lifeboat and the opportunity to see the operation of a fish processing plant in Fraserburgh. The day ended with an evening reception, hosted by the Provost, at the Buchan Braes Hotel. David John reported on several positive networking opportunities at the evening event. Three possible project ideas came forward. David John, Ann Marie and Jimmy Buchan were thanked for their work in organising such a successful day.

## **5. COMMUNICATION**

- 5.1 There were no specific items of correspondence.

## **6. UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 6.1 The issue of attendance at PAC and FLAG meetings was further discussed.

The following amendment is proposed to the Terms of Reference (TOR) which currently states:

“There will be no nominated substitutes on the FLAG. Written comments submitted by members who are unable to attend will be accepted at the FLAG meeting.”

It is proposed to amend the above to read:

“There will be nominated substitutes on the PAC and FLAG. The importance of meetings being quorate was recognised at the FLAG meeting on 4 December 2012. If PAC or FLAG members are unable to attend meetings, they may wish to consider delegating to an appropriate substitute within their organisation. Substitutes must be briefed prior to attendance at PAC and FLAG meetings, and the AEFF Co-ordinator is to be informed of any substitute attendance prior to the PAC or FLAG meeting. Written comments submitted by members who are able to attend will be accepted at the FLAG meeting.”

The above amendment is subject to approval at the FLAG meeting on 21 March 2013.

## **7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

7.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## **8. PROJECTS 014 to 016**

### **8.1 014 – Events and Exhibitions**

This project was deferred at the last FLAG meeting on 4 December 2012 for further information. The applicant decided to withdraw the application due to being unable to provide the additional information requested. Securing of co-finance also proved to be a major issue for the applicant.

### **8.2 015 – Stirling Hill and Sandfordhill Coastal Pathways Link**

The project is to create a new path to encompass the coastal settlement of Boddam. The path, which will start at Stirling Hill and end at Sandfordhill will measure 420m and will enhance and link with an existing Phase 1 path which was originally funded by LEADER. These paths are part of Aberdeenshire Council's Core Paths Plan.

Ongoing maintenance will be carried out purely by volunteers although the type of path proposed means that minimal maintenance is required.

Interpretation boards along the route will highlight the maritime history of the area.

Proposals meet AEFF eligible measures b, e and f.

There are numerous letters of support for the project and the applicant has secured 270 local signatures on a petition.

Indicative co-finance has been identified from Aberdeenshire Council and an application has been submitted to SNH. It is hoped to have an outcome for both in time for the FLAG meeting.

Breedon Aggregates are providing in-kind contribution for the supply of materials. Several other match funding applications have been submitted although at the time of the PAC meeting none was confirmed.

PAC would like the applicant to demonstrate increased focus on the fisheries links within the proposal. It was agreed that the traditional fishing settlement of Boddam has a strong fishing heritage and history. For example, there are a large number of ex-fishermen with a wealth of local knowledge who use the Den Dam recreationally. Links could be made to the creel fishermen selling locally caught produce and the Buchan Braes Hotel in Boddam serving locally caught seafood.

PAC discussed the use of history and cultural heritage which could be used on the interpretation boards, for example, stone sourced from the local quarry was used in the building of London Bridge and was also used by the prisoners from Peterhead prison to build the breakwaters in Peterhead harbour. PAC agreed that this local history will help the applicants to improve interpretation.

It was suggested that the applicant use their website to highlight maritime links. PAC agreed that explicit signage with regards to parking places and starting points for the walk will be essential. Marketing and promotional materials will be important tools for highlighting the fisheries links. It was also suggested that the applicant look at traditional fishing statistics for the area. If additional signage/interpretation boards are a requirement, PAC questioned whether the applicant could increase the grant requested.

It was requested that maps showing the proposed path be circulated with the papers for the FLAG meeting.

PAC was broadly supportive of the proposals subject to the applicant building on the fishing heritage and maritime links in the area. A slight re-working of the application and more accurately identified costs will be required for the FLAG meeting.

**PROJECT FUNDING OF £6,704 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL  
SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEING PROVIDED.**

### **8.3 016 – Whistle My Lad**

The project is to produce a short film written by Julian Nicholson, based on a Robbie Burns poem which tells a historical love story between two young people from rival fishing families in a Banffshire Coast fishing village.

The film will be a 20 minute long period drama set in 1911. The applicant, Whistle My Lad Ltd will hire the crew, the cast and the equipment to make the film. Music will be provided by the Royal National Orchestra.

Post production, the film will be shown at numerous local venues along the coast. The film will be used to promote the Banffshire coast area.

Proposals meet AEFf eligible measures b, and e.

Co-finance profile is still to be confirmed. It is hoped that Aberdeenshire Council Placemaking, a new scheme for arts and creative industries, could provide £5.5k with the remaining £5.5k coming from another Aberdeenshire Council tourism budget. Whistle My Lad Ltd has confirmed match funding of 40%.

PAC agreed that the production could provide a lasting legacy for the area and marketing of the film will be very important for the success of the project. The local community will be keen to see a film about their local area but it will be essential to promote the film more widely. PAC would welcome further information about how local people are going to benefit from the production, how it will affect the local community and how it will attract visitors to the area. It will be important to ensure some community return.

PAC would welcome more detail about what the film will be used for post production, about the target audiences and whether the applicant plans to promote the production at film festivals such as the Edinburgh Film Festival, Scottish BAFTAs or Cannes?

PAC considered the proposal to be an innovative, artistic idea which could be an invaluable promotional tool for the local area while focusing on the lives of people from a small fishing community. The production will be a high quality product for the amount of grant requested, representing good value for money. It was agreed that promotion will be the key to success and the film could have the potential to add value to existing visitor attractions in the area.

PAC suggested the following conditions of grant could be incorporated in the offer, that the film is premiered in the local area, that the applicant ensures that partnership logos are visible on all marketing materials and film credits and that the applicant confirms that Visit Scotland are aware of proposals.

PAC supports the project, providing that community and promotion elements can be demonstrated more fully.

**PROJECT FUNDING OF £11,085 RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL  
SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEING PROVIDED.**

**9. AOCB**

There was no other business.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

FLAG meeting: Thursday, 21 March 2013, at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 3, Woodhill House.

PAC meeting: Tuesday, 4 June 2013, at 2.00 pm in Conference Room E2, Woodhill House.