

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of  
Grantown Business Association  
held at 6.30pm on  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
At Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey**

**Present**

Rossmor, An Cala, Kinross House, Brooklynn, Wee Gooseberry, Auchendean, Highland Business Advisors, Willowbank, Ardenbeg Bunkhouse/Ironing and Cleaning services, The Dulaig, Garth Hotel.

The Chairman, Chris Hirst welcomed all to the meeting. He noted that the Treasurer would be slightly late due to work commitments.

**1. Apologies:**

Westhaven B&B, Mackellar Subsea, Beallich, Laings

**2. Minutes of the AGM 2008**

It was noted that the accounting year had been changed to Dec 31 to reflect the changes in the constitution. The minutes were approved and proposed by Joan from Rossmor and seconded by Kevin from the Garth Hotel.

**3. Matters arising from above minutes.** There had been no matters arising from the minutes of the 2008 AGM that had been circulated to members.

**4. Chairman's report.**

The Chairman read through his report covering work from 2008 and outlined plans for 2009. A further note of these discussions is attached to this report.

**5. Treasurer's report.**

Nick Macdonald-Nethercott presented the accounts. A decision needs to be made with regards to the generous offer made by the Harley Davidson group towards an item for Grantown. CH has attended meetings at the Community Council. He will put forward the ideas of a leaping salmon (wooden or other medium), hide for the woods, model Harley or an item for the garden in the Square. **Action CH**

**6. Accounts approval.** Due to the change in date for the accounting year, the accounts have not yet been audited. Once they are they will be circulated to the membership for approval. Accounts do not reflect stock of badges not yet sold or stock sold & money not yet returned to GBA. All members in agreement that accounts be audited and then circulated to members for approval.

**5. Election of Committee members:**

- a. Chair – Chris Hirst proposed by Rebecca Reid and seconded by Nick MN.
- b. Vice Chair – John Stables – proposed by Chris Hirst and seconded by Val Dickinson (An Cala)
- c. Secretary – Keith Dickinson, proposed by Alan Woodier, Seconded by John Stables
- d. Treasurer – Alan Woodier proposed by Silvia Woodier and seconded by Gordon Bulloch.
- e. Membership Secretary – Patrick Harrison, proposed by Rebecca Reid and seconded by Anne Hirst.

Thanks were passed to Chris Hirst for his hard work over the last year as Chairman, Rebecca Reid as secretary and Nick MacDonald-Nethercott for his work as Treasurer. The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

## **Notes from the meeting**

- GBA consisted of 17 accommodation, 9 retail and 10 support service businesses. There had been a reduction in the retail sector members over the last year.
- Christmas radio advertisement.
  - 30 slots over a 1 wk period in run up to Christmas. Incorporated retail, food and accommodation.
  - Complemented TV ad but GBA was able to get funding for radio ad.
  - Monitoring carried out with visitor feedback.
  - Mixed response but positive. Approx 60% had heard either TV or radio ad
  - RR to chase DMO for funding application funds.

**Action RR**
- Badge project
  - CH in correspondence with consultant from CNPA on badge project
  - CH informed Anagach woods trust of approx £700 available for local project.
  - Potential project is notice board for Spey entrance to wood.
  - Next batch will have Grantown-on-Spey printed on them. Prototype seen.
  - DMO will help fund purchase of additional badges.
  - CH to approach CNPA with regards to additional funding for admin of badge scheme.
  - Silvia Woodier volunteered to help collect badges.

**Action CH**
- GBA commitments: In the absence of assistance from local initiative such as the Grantown Initiative:
  - Harley Davidson event. 62 businesses, including all GBA members were written to in March 2009, requesting assistance with arranging this event for payment. As of the date of this meeting no responses were received. All present agreed to fund Anne Hirst to co-ordinate the event,
  - Continental markets dates for April and August are now being co-ordinated for 2009 by the Twinning Association.

**Action AH**
- Web 2.0 marketing ideas
  - Pictorial tour of Grantown-on-Spey made available for businesses.
  - School audio/visual dept looking for medium/long term project.
  - Web cam in town will help attract visitors to the website.

**Action CH**
- Links to websites
  - John Stables suggested linking to each other's websites to help direct internet traffic to own businesses.

**Action—all interested**