



**Minutes of Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray Board Meeting  
23<sup>rd</sup> August 2010**

**Present:** Eileen Bush Voluntary Action Moray (Chair), Helen Milnes Volunteer Centre Moray VCM (Minutes), Donna Breen Waste Watchers, Alastair Kennedy Joint Community Councils, Ian Longley Moray Wastebusters, Anita Milne Moray Forum,

**Apologies:** Jim Hart Moray Federation of Community Halls and Associations (MFCHA), Angela Hinchliffe VCM, Geoff Ramshaw Moray Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Paul Johnson Action for Children.

Minute	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Eileen welcomed everyone to the meeting. The apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.</u></b></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Alastair and seconded by Donna.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p><i>Representation of Young People on the VSPM Board:</i> Helen reported that as Angela is currently off sick she is unable to update the Board on this matter. Helen to follow up with Ange when she is back.</p> <p><i>Other groups within the CPP structure:</i> At the last meeting Helen had circulated the Board with a paper outlining the various Coordinating and Operational groups she had identified within the CPP structure. On some groups there had appeared to be a number of voluntary sector organisations involved. Helen had been tasked with identifying the accuracy of this information. However, it now appears that the CPP has itself decided to look at the current structure in relation to the Coordinating and Operational groups. We await developments.</p> <p><i>VSPM reps on CPP theme groups.</i> Helen reported that she had contacted the Moray Council to remind them that VSPM now has reps on the different theme groups and this needs to be noted on the website. It was agreed that reps would be identified as being 'VSPM / their own organisation' both on the website and on the minutes. Helen to action</p> <p><i>Community Strategy:</i> At the last meeting, under AOCB, Angela had noted that she had been asked by a member of Council staff if we are involved in the 'Community Strategy'. No one round the table recognised this. Eileen had been tasked with investigating this and has come to the conclusion that</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>HM</p>

	<p>the document being referred to is the Community Engagement Framework which a sub group of the Community Engagement group is working on.</p> <p><i>Hits on the website:</i> Helen had been asked to keep a count of the website hits. Helen reported that the most popular two articles on the website at the moment are 'VSPM needs your feedback' – 743 hits and 'Background to VSPM' with 704. Helen to monitor hits and report back to Board meetings.</p> <p><b>4. <u>Moray Interface</u></b></p> <p>Eileen reported that an Extraordinary General Meeting of MVSO was held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010. At this meeting the membership passed an Ordinary Resolution which allows MVSO to both transfer its restricted funds to a new organisation; Voluntary Action Moray, and the Board to take the necessary steps to wind up and dissolve MVSO. A further and final meeting is to be held in September 2010. Following this the two Boards of Voluntary Action Moray and VCM will be in a position to revive merger talks.</p> <p>Both Volunteer Centre Moray and Voluntary Action Moray, acting as the Interface in Moray, have received a letter from the Scottish Government outlining the new arrangements for Interfaces from April 2011. We will be required to report on how we, in Moray, intend to deliver the four functions of an Interface by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010. The four functions are: volunteer development, social enterprise development, supporting and developing a strong third sector and building the third sector relationship with community planning. Voluntary Action Scotland has been tasked with developing a 'single delivery template' for all Interfaces to use. Helen and Eileen will keep the Board updated.</p> <p>Donna reported that at the MSEN the previous week it had been noted by Senscot that the third sector in Moray was to be congratulated on its involvement of social enterprise organisations both in VSPM and at CPP.</p> <p><b>5. <u>Community Engagement Group (CEG)</u></b></p> <p>The third sector / voluntary sector members sitting on the CEG were abashed to receive an email with papers to the next meeting in September, which was referred to as the final meeting of this group. Consequently questions were asked – mainly – but not exclusively by the third sector reps, as to how this decision came about. There appear to be a number of key decision making moments in the story. Back in May the Community Planning Board took the decision to review the CEG. Eileen was at this meeting representing MVSO and told us that disbanding the group was not discussed. Following this a meeting of the Community Planning Statutory Partners in June agreed that the Community Engagement Group should be disbanded with the remit undertaken by the short life working group who will report to the Community Planning Board. (The short life working group referred to is the group currently looking at the Community Engagement Framework.) It should be noted that there were no third sector reps present at the Statutory Partners meeting. The decision to “temporarily disband” the CEG was taken at a</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>HM/EB</p>
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<p>6.</p> <p>7.</p>	<p>Moray Full Council meeting at the beginning of July.</p> <p>Alastair said that his organisations would be writing to the Chair of the Community Planning Board about this decision. Anita said was that the Moray Forum would be discussing the matter at their meeting on 30 August, and it was likely that they would be writing also. It was agreed that VSPM should do likewise. Eileen and Helen to put the letter together which should address the following:</p> <p>There are three areas where we would like to seek clarification and make comments. Firstly, governance; can and should both the Community Statutory Partners and the Moray Council itself, make decisions regarding community planning without third sector involvement ie where does the Community Planning Partnership Board sit in the decision making structure, and how is Partnership being defined. Secondly, we recognise that the CEG, as it stands, is probably not the best structure for such a group and that a looser forum based on a seminar model may be more appropriate. Rather than disband the group it should be reviewed as was previously agreed - by all partners. Thirdly, many, if not the majority, of third sector groups identify their primary focus as community engagement. To disband the Community Engagement group in favour of a 'short life working sub group' sends a clear message to the sector. The message says that at best community engagement is a low priority. At worse, this whole saga implies the third sector is disenfranchised.</p> <p><b><u>Voluntary Sector Representation</u></b></p> <p>Anita advocated forming a sub group to support the communication between the different third sector groups with representation at CPP level. Anita proposed that Jim be asked /"tasked" with forming a sub group made up initially with members of the VSPM, JCC and the Forum to discuss this issue.</p> <p>Alastair noted that membership of the short life working group to look at the Community Engagement Framework will be discussed at the next meeting. This will be an opportunity for VSPM to have a representative there.</p> <p>Anita has agreed to take on the facilitator's role for the Healthier group.</p> <p><b><u>Facilitators Meeting Update</u></b></p> <p><i>VSPM email address:</i> Ian suggested having a generic vspm email address that could be used for all emails going out on behalf of VSPM. Helen agreed to ask Mairi about how to go about this for VSPM</p> <p><i>Greener theme group:</i> Ian has attended his first meeting of the Greener theme group. He said that his experience had been very positive and echoed that of Paul's at the Smarter group.</p> <p><i>Survey Monkey:</i> Helen tabled a further brief report on the responses to date.</p>	<p>EB/HM</p> <p>HM</p>
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8.	<p>The facilitators have agreed to continue to work on bringing in as many responses as they can, but have decided on a deadline date for the work – end of September. Helen will then collate the final report and post it on the website. She will contact everyone with an email address on the database giving them the link to the VSPM website. Helen was given a vote of thanks for her work.</p> <p><b><u>Funding Strategy</u></b></p>	HM
9.	<p>Donna reported that she has further work to do on the Budget and will circulate a draft for comment when it is available.</p> <p><b><u>Marketing strategy</u></b></p>	DB
10.	<p>Helen and Anita have yet to meet up to look at the marketing strategy. They will have something for the next meeting.</p>	HM/AM
11.	<p><b><u>Economic Value of the Third Sector</u></b></p> <p>Awaiting the report from Malcolm Aldridge of Solution Management</p>	
12.	<p><b><u>Elgin Hub – update</u></b></p> <p>No further information at this time.</p> <p><b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <p>Donna reported that at the MSEN meeting last week the Chamber of Commerce are going to be giving an award to recognise the good work of one social enterprise organisation. The closing date for nominations is 10<sup>th</sup> September, the successful organisation will receive £500 and two free tickets to the Awards Ceremony.</p>	
13.	<p>Eileen reported that the Social Enterprise Academy will be running two days training ‘Understanding Social Enterprise’ in October 2010.</p> <p><b><u>Date of Next meetings</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of the VSPM Board will be:</p> <p><b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 2pm at VCM</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the VSPM Facilitators will be:</p> <p><b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 12noon at VCM</b></p>	



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