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**MONTROSE TOGETHER
MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2008
LINKS HOTEL, MONTROSE**

PRESENT:

Val Cooper (Chair)	Montrose YMCA
Joe Barker	Montrose YMCA
Alan McKeown	Angus Council
Matt Henderson	Angus Community Planning Partnership
John Dempsey	Gable-Enders
George Norrie	Montrose Town Band
Peter Stevens	Fair Trade Town
James Croll	Chairman of Borrowfield Housing
Ruth Stevens	Learning In Later Life
Rikki Beatie	Community Learning and Development
David Puller	Ferryden Community Council
Ness Vann	Montrose Community Council
David May	Angus Council
Sandra Stewart	VCA
Liz Pert	Community Participation Assistant
Gavin Dunbar	Montrose Community Council

APOLOGIES:

Sandy West	Angus Council
Dougie Cook	Tayside Fire & Rescue
Paul Valentine	Angus Council
Mark Salmond	Angus Council

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Val welcomed those in attendance and a round of introductions were made and apologies given. Alan McKeown was introduced as the new Lead Officer.

2. PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The previous meeting note was agreed as correct by John Dempsey and seconded by Peter Stevens.

Sandra fed back that the turn out for the Millennium Forrest clean up had been poor. It was agreed that in future nominated representatives should be identified to offer the required/agreed partnership support. A tree stake clearing and recycling was carried out by VCA and Dobromysl environmental group. Gorse clearing was left for a larger group with more resources to tackle in the future. Lack of signage was identified while at the Broomfield Wood.

Peter fed back that Fair Trade developments are continuing as previously minuted with fair trade status also being achieved by Montrose Academy and publicity work set to be carried out at Tesco's.

3. MONTROSE TOGETHER

A paper was introduced for discussion which outlined proposals to take the partnership forward and recognise what is already there and how the partnership can add value to developments for the benefit of Montrose and the surrounding area. The paper highlights potential actions and events.

It was agreed that the Chair would meet with Community Councils in the area to look at clarifying roles and developing a relationship in which the organisations can work together for the benefit of Montrose and the surrounding area. The partnership aims to develop a complimentary approach and remain A-political.

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It was recognised that good work is already taking place including the Montrose Extravaganza and Montrose Music Festival and that representatives from those groups organising committees should be invited to discuss possible gaps which could be filled by the partnership.

Following discussions a vote was carried out and the group agreed to change the public name of the group to Montrose Together while recognising the 'trading name' of the Montrose and Area partnership will remain constitutionally until the next AGM.

4. ACTION PLAN

It was agreed that the previous action plan was to be discontinued. Five points were agreed on the new action plan.

1) Clarify Roles and Remit

Set out a leaflet/paper detailing what the aims and objectives of the partnership are and clarify the roles of office bearers and members and what they can both contribute and receive from being a member.

2) Contact List and Wider Engagement Strategy

A review of the contact list will be carried out ensuring that all relevant groups are invited to take part in the meetings, including representation from tourism which is recognised as an important sector in Montrose to be considered as a future agenda item.

Work will be carried out with Angus Council to ensure that relevant databases are utilised to ensure the widest possible catchment for the mailing list.

David Puller agreed to work with John Dempsey to develop the Montrose Together page of the Gable Enders website to promote the partnership and encourage membership. (www.gableenders.co.uk).

It was also agreed that future agendas and papers will be sent to the local access office.

3) Montrose Diary of Events

It was agreed that a database/diary of events highlighting what is going on Montrose should be gathered and promoted. This could be done through the Gable Enders website. David Puller agreed to work with John Dempsey to develop the Montrose Together page of the Gable Enders website

4) Community Support Fund

It was agreed that £500 from existing funds will be used to set up a Community Support Fund aimed at supporting local voluntary groups. Preparation will be carried out on the application criteria with Angus Councils External funding Team for further discussion at the next meeting.

5) Destination Montrose Leaflet

It was agreed that the Destination Montrose leaflet which promotes Montrose to potential visitors and tourists would be updated. As the design set up has been carried out this will only involve updating with further printing costs involved.

A new Action Plan will be drafted to help coordinate and facilitate regular updates and to ensure links with community planning themes including Civic Pride and Business Sustainability.

5. MONTROSE CALENDAR

John Dempsey presented copies of the 2009 Calendar for Montrose put together by Astute PLC. The partnership has sponsored one month at a cost of £240 and as a result received

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100 calendars for retail. The retail value of each calendar is £4.95 with 100% to be deposited for partnership disposal.

Calendars were distributed to volunteers and it was agreed that of the money raised through the calendar that £125 will be given to support the Montrose Extravaganza and £125 will be given to support the Christmas Lights.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rikki made those in attendance aware of training which is taking place around charity law and invited anyone interested to get in contact at the Montrose Community Learning Office. Rikki also offered support to groups wishing to put together a constitution.

David May re-introduced the Civic Pride Grant Scheme and the Environmental Improvement Grant Scheme available through Angus Councils External Funding Team.

7. DATE, PLACE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 24 November 2008, 7.00pm at the Link Hotel Montrose.