

**MORAY BADENOCH & STRATHSPEY
ENTERPRISE COMPANY**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTORS

HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST JULY 2004

**at
THE APEX, FORRES**

PRESENT	Derek Bedford	Chairman
	Basil Dunlop	
	Peter Laing	
	Rita Marks	
	Chris Piper	
	Sue Swift	
APOLOGIES	Cliff Deans	
	Jim Logan	
	Duncan MacKellar	
	Ken MacMillan	
	Kevin Shaw	
IN ATTENDANCE	Douglas Yule	Chief Executive
	James Gibbs	Head of Operations
	Adrian Kitson	Head of Executive Office
	David Reid	Snr Development Manager
	Roger Edwards	Development Manager
	Carol Fairbairn	Executive Assistant
APOLOGIES	Roddy Dyce	Snr Development Manager
	Fraser Edgar	Development Manager

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman informed Directors that Eddie Aldridge had resigned his position on the Board.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 29th April 2004 were **APPROVED**.

3. FINANCIAL YEAR END 2003/04

The Board examined the results of MBSE's business activity for the year 2003/04. The highlighted changes in the final DRAFT were brought to Directors' attention by DB.

- Page 4, para2 – the date of SS's re-appointment to the Board is to be checked against Board minutes and altered if necessary. **Action – AK**
- Page 12, part 5 – second table
Training function has 'lost' four jobs which were IiP and these are now outsourced through supply partners and absorbed into the Enterprise function. A footnote is to be added. **Action – AK**
- An estimated forecast of spend update is to be provided at a later Board meeting. **Action – AK**
- Page 23, part 21(b)
Moray Tourism Forum is to be added to the list. **Action - AK**

The FINAL DRAFT of accounts 2003/04 were **APPROVED**.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Director Recruitment

Advertising will appear in local press wc5th July 04. The emphasis for recruitment will be on financial skills, tourism and agricultural expertise/knowledge, primarily from the eastern and southern MBSE area.

4.2 AHR

Directors expressed concern over MBSE's outstanding commitment & funding required for this project and requested a formal letter be drafted to HIE outlining this. **Action – DJY/JG**

4.3 Directors' Interests

Peter Laing is now Chairman of Keith Initiative, records are to be updated accordingly. **Action – AK**

4.4 Network Conference

DB summarised to the Board the discussions which took place. A report on the conclusions of the conference is to be acquired and circulated to Directors. **Action - DJY**

a. SSSHI

Smart Successful Scotland Highlands & Islands strategy has been refreshed & is to be circulated to Directors. **Action – DJY/AK**

b. EventScotland

In examining ideas to centre on EventScotland, it was suggested that the Speyside Whisky Festival could be the lead event for a range of activities and attractions. David Williams CE EventScotland is endeavouring to harness ideas to expand the tourism season.

4.5 Inner Moray Firth Local Economic Forum

MBS, RAC & IN LEFs participated in a Transport Seminar at which it was agreed that action could only be taken when agreement had been reached by all groups.
The next joint seminar, in the Autumn, will discuss housing.

5 **OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

5.1 Lecht Ski Company

JG updated the Board on the present position.

5.2 Cairngorm Mountain Limited (CML)

JG updated Directors, informing them that CML were recruiting to replace the Chief Financial Officer who has recently left. A long term agreement on the financial position of the company is now sought and a meeting is to be arranged to include MBSE & Highland Council to discuss progression from this point.

Grenville Johnson is to be invited to give a presentation/take part in discussion at a future Board meeting. **Action - JG**

BD informed the Board that Highland Council were charging no interest on £1m loan to CML until 2006 when this position would be reviewed.

5.3 Aviemore Highland Resort (AHR)

JG outlined this paper whereby AHR were requesting further revenue to assist in the higher quality accommodations now to be provided.

The completed paper is to be circulated to the Board. **Action - JG**

5.4 Community Planning in Moray

DJY summarised the proposed partnership working groups led by Moray Council.

5.5 Findhorn Foundation

JG outlined the background to this paper, stating the Foundation's direction and explaining areas where assistance may be sought. An early paper will be shared by HIE.

6 STRATEGIC ISSUES

6.1 CHP/Biomass Strategy

Bob Stubbs & Eric Dodd, HIE gave a presentation to the Board outlining HIE's strategy on CHP/Biomass energy.

Energy sources and prospective availability in our area were discussed and representatives of HIE, Moray Council and MBSE are to meet to take this forward. Interim updates are to be given to Chris Piper, Basil Dunlop & Rita Marks.

6.2 The Future of UHI in Moray

Alex Paterson, HIE outlined UHI's aims and possibilities for the future informing the Board that there may be a 'mini campus' in Elgin involving student accommodation and that there would be opportunities to develop.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24th August 2004.