

**Meeting: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015**  
**4.30 – 6.00**  
**Fairfield House, Conference Room 1**



**1. Present**

Caroline Crozier, Sandy Florence (Chair), David Ledner, George Maben (Treasurer), Jan Irvine (Secretary), Nila Joshi, Fiona Wallace (Vice-Chair) & Anika Wycislik.



**2. In Attendance**

Paul Johnson, Bryan Pottinger, Caroline Rodger, Lynne Robson, & Christine Schaffer



**3. Previous Minutes (June) – Approved.**

**4. Matters Arising**

- **Bank account** – Discussion re which Bank the group will use. Group agreed that they wish to use Bank of Scotland. Sandy informed those present that he no longer wished to be a signatory to the group's bank account. Signatories will be Paul Johnson, George Maben, Nila Joshi and Caroline Crozier. Any 2 from these 4 will be required. Paul will initiate the online application. It is likely that BOS will need to contact George. If signatories do not have BOS accounts they will have to provide identification. Once the account has been set up funds will be transferred from Nationwide. Current balance does not reflect cost of food for AGM.
- **Attendance of Council Officers at MPEG meetings** – No further update about Equalities Engagement Worker support.
- **Appointment of Office Bearers** – Nila informed the group, that due to commitments elsewhere, she could not accept the position of Secretary. Those present invited Jan to take up the position of Secretary. Jan agreed that she would – for a limited period until December 2015. Fiona confirmed that she would accept the nomination as Vice Chair.

## 7. MELA Update

- Will be held 1.00 – 4.00 pm on 26<sup>th</sup> September at Glencorse Centre.
- Space available is more limited than in previous venues. Jan is exploring the idea of organising a marquee to give more space.
- Performers have been booked.
- Food – Jan and Anika are going to try and negotiate a reduction in cost of items (Tea and Coffee etc).
- Invoice for 2014 has not been paid. Group members appreciated the support previously given by Itihaas and expressed concern that reputation of the organising group will be adversely affected, particularly in view of the fact the Itihaas had also sponsored previous events. Agreed that letter to be sent to ELREC in order that this situation is resolved a.s.a.p.
- Funding – Only £800.00 confirmed so far. Paul has submitted bids to Awards for All and Robertson's Trust.

## 8. AOCB

- Paul has been promoting football based activities in Gorebridge. Activities are being used to promote Railway Safety (supported by ScotRail, SFA and Midlothian Council.
- Jan raised concerns about the number of assaults in Midlothian
- People 1<sup>st</sup> are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (link to report; <http://peoplefirstscotland.org/files/2012/10/PF-25th-anniversary-May-15.pdf>)
- Councillor Pottinger attended a conference hosted by Forward Mid held a conference in Dalkeith Arts Centre – aimed to:
  - Enable participants to be part of shaping a new Action Plan - Midlothian Physical Disability Strategy 2015 -2018.
  - Hear from disabled people and professionals about positive and challenging aspects of living as a disabled person in Midlothian.
  - Become an active participant in improving the lives of disabled people.
  - Join in discussion groups with disabled people, social work and health professionals to discuss and share ideas and experiences.
  - Make connections around areas of interest and plan for more future successes!
- Christine has held meeting with CAPS – an independent advocacy group.
- Bonnyrigg Fun Day will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. George IV Public Park
- The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is funding Community Planning Activities in Dalkeith. This funding will be matched by Midlothian Council.

## 9. Date & Time of Next Meeting(s)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 4.30 at Fairfield House, Conference Room One