



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2015**

PRESENT

Brian McDonald, Chair (BM)	Sandra Maclennan, Vice Chair (SM)
John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)	Councillor Lorna Creswell (LC)
Angela Sutherland (AS)	Debbie Herron (DH)
Gill Bird (GB)	Ian Todd (IT)
Gordon Morrison (GM)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Vice Chair	Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Gordon Morrison, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.	
2. Apologies	Apologies were received from Fabio Villani (FV) and Naomi Zair (NZ).	
3. Minute of FAF Meeting held in November 2015	The following amendments: Under Section 12, Round the Table, Findhorn Fair to take place on 5 th December 2015. Under Section 13, Councillors, Learning Disability Project – Forres-based project based on an example in Nairn, visit took place to Cala Building. The minutes were proposed by John Bremner and seconded by Lorna Creswell.	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portable/Pop Up Banners – Secretary brought photos in received from Vice Chair. Vice Chair, Secretary and Gill Bird to form a sub committee to pick photos for pop up banner – item to be placed on January 2016 agenda. Debbie Herron to email any additional photos to Secretary. Debbie Herron emailed brown signage information to Secretary who will circulate to FAF membership. Debbie informed those present that there will be a review of signage by The Moray Council (TMC) in 2016. Funding information paperwork - Secretary forwarded on to FAF membership. Locality Group – promotion of FAF Lorna Creswell has written 	TC TC

	<p>a paper which Secretary to circulate to FAF membership, to be placed on January 2016 agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Christmas hospitality event – FAF to engage with other groups in town i.e. Dyke Community Council, Rafford Community Council, Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council and Edinkillie Council – Chair to write a paper. Possibility of holding this event on 30th January 2016, 2 – 4 pm to tie in with Planning for Real – Secretary to try and book Forres Town Hall for 2 – 4 pm. Secretary to contact Ray’s Opportunities to see if they are able to provide refreshments on the 30th January 2016. • Ian Todd to contact Stewart Noble, Forres Community Council (FCC) to enquire of suitable date to give FCC a briefing on the role of FAF and other local groups. • Fabio Villani – Moray Transport Forum – information circulated and Angela Sutherland attended a question and answer session at Lhanbryde. • Insurance – Highland Council act as a broker and FAF to pay for insurance cover as from April 2016 until then insurance is covered. 	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>TC</p> <p>IT</p>
<p>5. Treasurers Report</p>	<p>Current balance stands at £4,401.54. There were 2 cheques cashed: £50 for secretarial duties and £22.50 to Ray’s Opportunities for catering. Ian Todd was asked if FAF money could be used to hire other venues to hold monthly FAF meetings, he stated that FAF money could be used. The holding of monthly FAF meetings at different halls throughout the area was discussed, a show of hands met with few members interested in meeting at other venues. The money held by FAF could be used to promote FAF in different areas.</p>	
<p>6. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)</p>	<p>Debbie Herron informed those present of the following: SCVO digital project ongoing until March 2016, open on Tuesday and Thursday pm and Friday am – free service with members of public encouraged to drop in with kindle, iphones etc for help. Wednesday 9th December from 10 am to 11.30 am focus group around the directory for older people which was distributed over the summer – if you would like to attend please inform Debbie. Pre Christmas coffee morning on 17th December at FACT office from 10 am to 12 pm – good networking opportunity. Tourism Group – busy putting together final touches for leaflet - out in January 2016 with distribution next February/March 2016 – opportunity for FAF to have a look at draft leaflet. Membership up to 217. In process of writing a Business Plan for next 3 years – funding ends December 2016 – any projects FACT should be considering please contact the office.</p>	
<p>7. Moray Towns Partnership</p>	<p>A separate fund is being created (for economic regeneration) available from The Scottish Government via TMC as small rural grants – money could be distributed through participatory budgeting. £60,000 to be set up as small rural grants for economic regeneration e.g. if £15,000 could be acquired from (say the Common Good Fund) and was match funded following the approval of elected</p>	

	members (i.e. making £30,000) that sum could be invested in local community, economic regeneration projects. Local people would be consulted as to how the money should be invested.	
8. Three Year Plan/Strategy	Consider this item in January 2016 and encourage applications.	
9. Dufftown/Forres Collaboration	Dufftown/Forres – quiet, no communication received from Fiona Murdoch, Chair will report back to FAF at next meeting. Original Tracks project abandoned, Canadian travel company taken over kept putting back dates and working group eventually opted out of the project. Aiming to try and create a travelling exhibit, presenting information about Mount Steven/Lord Strathcona/Dufftown with a view to becoming a visitor attraction – unsure how to pay for this with no decision being made - included in FACT Business Plan.	
10. Expo 2016	Briefing given by Vice Chair at last FAF meeting. In Forres there is a Tourism Group and the Forres Business Association both of whom would be encouraged to participate in this. Debbie Herron stated there would be meeting on 4 th December with the Tourism Group where this item would discussed in detail. Looking for 1 or 2 persons to be in attendance for 2 days – travel, subsistence and accommodation costs to be covered – considered would be best to book now as could be expensive and booked up at a later date – FAF considering funding accommodation etc as well as £500 for a bay at Expo 2016. The Forres Business Association will be invited to support the project in both content and financial support. Panels include whisky festival, heritage and Business panels. FAF interested in the 5 towns panel with Forres having one of the bays within the display – next meeting on 8 th December 2015, Debbie Herron to attend and report back at January 2016 meeting – reports to be received from Debbie Herron and Marc Hindley (Forres Business Association) after meeting on 8 th . Debbie to send an interim report after meeting to Secretary for distribution.	DH
11. AGM - date	Date set for 3 rd February 2016 – Secretary to inform Gazette of date of AGM.	TC
12. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DH – Leader start a new round in January/February 2016 advertising for members of Local Area Group (LAG) – closing date 14th December 2015, there will be an interview and a panel will decide who to appoint to LAG – application forms on tsiMoray website. Findhorn Christmas Fair to be held on 5th December, stalls, Santa, teas and coffees available. GB – Culture Cafe on 17th December, 6.30 - 8.30 pm to talk about Creative Place Awards – let Gill know via email if want to attend, projects@findhornbayarts.com SM – toilets at Grant Park are locked and there is no access to disabled toilet. Andersons have a sale on 4th December at 4 pm – Culbin Singers Concert on 12th December with Forres in Bloom undertaking the bucket collection. Next round of Berryburn applications to be in by 16th January 2016 AS – attended the Lhanbryde Public Transport Forum on 21st November – Carol Dawson, Public Transport at The Moray 	

	<p>Council and Sheila Fletcher, Community Transport Association for Scotland speakers – need volunteer drivers for Osprey bus – no timetables in bus shelters TMC should replace them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC - attended Community Consultation Exercise held at Forres Academy, good turnout and views to be collated over coming weeks from all the group meetings. 	
13. Councillors	<p>Councillor Creswell stated that over the past few weeks she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Project mentioned previously has funding – not announced yet • Consultation Exercise in Moray not well received in the Gazette • Met with Richard Lochhead re geese situation at Findhorn • Friendly access – encourage Forres to be a dementia, autism etc friendly town • Auchernack Trust received a couple of applications, had to follow up for details – Older Persons post needs match funding, £7,500 towards this post already received • Health & Social Care Merger becoming rigorous with plan out for consultation very soon – live on 1st April 2016 • Attended disability show at Forres House Community Centre included members from Towerview, Applegrove and Forres Academy • Allotments – at Kinloss have been cancelled 	
14. AOB	<p>Email received from Diane McGregor, Chair of Forres in Bloom requesting regular donation from FAF to pay for plants, watering, tools etc. Secretary to reply stating FAF happy to consider suggestion and would like an indicator of costs involved.</p> <p>Lorna Creswell stated food items from Tesco received and trying to get in Moving On Centre to sort out food hampers for distribution.</p> <p>There is a new church worker in town to work with families (Dawn).</p>	TC
15. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 6th January 2016, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre.</p>	