



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2022

PRESENT

Sandra Maclennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)	Councillor Scott Lawrence (SL)
Councillor Paul McBain (PM)	Kresanna Aigner (KA)
Debbie Herron (DH)	Martin Robertson, Moray Council (MR)
Mike Scott (MS)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)	

APOLOGIES

Councillor Draeyk Van Der Horn (DVH)	
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2. Minutes from 7 th September and 5 th October 2022	The minutes from the last 2 meetings had been circulated, the minutes from 7 th September were proposed by David and seconded by Angela. The minutes from 5 th October were proposed by Martin and seconded by David.	
3. Matters arising	7 th September: Item 8 – John Cowe was contacted, Moray Council (MC) is short of cash and Moray Towns Partnership is unlikely to resume at any time Item 9 – paper copy of Moray Area Forum accounts were handed to Martin 5 th October:	

	<p>Item 4 – AMEY has taken over the maintenance of the roundabouts. Councillor McBain will look into this – they have a good corporate social responsibility programme – Forres in Bloom (FiB) feels this needs to be looked at again</p> <p>Item 4 – FiB won a gold medal and were the category champions in the Medium Towns category</p> <p>Item 13 – Draft Corporate Plan – rescheduled and Chair will attend, 2 places left if anyone would like to go – please email the Chair</p>	PM
4. Treasurers Report	Treasurer explained there has been 2 cheques written: FACT £20 and Secretary £65.49. £341.56 was received proceeds from the coffee morning and currently the account stands at £2,612.30.	
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • STP e-Bulletin • STP Conference • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • Forres Conversation Café cancelled • Moray Community Resilience Information Event – Elgin Town Hall on 24th November • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • STP Funding Finder October • Launch invite to Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Activity Report – July to September 2022 • STP e-bulletin 	
6. FACT	<p>Debbie informed all of the following: FACT employ 13 staff including 2 posts through MERI and David Hammond is the Operations Manager. Debbie has been working on the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) which was submitted through Moray Council (MC) for £3 million, projected £4.3 million spend due to increased supply costs and 6 months to raise £1.3 million. Moray has received no money from the RCGF. Activities are very busy on-line for wellbeing. On Tuesday's from 3.30pm to 5.30pm running a warm room initiative, to run to Christmas as a pilot – free to attend and other things are happening through the week i.e. Turning Point Church group on Friday mornings, most activities are fully booked. Pantry project was running to the end of October, application submitted to extend, approved and it will be extended – continues for a year. Pantry Project is in partnership with Moray Food Plus to reduce food waste - £2.50/shop with free membership – never advertised this project, now has more than 200 members who have joined since May, aim is to reduce food waste. It has been well received with 10 volunteers helping on a rota basis.</p>	

	<p>FACT's AGM takes place on Friday 11th November at 6.00pm – all welcome and encourage all to attend, the presentation will be around the capital project.</p> <p>1st November attended the tsIMORAY funding roadshow in the Community Centre.</p> <p>Capital Project – initial application to the Capital Regeneration Fund 3 years ago to test the water and were told interested in transformational change – suggest having a heritage quota – suggested inclusions are: we are a creative place and there is potential to do a lot more.</p> <p>Happy to see Forres Councillors tonight and looking for them to get behind this project.</p> <p>FACT is in a very strong place, great team, good place and fantastic volunteers with the membership growing all the time.</p> <p>Question regarding the pantry – is there room for expansion? Funding will pay for more resources i.e. marketing and staff – other pantries have capped at 100 and Forres has left theirs uncapped as only have 40 – 50 visiting per week, grown and spread by word of mouth with no advertising.</p> <p>Winter Wonderland – to be held again this year and includes market stalls – gingerbread buildings competition sponsored by Macleans Bakery to be held on 3rd December 2022.</p> <p>Christmas Crafters Fair runs from 21st November to 14th December.</p>	
<p>7. Town Centre Improvement Plans & Forres Regeneration</p>	<p>Councillor McBain led on this item, Councillors Corner mentioned this and said Councillors are in favour - £35k in the pot. Looking at the heritage quarter, museum square, footpaths and TH, looking at derelict and empty properties in the High Street. Museum Square to be worked on and look at the High Street to make it more user friendly and what to do differently today. Councillor McBain will ask which department in MC will lead on this.</p> <p>Lots of groups in Forres work together and looking to set up a Town Centre Improvement Group with groups from Forres who are working on the same items but in isolation and would like to work together in partnership. Working together to have plans up and running so can submit in time to access funding.</p> <p>Councillor Lawrence stated project is set in stone and at the first stage, those round the table stated could there be the possibility to enhance and refresh the plans as there is potential for so much more i.e. relocation of street furniture. Suggestion by Debbie to go and visit other towns and learn from them and get ideas for Forres's town centre.</p> <p>Both Councillors in attendance are on-board in helping to improve the town centre.</p> <p>Look to set up a Town Centre Steering Group with an open attendance.</p>	<p>PM</p>

	<p>Agreed the starting point could be with the 20/20 Vision and the Spirit of Community information to make the area come alive, the community is willing to work in partnership with MC.</p> <p>Town Centre Steering Group – partnership and engagement required – next steps museum square and feed in to the plan and take forward the Steering Group, could start with informal conversations and look at how Councillors and MC Officers could feed into it.</p> <p>Martin to make initial contact meeting with Kirsti Conti and Eily Webster, Principal Planning Officer, MC, also Councillors, Kresanna from Findhorn Bay Arts, FiB, FACT and FAF key stakeholders involved and Martin to report back to FAF. Tina to email out invitation.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>TC</p>
8. Spirit of Community 2022	<p>Martin and Debbie to hold sessions next week with schools. Also holding focus groups with other young people and then will start on the report stating some things might have to be explored going forward.</p>	
9. Moray Towns Partnership	<p>Nothing to report.</p>	
10. Moray Area Forum	<p>Martin informed that the Area Forum had to be postponed and no date as yet set. Speyside meeting later in the week.</p>	
11. Councillors	<p>Councillor Lawrence informed those present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locality Plan of the IJB, produced for Forres and Lossie Plan, reduced plan for needs of people and steering group as well including members of Community Council and Health professionals – information on MC website • By-election in Buckie tomorrow • 7th November big meeting regarding Forres Academy and Buckie High School – recommendation is for Forres Academy but both have been recommended for funding - have to prioritise one of the two schools – available to watch on the website on 7th November from 9.30am <p>Councillor McBain informed those present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of the Licensing Committee – short term lets – have in place a cost for short term lets and will formalise this, license costs £495 for 3 years – anyone applying today will have to pay and it may be a costly exercise, MC will have to prepare a register – all those offering short term lets to be licensed by March 2024 with inspections only happening if there was a complaint – is there a possibility to link up with Visit Moray Speyside • Taxi fares – not increased in 3 years Council want to increase them – 113 taxi cabs and 3 gave feedback 	
12. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR – Mannachie master plan goes live 14th November and drop in session that week – whole 	

	<p>day drop in at Community Centre. Conversation Café – pilot to look at a less formal approach to working with people – 10th November from 10am – 12pm in the North Room, Forres Town Hall – hoping it becomes peer-based support network – Tina to email out link from Martin. Mannachie Park Play equipment – FAF to take forward additional funding for play park £70k to spend in next financial year, and looking at Rothes model with a meeting set up week commencing 21st November with Rothes group. Development contribution – participatory budgeting exercise in Forres for ASG with £6k of developer obligations money – strict criteria new equipment and add value to community facility or organisation, max application £400 - Money for Moray process and MC staff launch next year. Just Transition Participatory Budgeting – started with tsiMORAY with launch on 28th October, can apply for up to £50k – money to be spent by March 2023. Resilience is in Elgin Town Hall on 24th November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC - coffee morning upcoming in TH, Saturday 5th November St John’s Church and 26th November Forres in Bloom • KA – end of a busy year – unexpected Gardens Programme coming to a close – reports based on evaluation of that programme, part of the nationwide Dandelion Project – engaged over 28 households living in the lanes off Forres High Street to grow edible plants, ran events and concluded with a Harvest Festival. Successful fourth Findhorn Bay Arts Festival – ran across 10 days and events held in varying areas and village halls, undertaking evaluations. Mini market shop back open to Christmas and review the sustainability in the new year – positive experience and moving forward looking at developing a creative hub and look at buildings on High Street. Won the Surf Award in 2018 and shortlisted again, judges had a positive visit. Currently in a phase of evaluation, planning and fund raising • MS – Forres Highland Games (FHG) have a store in Grant Park – gifted 28 years ago now being asked to pay rent but the property is not fit for purpose, MC formally agreed to give FHG a 25-year lease but they will have to pay to sort out the roof current costs are stand at £25k. All this was agreed in January and passed on to the legal department of MC and still awaiting paperwork, can’t apply for grants until they have a decision regarding the lease – Councillor Lawrence to follow this up and Martin to check up on CAT’s of store in Grant Park 	<p>MR/TC</p> <p>SL MR</p>
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For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS – unable to attend Transport Forum meeting – agreed Urquhart not the best place for a meeting if reliant on public transport future meetings to be held in Elgin MR –Transport Forum – next meeting in December and notes to be sent out DP – Men’s Shed doing well with AGM to be held on 30th November. Forres Group Action may cease trading – funding application turned down – new Chair appointed – Martin to meet with David SM – Flood Alleviation Group to meet in the Town Hall on 3rd November. Rotary bonfire on Saturday 5th November at 6pm looking for volunteers to collect donations. Museum book launch on 18th November in the Town Hall 	<p>MR</p> <p>MR/DP</p>
13. AOB	<p>FAF AGM to take place on 1st February 2023. Tina to swap date of next FAF meeting from 4th to 11th January – Tina to contact FACT. Wreath laying ceremony on 13th November for Remembrance Sunday.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>MR</p>
14. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 7th December 2022, 7pm in the North Room of the Town Hall.</p>	