



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT

Sandra Maclennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
Councillor Kathleen Robertson (KR)	Debbie Herron (DH)
Katrina Martin, Moray Council (KaM)	Rebecca Morrison, Moray Council (RM)
Martin Robertson, Moray Council (MR)	Mike Scott (MS)
Angela Sutherland (AS)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Paul McBain (PM)	
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2. Rebecca Morrison – Development Contributions Officer, Moray Council (MC)	<p>Rebecca – here to give an update on Participatory Budgeting (PB), the project is for £5k for community facilities in the Forres area – agreed by elected members last year that this project could be put out to PB – agreed limit is £450/project (no minimum) and to be voted on – types of project include where something can be replaced to enhance a group, used to purchase equipment and encourage more participants to join, capital expenditure – looking to bring in new users.</p> <p>Agreed to use the Money for Moray system – have to get enough applications and the money may go in one round. The money is to be spent in the next couple of year.</p> <p>Have to set the criteria – includes sending out to groups and then publicising (have in the past had a market place</p>	

	<p>or stand up and speak) – last week saw QR code and hope to use this and link to microsoft forms. Agreed groups are to spend and claim back. Look to set up a scrutiny group to vet applications and define which groups could apply, set up a Steering Group and design application. Look to invite personnel from MC, FAF, Money for Moray, elected members and the Community Council, the money is from Development Contributions. Meeting set for 8th February in Forres Town Hall commencing at 6pm, Debbie to check the room is free – steering group to have site of criteria before the meeting. Chair spoke to Money for Moray and they agreed to the use and adaptation of their Money for Moray paperwork.</p>	<p>DH MR</p>
<p>3. Minutes from 2nd November 2022</p>	<p>The minutes from 2nd November had one amendment, action point from item 13 had Martin next to it, should have read David. The minutes were proposed by Debbie and seconded by David.</p>	
<p>4. Matters arising</p>	<p>Item 3 – Councillor McBain was to look into roads and Martin reported it is Amey who have responsibility for them. Martin not heard regarding corporate responsibility representatives, Chair sent an email and awaits answer – roundabouts need change due to being overgrown and messy – have to make contact first Item 3 - Conversation Café to be rescheduled Item 7 – Martin – made initial contact with Kirsty Conti, no invites sent as unsure of date of meeting – to be carried forward Item 12 – Mannachie – David received an email from Garry and Chair replied to say there was a meeting tonight and she get back to him – Martin stated everything regarding Mannachie Park had been given to him through corporate communications – Martin to ask Kirsty to forward a copy of this information to the Chair – to be a standing agenda item. Martin updated those attending and stated going not quite back to the drawing board, received valid feedback on the park. Part of the challenge is consultant’s use of language i.e. football park but in fact it will be an informal play area. Received valid feedback regarding the trees to be planted and drainage which is not on service plans and this does not feature on the Council plans. The survey has closed and Martin has picked up feedback from the library, 25 – 30 responses and a busy consultation event on 14th – 17th November. Go back to the drawing board with this information and incorporate feedback and this will go live. Two people interested in being on the steering group but could not make dates set and look at a date in January and there will be a planting subgroup established (could be possibly part of the Green Spaces Group). Have to be clearer in the language used although people are supportive of it. Wondered if Ben Stewart would be interested in trying to support event at school, Had</p>	<p>SM MR MR SM MR TC</p>

	<p>engagement with primary school. Money can't be spent until April.</p> <p>Item 12 – agreed we would go to Rothes re the play park</p> <p>Item 12 – Councillor Lawrence looking in to lease, Martin emailed person who deals with Community Asset Transfers (CAT) in Moray Council and awaits a response – clarify if there is a CAT on Grant Park. Mike was asked to forward on paperwork to Land and Parks, MC regarding the booking of Grant Park for Theme Day/Highland Games</p> <p>Item 12 – Transport Forum – postponed to 31st January 2023, 6pm to 8pm in Elgin Town Hall – Chair spoke with CSU and informed had discussions with the Joint Community Council - Transport Forum under no appetite as a standalone constituted group, Martin to draft terms of reference – if more appropriate group to take on would be fine. Forres Action Group ceases on 16th December – winding up and donated equipment to other groups in the area.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>MR</p>
<p>5. Treasurers Report</p>	<p>The Treasurer was not in attendance.</p>	
<p>6. Correspondence</p>	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • Moray Transport Forum Information • STP Fund Finder – November • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • Boundaries Scotland • STP e-Bulletin • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • Conversation Café • Disabled Parking Space • Top-Up Taps <p>Top-up taps – came up at the Community Council meeting and agreed to put in Grant Park – Forres in Bloom (FiB) would like them to be situated at the car park – need to go near a water supply – those present unsure where the taps will be placed.</p> <p>Just Transition Participatory Budgeting – 31 projects and can vote for 10.</p> <p>Community Wellbeing – vote for 5 on a tsiMORAY link close on 16th December.</p>	
<p>7. FACT</p>	<p>Debbie informed all of the following:</p> <p>Winter Wonderland to be held on 3rd December went well and received positive feedback</p> <p>Successful Berry Burn funding application</p> <p>Find out about receiving a match to the Architectural Fund</p> <p>Carrera Trust – received £5k towards the Cameron Project towards gentle seat exercise and befriending service</p> <p>Postcode Trust – received £25k for the Pantry for 16 months</p>	

	<p>Capital funding applications being undertaken for the Town Hall project</p> <p>There is a vacancy for the Operations Manager, 6th January 2023 closing date and information available on the website</p> <p>Town Hall closing on 22nd December for Christmas and reopens on 9th January 2023, FACT holding a coffee morning on 14th January – always grateful for raffle prizes and bottles for the bottle stall</p> <p>Been very busy and received quite a lot of feedback regarding the difference FACT are making to some in the area – can see the benefit</p> <p>Monday attended the Council sessions about Community Wealth Building – work strategy and work plan being prepared for the new year. A lot of potential although needs to be practically supported to happen – if communities are to be encouraged to go into the procurement service they will need to be practically supported at how to make the process a lot simpler.</p> <p>Wellbeing and Participatory and Just Transition Participatory Budgeting – encouraged all to vote.</p>	
8. Town Centre Improvement Plans	<p>Martin attended a meeting with Kirsty Conti – happy for a group to come out of this group – first piece of funding would be for 1 year’s development work and look at continuing over a 5 year period. FAF could move on with TCIP and it would not impact on what Kirsty is doing. Helen Averill and Margot Henderson are keen to be involved. A meeting is set up for the new year at the Town Hall and need to compile a list of who to invite, could include Heritage Trust, Forres Events, Friends of the Museum, Business Association, FACT, FiB and Findhorn Bay Art – up to 15 different groups</p> <p>Initial meeting would be for anyone who wants to attend and then would look to form a smaller working group with 1 rep per group. Martin to support and ask Kirsty to attend. Martin to source dates to suit Kirsty and then get back to the group, plan to meet at 6.30pm – Debbie to check room availability when dates received.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>DH</p>
9. Spirit of Community 2022	<p>Martin met with Debbie and Lindsey Standring, FACT – draft action plan being worked on – booked time with MC Graphic Team and then send round draft format to Steering Group for comments (aiming for last week of January) – circulate and email to update all.</p>	
10. Moray Towns Partnership	<p>Nothing to report.</p>	
11. Moray Area Forum	<p>Nothing to report.</p>	

12. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS – nothing to report. Transport Forum preference for meeting was in Elgin at the TH and dates to fluctuate – also able to Zoom into the meetings • DH – will be putting out a list of activities for after Christmas in spring. Need to find more money to cover shortfalls in the FACT budget and to address the cost-of-living rise, will start submitting applications again after Christmas • MS – Conversation Café to start in January, it was well received and need to look how to work together to respond to local needs • DP – Men’s Shed is doing well. Christmas lunch for singles – Chris and Graham, FACT are doing something independently in Forres TH • TC – coffee morning on 10th December for Friends of Guiding in the TH 	
13. Councillors	<p>Councillor Robertson informed those present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forres Academy got the prioritisation for funding and should hear in January about funding – options appraisal then public consultation • Remembrance Sunday and Christmas light switch on, tow big events and lovely to see the support, lots of children and big crowds • Council is busy and had a steep learning curve • Agreed e-petitions are to be accepted, cut off number is 50, but smaller local groups could be accepted • Brown bins reduced from £40 to £36 • Agreement £20k to be given to Moray Foodbank and fund with way of applying to help support village halls – to apply for small grants to help with heating and warm rooms • Agreed unanimously that do not like the boundary commission changes, the proposal is to be split in 2, Moray East and North Aberdeenshire – objections are in • Big education meeting next week, early learning and childcare issues in the press in the coming days • Buckie SNP election – Council is now finely tuned, no challenges at present • Environmental Services team are out picking up dead birds – endemic in wild bird population 	
14. AOB	Nothing to report.	
15. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 11 th January 2023, 7pm in the Town Hall.	