

For further information please email: [forresareaforum@btinternet.com](mailto:forresareaforum@btinternet.com)



## MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023

### PRESENT

<b>Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)</b>	<b>David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)</b>
<b>Debbie Herron (DH)</b>	<b>Martin Robertson, Moray Council (MR)</b>
<b>Mike Scott (MS)</b>	<b>Angela Sutherland (AS)</b>
<b>Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)</b>	

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from John Bremner (JB).	
2. Minutes from 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2023	The minutes from 1 <sup>st</sup> February had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Martin and seconded by David.	
3. Matters arising	Item 2 – Secretary reissued minutes from 11 <sup>th</sup> January Item 3 – Developer Contributions Participatory Budgeting meeting held on 27 <sup>th</sup> February Item 7 - Martin to check with Debbie regarding a room at the Town Hall (TH) Item 12 – Martin and John – not heard about money Item 13 – Locality Plans flier for Saturday emailed out via FACT newsletter and also on social media	
4. Treasurers Report	No Treasurer present.	
5. Correspondence	Secretary emailed out the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STP Funding Finder – February 2023</li> <li>• tsiMORAY e-Bulletin</li> <li>• SFRS – quarterly report</li> <li>• Moray Local Development Plan</li> <li>• STP bulletin</li> <li>• tsiMORAY e-Bulletin</li> <li>• SFRS change to Automatic Fire Alarm Signals</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tsiMORAY e-Bulletin – Join the Dots to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023</li> </ul>	
6. FACT	<p>Debbie informed all of the following:                  Unsuccessful and did not get the RCGF money for the TH regeneration project and will apply again in April.                  Historic Environment Scotland application is progressing well, unsure of the amount to be received, looking at between £250k - £500k.                  Email received about the Community Ownership Fund, application submitted, should find out by the end of the month if successful. £250k for capital plus £50k for revenue costs (staff to deliver the project).                  Money through the tsiMORAY Wellbeing Fund, second year of the wellbeing project and start in April.                  Received from tsiMORAY and Money for Moray £50k which was for the purchase of insulation, this has been ordered with delivery for the end of March – help will be required to move the insulation.                  Lots of end of year grant reports are in the process of being prepared.                  Various applications are in development.                  Heritage of the TH – Margot and Helen will aim to capture stories of the TH for a project.                  Employability Project is extended to the end of April – helped 15 people into work/training.                  Debbie met with Sian Finlayson, Forres Academy and busy preparing a potential funding application for supported activities for families outside of school for once a week and if successful could feed into a summer programme for families and young people.                  Nick Clark started as the Operations Manager working 27 hours per week.                  Debbie has handed in her notice, no final date as yet – post has been advertised and can be viewed on the FACT website. Thanks from the FAF for building relationships within the community.                  Chris Thomas, General Assistant is retiring and her last day is 2<sup>nd</sup> March – OAP's have given her a card and present and she will be missed. The post will be advertised soon.</p>	
7. Town Centre Improvement Plans	<p>Chair fed back that the Community Council felt there was a lack of information sharing and possible duplication of work.                  TCIP – Planning Department worked on this and the Heritage Project which Economic Development are working on. The result of the funding applications should be known in March. Martin is willing to call an initial meeting to facilitate and share ideas that stakeholders are already planning.</p>	MR
8. Spirit of Community	<p>Managed to retrieve survey information and it has been</p>	

2022	<p>compiled into sections to be summarised in a report – additional funds from tsiMORAY to facilitate focus groups – will be able to start a first draft and add extra information to the report.</p> <p>Word document has been produced and is in it's initial stages. Martin, Debbie and Sandra meet on Monday to look at a draft of the report, to be collated and sent round to those who were originally involved, followed by a meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March to discuss and add the next level of input. Martin has received updated stats which can be used in the report.</p> <p>Focus groups are needed as there are gaps in the report around activities and how wellbeing is being managing after Covid.</p>	MR/DH/SM
9. Mannachie Park	<p>Play equipment – Chair met with Laura, Sarah Campbell from Open Spaces Lands and Parks and 1 lady from the community, a meeting has been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Decided to find £10k to improve the provision and thought of applying to Berry Burn. An application has been submitted to the Landfill Fund for £12k. Thought a leaflet could be prepared to hand out at the Saturday event in the TH – Martin to prepare a leaflet. £70k has been earmarked for capital improvements.</p> <p>Question regarding where the money paid for the TH went, did it go into the capital – Debbie to follow up.</p>	MR DH
10. Developer Contributions to Forres ASG	<p>Martin attended the meeting and there is slightly less than £6k for the participatory budgeting process. Fund is from the developer contributions with a strict criteria for capital spend on resources. Paperwork has been drafted and hoping to be launched at the end of March. Do not have to be a constituted group and is specific to Forres ASG. Martin to invite local councillors to be members of the group.</p>	MR
11. Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Moray	<p>Chair attended a meeting in Inverurie, 3 x TSI's and NES-CAM were in attendance. Undertook an evaluation of how things went and will set up a forum to take this forward, hopeful Moray will get the same amount this year (£333,333).</p>	
12. Moray Towns Partnership	<p>In abeyance.</p>	
13. Moray Area Forum	<p>Moray Council Budget Meeting held today and in the budget one of the savings was the Moray Area Forums. All four Forums have come together and there is an appetite to continue going forward. Martin will clarify whether FAF is due an admin grant this year and at the Forum a discussion took place with regard to alternative funding.</p>	MR
14. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TC – pop-up coffee morning on 18<sup>th</sup> March to be hosted by FACT</li> <li>• DH – Place Plans Consultation on 4<sup>th</sup> March, Youth Concert on 14<sup>th</sup> March in the TH starts at 7pm, tsi Join the Dots conference in Elgin TH on 30<sup>th</sup> March</li> </ul>	

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	<p>from 10am to 3pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS – transport meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm at Elgin TH in the Supper Room</li> <li>MS – tree is being looked at, unsure if it is on Moray Council ground, to be followed up</li> <li>DP - 16<sup>th</sup> March between 6pm – 9pm at Transition Town Forres is the Climate Café waste and recycling, 7<sup>th</sup> March the Institution of the Rector at St John’s Church, 8<sup>th</sup> March the Witches of Moray talk at the Forres Heritage Trust, 4<sup>th</sup> March Bingo at Forres Mechanics. Community Council is looking for new members, next meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Resilience Fund – £5k received from SSCN by the Community Council regarding the Resilience Response</li> </ul>	MS
15. Councillors	No Councillors were present.	
16. AOB	<p>Coronation Big Lunch – David stated this came up at a Community Council meeting, trying to get organisations together and have a social event in Grant Park, suggestion of holding a picnic which will tie up with MC regarding paperwork for use of the park.</p> <p>Volunteers Day is on 8<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>On 5<sup>th</sup> May the Rotary Club is hosting activities for young persons in the TH.</p> <p>Green Spaces Group meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm in the Community Centre.</p> <p>Community Engagement Event on 4<sup>th</sup> March in the TH, drop-in session from 10am to 3pm</p> <p>Youth Philanthropic Foundation have £3k to give out to charities and persons have to bid on behalf of those charities.</p>	
17. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023, 7pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	