



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2023**

PRESENT

Sandra Maclennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)	Lorretta Oliphant, Depute Treasurer (LO)
Councillor Paul McBain (PM)	Michelle Gillibrand (MG)
Gordon Ruddiman (GR)	Mike Scott (MS)
Angela Sutherland (AS)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2. Minutes from 4 th October 2023	The minutes from 4 th October 2023 had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Angela and seconded by David.	
3. Matters arising	Item 3 – Gordon confirmed the cycle path is being looked at by the Active Travel Group potentially on Victoria Street – thought to have a more dedicated cycle path Item 7 – Chair met with Kirsty Shand regarding Town Centre Improvement Plans and walked along the High Street discussing all items which had been raised before Item 7 – Secretary attended the Forres Business Association AGM Item 8 – SoC combined report still to be done Item 13 – Moray Forum meeting next week Item 5 – Gordon – School Estate drop in at library on 24 th October – busy, lots of interest and conversation about the position of the potential new high school. Main purpose of	SM

	<p>the debate was to share all the different demands and aspects that Moray Council (MC) needed to take into consideration and highlight issues and concerns about primary schools. Lots of concerns about the situation of the high school, where it would be: outside town reduces congestion or building on the same site. There is an invitation to email school estates with questions on LearningEstate@moray.gov.uk</p> <p>Councillor McBain informed all there was one person with forceful views on the 3 – 18 year campus, idea is to look for a school estate for the next 20 years going forward. The event was well attended and more information can be found on Moray Learning Estate - Moray Council</p> <p>The high school has funding to go forward.</p> <p>Item 15 – Round the Table – licences – Town Hall Users Group will be inviting along the lady from the Moray Council who deals with licences and open up the meeting to other groups – Chair to speak with Nick at FACT</p> <p>Item 17 – Secretary cancelled the room booking for January’s meeting</p>	SM
4. Constitution	<p>Gordon in response to a request for a template at the last meeting emailed out a generic template which has been modified and used for the Forres Area Forum Constitution. Each section was discussed and amendments identified with Michelle agreeing to undertake some wording changes/amendments. Michelle agreed to put meeting dates onto the FACT website and Lorretta to contact the Spotlight magazine and Forres Local website to advertise the FAF meeting dates.</p>	MG LO
5. Treasurers Report	<p>The account stands at £3,048.36, no change to last month. There was a query regarding a payment from Rankin Fraser of £400, they were emailed and the money was given as part of their community benefit and was awarded to the Mannachie Group, this money is ringfenced for the Mannachie Group.</p>	
6. Finance Paper – Statement Reporting	<p>Following the AGM there was a discussion with regard to how to produce yearly accounts, Gordon emailed a template to the Secretary for circulation. The group discussed it and agreed to take it forward and agreed a sub-group is to be set up to produce a formal template for accounts, Secretary, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Depute Treasurer to meet to discuss, Secretary to arrange a date and time.</p>	TC
7. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tsiMORAY e-Bulletins x 4 • Just Transition Participatory Budgeting information 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STP bulletin • Forres Community Council minutes and agenda • SFRS report July – September 2023 – discussed by those present <p>Gordon – My Place Awards around buildings – information to be emailed out</p>	TC
8. FACT	<p>Rescheduled the FACT AGM which will take place on 6th December.</p> <p>FACT Board staff and volunteers and open up to others and looking to set up an income generation. Looking to hold events and projects to generate income – if interested contact Michelle or Nick at FACT on info@forresarea.org</p> <p>Phasing of refurbishment of TH involving roof works and stone work and putting in wool insulation. Tenders out on 30th October and back by 24th November with a view to awarding the contract on 8th December with work starting in January 2024 and to be finished by mid March 2024. On paper FACT have all the funds but relies on a complex mix of funding. On 24th November FACT should know what the funding package is, this is phase 1. Received reports on how much heat would be retained and could possibly see an improvement of up to 25% by repairing the roof and installing the insulation. Will look to have an emphasis on income generation in order to help keep the building running and open. On 6th December should be clear as to whether FACT are able to do the work. Work is ongoing with regard to how to phase the project going forward as the project has been costed at over £5 million, looking to get help to look at relevant phasing, it is expensive but phasing makes it more realistic.</p>	
9. Town Centre Improvement Plans	<p>Now called the Forres Culture and Heritage Scheme – Kirsty Shand was appointed for a year and has held one meeting to draw up 5-year plan. Plan would be to gather people together and undertake consultations.</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce Town Centre Task Force – are looking at town centres across Moray, there was a paper which went to council from Gary Templeton and it was passed. MC are paying for a co-ordinator. The post will run for a year. Councillor McBain will be involved in meetings. Once funding is in place then able to bid for money and to follow up bids. Councillor McBain to follow up bids which are to be in by December for a pot of £2 million funding. Gordon stated this was a CARES funding and Kirsty’s role is to build a case for going forward to get funding.</p>	
10. Spirit of	Plan – few meetings were held to reformat the document – at	

Community 2022	<p>the last meeting there were final changes and Michelle will finish the update and pass round the SoC group first then on to Gordon. Low in images that could be used but following discussions with Forres Camera Club, Forres Local and Forres in Bloom (FiB) there are now local images that could be used, still looking for images outwith Forres with people in them.</p> <p>As part of the document there is a welcome from elected members, looking for a collective statement from all elected members, Councillor McBain was in support of this idea and Michelle to follow up. Michelle has spoken with various organisations who have been involved in the consultation and will let them see which actions they could put their names to on the action plan. No potential launch date as yet.</p>	MG
11. Mannachie Park	<p>Did put in a bid to Berry Burn, who have held a meeting and awaiting the outcome, should hear soon.</p> <p>Gordon gave an up from Grant Speed, MC, work has been started on the playpark and Grant gave an update on the landscaping of the park to include planting of bulbs and wildflower turfing.</p>	
12. Developer Contributions to Forres ASG	<p>There was £5k in Developer Contributions and this went out to Participatory Budgeting (PB) and three groups applied with each receiving £1k each. There was a strict set of criteria which was set partly by the Developers.</p> <p>HMI inspecting PB with MC. Councillor McBain had an update on how the developer contribution process works.</p>	
13. Money for Moray	<p>Those groups who were successful have been identified and it will be made public on 3rd November. Celebration event on 18th November at Lhanbryde at 2pm for all groups to gather and collect their certificates.</p>	
14. Moray Towns Partnership	<p>In abeyance.</p>	
15. Moray Forum	<p>Will be meeting in a couple of weeks.</p>	
16. Transport Forum	<p>Forum met on 10th October with five present, launch event to be held in the new year. Next meeting will be held on 21st November and will discuss the launch. There are still no time tables in the bus shelters.</p>	
17. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB – Remembrance Parade on 12th November • MS – store still wait, made a new lease plan and not signed, therefore can't apply for a grant for the shed roof • MG – today a voting system set up by the Press & Journal includes FACT and groups could win £10k – 	

	<p>out on social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP – coffee morning on 18th November is Dyke Primary. From 20th November Forres Crafters are on and 1st December Men’s Shed AGM. Film Forres received £1,375 from Tesco, the next film on Friday is “Brave”, 11th November for adults is the singalong film The Great Showman and 17th November for children is a musical version of Matilda • SM – on 4th November Rotary Bonfire night and help needed to clean up after the night and people required to shake buckets on the night, 2nd December Christmas lights switch on • TC – St John’s Church coffee morning on 4th November and Forres in Bloom coffee morning on 11th November in the TH 	
18. Councillors	<p>This financial year set the budget in March knowing there was a £20.5 million gap to fill, now down to £15 million and agreed savings within MC. Have to have another look at cuts in MC who have implemented Transform to Save (costing £4 million). Question came to Committee a few months ago regarding no compulsory redundancies with MC, this went through last Wednesday lost vote by one and is now policy. Councillor McBain does not want to see any more cuts in MC. Need a stable footing going forward. He and some others are looking further into some areas of the budget to see how and where money is spent and see if there could be further savings.</p>	
19. AOB	No other business to discuss.	
20. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 6 th December 2023, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	

Meeting dates in 2024: 7th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October (includes AGM), 6th November and 4th December 2024