



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2023**

PRESENT

Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
Lorretta Oliphant, Depute Treasurer (LO)	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, apologies were received from Michelle Gillibrand (MG).	
2. Minutes from 1 st November 2023	The minutes from 1 st November 2023 had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by David and seconded by Angela.	
3. Matters arising	Item 3 – Chair spoke to Nick at FACT regarding a talk about licenses and aiming to do through the THUG's. Chair attended Federation meeting and a person who arranged events has problems with drink at the event and had to employ paid and registered stewards as a public event has to be controlled and managed Item 4 – dates of FAF meetings are on the FACT website, in the Spotlight and will be on the Forres Local website as from February Item 7 – My Place Awards – Gordon to follow up	GR
4. Treasurers Report	Vice Chair, Depute Treasurer and Secretary met to discuss the new look accounts, the template has been populated and awaits accounting information being inputted to update for the	

	previous year. All those present agreed the new look template is to be taken forward. Chair and Secretary agreed to contact the Treasurer by letter requesting the return of the accounts/books.	SM/TC
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tsiMORAY e-Bulletins x 6 • Sports and Leisure Surveys • Osprey Bus – panto • Scotland Loves Local Awards • Scotland’s Towns Conference 2023 • Forres Community Centre information • STP Funding Finder – November • Town Centre Capital Grant Scheme x 2 • Let’s Dance – Forres House 50th Birthday • Forres Osprey Christmas News • Moray Transport Forum information • SONAS Flier • Council Allotment Consultation • STP e-Bulletins x 2 • FABA letter regarding SGN roadworks • Forres Community Council – draft minutes • My Place Awards information • P&J 275 Community Fund • FABA update 	
6. EGM	All present discussed the draft constitution and Gordon to follow up a couple of amendments. Once confirmed an EGM is to be held on 7 th February to approve both the draft accounts and the new draft constitution. Gordon to follow up membership forms.	GR GR
7. FACT	The AGM will take place on 18 th December in the main hall commencing at 6.30pm. Roof repairs are due to start in January 2024.	
8. Forres Culture and Heritage Scheme	<p>Two separate groups and trying to get them to work together: Task Centre Task Force is the Moray Chamber of Commerce with Anna R and her post is funded by Moray Council (MC) for a year and is for all the towns in Moray. At present setting up the group and drafting a constitution and completing paperwork. Anna is visiting all the towns and looking at empty properties.</p> <p>Heritage Scheme is a 5 year scheme purely for Forres, employing a Development Project Officer, Kirsty Shand who has been appointed for a year to draw up a 5 year programme, although may not be successful in applying for any funding. Looking at partnership project looking at the Forres Conservation Area, finding ways to develop, promote</p>	

	<p>and protect the historic character.</p> <p>After working with Emma Gordon on the Local Development Plan there were ideas put forward regarding the Museum Square and Tolbooth, money was given via funding. Believe that £35k has been set aside but at a meeting attended by the Chair, Gary Templeton spoke as if work is to start in January but unsure which plan he is working to. Gordon agreed to find out which plan is being used.</p> <p>Thoughts were to clear the Museum area of tree and Forres in Bloom flowerbed and the chess Board and signs to make the space open and flexible. Chair is going to contact Councillor McBain to see if he finds out anything further. Gary also spoke about two other pots of money which Chair is unsure where they will come from.</p> <p>At a meeting attended by Kirsty Shand, the Chair asked if she could put out a statement explaining regarding the remit of each of the groups. Moving forward all groups have sat round a table and hope to work together in the future.</p> <p>Gary Templeton's Town Centre Capital Grant Scheme funding is for transforming empty spaces, relocate businesses to vacant properties in a town centre, sub division or expansion of existing building, support business startup in the town centre or make improvements to shop fronts or property signage. There is a tight timescale to put in ideas by 8th January 2024 and 50% match funding is required to go forward.</p> <p>Chair to forward on email for the membership.</p>	<p>GR</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM/TC</p>
9. Spirit of Community 2022	<p>Have completed and submitted consents for photos, still short on consents for people in photos and they will be credited. Still require further photos, to be sent to Michelle at FACT. Elected members have come together and produced a joint welcome from them, Chair to complete an introduction and forward on to Michelle.</p>	SM
10. Mannachie Park	<p>Unsuccessful with regard to the Berry Burn fund, Laura Cameron, Community Support Unit to set up an online meeting to discuss the next steps going forward.</p>	
11. Money for Moray	<p>All monies have been dispersed and encouraging people to complete appropriate paperwork before the next applications are to be submitted.</p>	
12. Moray Towns Partnership	<p>In abeyance.</p>	
13. Moray Forum	<p>Chair attended a meeting where Community Engagement Group (CEG) discussed, unsure what the purpose/function/structure of the group is, informed that could have someone on the group. A Working Group has been set</p>	

	<p>up and Gordon McDonald will represent the Forum. Question was asked as to which department within the CLD Management Group and Community Planning Partnership could fund the Forums – Gordon to confirm. Buckie Area Forum made a request to Elected Members to support the operating costs of the Forum from £15k which each ward received, still awaiting a reply. Forres Councillors have received several applications for money from the £15k and looking to spend money on sustainable things which will carry on into the future. Resilience Planning – Community Council are working on it – brochures being received by houses in Moray, two new generators have been purchased from funding which was applied for.</p>	GR
14. Transport Forum	<p>Angela updated all: Met on 21st November with 8-9 members in attendance – aiming to compile a list of all providers of transport in Moray. Hopeman Community have renamed their bus, an application to the JTPB for £50k was submitted and the community were successful, they are planning a press release and relaunch in March/April 2024. Noted there are still no timetables in bus shelters and going to improve bus shelters a roadshow discussed. Future of MTF meetings – moving to Elgin Academy to hold meetings with a proposed date of 16th January 2024. Considering possible bicycle racks on M.Connect buses and need more drivers. Proposed widening of the path in Grant Park, response was no money, not thinking about it at present and would consult with people. At the Green Spaces Group the lady Chair of the Forres Active Travel Group said plans were being drawn up and it would be done in two years and then there will be consultation – Gordon to make enquiries.</p>	GR
15. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS – would have liked to have seen the pavements salted and sanded • DP – Film Forres showing Barbie on Saturday, Men’s Shed closes on 20th December and reopens on 9th January 2024, next meeting of Forres Community Council in January 2024 and looking for more members and have a new Secretary, looking for a Minute Secretary. On 4th August 2024 Grant Park is 100 years old • MS – await MC to contact solicitor regarding trees – suggestion is to get a JCB and lift trees out of the ground do not cut down – have to contact Darren Westmacott, MC regarding tree preservation and have 	

	<p>to get permission to take them out, also to be removed are self-seeded beeches forming a hedge. FIB will ask about tree preservation and nesting time for birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC - 9th December Youth Choir concert at St John's Church, coffee mornings in the Town Hall (TH): 9th December Friends of Guides and 23rd December to raise money for a TH event and FACT will run the first coffee morning of 2024 on 13th January • SM – 9th December in the Community Centre is a dance to celebrate the 50th Birthday Party • GR – library and leisure centre community engagement surveys, good responses and focus group planned for 25th January 2024. ASG day at Forres Academy, sessions held with pupils, teachers and reps from community groups where they were asked what they would like to see done with the new school – review group to meet in January – unsure of the location of the new Academy and unsure when we will find out where it is to be situated. No word of Martin's job being replaced, it is still there 	
16. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
17. AOB	EGM to take place on 7th February with information to be emailed out at the beginning of January allowing 14 clear days before the EGM date.	TC
18. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 7th February 2024, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	

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