



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM (FAF) MEETING

WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2019

PRESENT

Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Debbie Herron (DH)	Graham Hilditch (GH)
Shaun Moat (SMo)	Graham Murdoch (GM)
Ian Todd (IT)	Tina Coffey (Minutes) (TC)

(Abbreviations of groups: TTF – Transition Town Forres, FACT – Forres Area Community Trust, FiB – Forres in Bloom, MC – Moray Council, BBCT – Berry Burn Community Trust, FCC – Forres Community Council, TH - Town Hall, Area Forum - AF)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2. Apologies	Apologies had been received from Councillor Lorna Creswell (LC) and Mike Scott (MS).	
3. Minutes of FAF Meeting held in March 2019	There was one correction to the agenda, the word declared is to be inserted before 'approved by the Chairperson'. The minutes were proposed by Tina Coffey and seconded by Sandra MacLennan.	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 4 – Chair has been in touch with Tracey McDonald of Scotrail and she has been speaking to Kevin Rooney of Network Rail. Darren Westmacott of MC had spoken to Network Rail and Scotrail about compensatory planting – no reply as yet Item 4 – Towerview response still awaited Item 4 – trolley invoice to be emailed to the Secretary Item 4 – bus route Aberlour to Forres, Angela went to the station and timed the hired Arnold Clark minibus and train times. Angela emailed Donald MacRae, for usage, he replied bus has been running for 2 months with 0 – 6 persons using the bus per trip, it is a soft 	LC DH

	<p>launch with an electric vehicle – teething problems with charging. Awaiting a meeting date with Anita Rolt. Received a couple of emails from Army personnel wanting to attend meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 5 – cheque signatory paperwork received • Item 12 – Development Plan was emailed out to FAF membership • Item 12 – Spirit of Community meeting, Lorna to update at next meeting • Item 13 – Army held engagement on 2nd April 2019, Lorna to update the Forum • Item 13 – Rene Milburn toilet scheme survey, question for Councillors as to the progress on this item 	<p>LC</p> <p>LC</p> <p>CF/LC</p>
5. Treasurers Report	<p>The balance on the account is £3,176.45. There was a query regarding cheques cashed: £100 for Secretarial duties (for 2 months) and £50 to the Community Café (for 2 months). Graham H queried why the Skate Park had received a FAF grant of £200, he was informed it was for setting up and marketing costs which come from FAF coffee morning income.</p>	
6. Correspondence	<p>Secretary read out a list of emails forwarded to the FAF membership which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland’s Towns Partnership – upcoming towns and improvement districts events • Forres Action Plan – 2015 – 2018 • Scotland’s Towns Partnership – bulletin and towns and improvements districts • Scotland’s Towns Funding Finder for March 2019 • Scotland’s Towns Partnership - Rural towns are Scotland’s life blood press release <p>Chair to forward on Place Standards results for circulation to FAF membership.</p>	<p>SM/TC</p>
7. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>Debbie informed those present of the following:</p> <p>Older Persons project – gentle exercise group went well, will become regular and will be followed by a social.</p> <p>Cameron’s Champions unexpected benefit with OAP group usually meeting from September to May but will now extend with a smaller group meeting through to May/June.</p> <p>Awarded 6 months funding from the Auchernach Trust.</p> <p>Forres On-line – ended March 2019, had a successful 3 years with 3,000 client visits – applying for funds to extend the project and have a meeting with National Lottery funders.</p> <p>TH is now fully wifi’d supported by developer contributions.</p> <p>Volunteer numbers increasing with 2 lots of training.</p> <p>Volunteer resource list – over 70 on the list, next stage at the end of April FACT will invite groups via email to send in what their needs are.</p> <p>Skate Park – roller disco on 12th April in FHCC – ticketed event to raise awareness and funds.</p>	

	<p>Film Forres – new committee with next film A Star is Born on 13th April in TH – tickets on sale – cinema licence purchased and not limited to a set number of films per year</p> <p>TH – leaks in building and application in for funding for basic repairs to the roof from the Landfill Tax Fund. MC do not have funds for repairs going through the process of Community Asset Transfer, MC officers to visit the TH.</p> <p>Building is busier and more enquiries about usage – prices are based on an hourly rate and have not been increased although the day rate is now £350 for community use.</p> <p>Heritage Trust partnership is going well.</p> <p>World Host training undertaken with other training to be looked at, by request an instagram training session will be held.</p> <p>Tourism Group – next week will attend Expo in Glasgow to promote the area – try to attract members of the travel trade – business to business and seeing a benefit of return after 2 – 3 years of attendance. A good representation from Forres area. Been supporting Laurie Piper in the Tourism Bid Improvement District (TBID), decision in September/October. Funding applications for Forres On-line and the Older Persons project are being submitted together with reports to funders.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding the site of the proposed new skate park Debbie replied a proposed location site identified from green spaces and P4R was Bogton, if it was to go ahead surveys would have to be undertaken. The old site near the school was discounted as the level of antisocial behaviour, the lack of communication between the school, the group and MC together with ill feeling shut it down. Vicky (FACT) is working with the group ensuring the group is robust to continue and governance is being undertaken following advice from a consultant, FACT's work with the group commenced in 2013.</p> <p>Town Hall User Group – 40 different people attend representing 10 different groups on a 4 – 6 week cycle to manage the building, lots of networking between all groups.</p> <p>TH Spring Clean on 15th April from 10 am to 2 pm all welcome.</p> <p>FACT have joined the Federation of Community Halls and Associations who they meet quarterly.</p> <p>Invite from the Community Engagement Group on 23rd April to share FACT's experience of the CAT process.</p>	
<p>8. Forres Area A96 Community Group</p>	<p>The group met on 26th March 2019, members of the FCC attended with information regarding the south route. FAA96CG is route agnostic and the group urged the FCC to forward on this information to SWECO and Transport Scotland. Group will try again to get the report on the route into the library and will query the visualisations.</p> <p>Secretary to ask Alan James to give a presentation at the next FAF meeting regarding his paper.</p>	<p>TC</p>

9. Planning for Real	Looked at the grass cutting and the plan for Sanquhar Pond and spoke about the Mosset audit proposal, Chair to email Mosset information to Secretary for circulation.	SM/TC
10. Moray Towns Partnership	Meeting to be held on 23 rd April, Councillor Leadbitter called it to discuss money to regenerate high streets, representatives from AF's or regeneration groups will attend from Keith, Lossiemouth, Buckie, Forres, Elgin and Laurie Piper, Moray Speyside Tourism has been asked to attend, papers have been requested and are awaited. Forres have a £23k survey undertaken for CARS enterprise, emphasis is on improving properties above shops on the high street. Those present would like the following taken forward, to attract people back to visit the high street could encourage them to park in the high street and to make Forres a destination place with more leisure shops. Debbie informed all that money was for capital expenditure to improve the look of the high street. The Heritage Trust had offered to support the repair of the Market Cross if core funding had been received for CARS application which was refused. Debbie stated some properties above shop premises in Forres were in a bad structural condition, have 1 year to commit and funding is £1.2 million.	
11. Moray Area Forum	<p>Meeting held spoke about Public Entertainments licence for the TH.</p> <p>Moray Food Bank – looking to extend it.</p> <p>Growth Deal – decision after the summer recess.</p> <p>Federation have been looking at rates relief for Community Halls.</p> <p>tsiMORAY – Join the Dots tried a new format and welcomed by those attending.</p> <p>Buckie LOIP – Moray Area Forum to request forum involvement in any future LOIPs.</p> <p>Spoke about what is statutory and is not statutory, sprung on at last minute and asked for a statutory list.</p> <p>tsiMORAY running PVG training on 7th May 10 am to 4 pm.</p> <p>Anita Rolt attended the last meeting and a report is to come.</p> <p>MC run 3 bus services from Elgin and up Speyside and no chargers working at present, heaters are not working due to the batteries being unable to operate both the heaters and lights.</p> <p>Funding for Area Forums discussed, Ian informed those present the press release says AF's funding were to be cut by 100% along with Community Councils, this is untrue as the AF's were cut by 50%. The decision regarding the Community Council's grant agreed it was to be cut by 100% for 12 months and is to be reviewed. The Community Council Liaison post has not been touched and will be reviewed before next year.</p>	
12. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB – received no insurance reminder – unsure if Zurich were the insurers. John to contact Colin McKenzie at Highland Council 	JB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GH - attended a JCC meeting at Elgin Academy to discuss cuts, specifically school crossing patrollers, grass cutting and toilet closures, main priority was the school crossing patrollers. Trying to find future funding – feedback windfarms potentially best form of funding. Attended MC planning meeting last week, 2 applications from Forres and both turned down, planners said community benefit was not taken into account. Developer Contribution goes to MC and is time limited. FCC Chair had been contacted regarding payment of honorarium, Chair of FAF stated grant received was for administration purposes• SMO – rebranding of the Forres Community Council and will share any news sent to him• GM – received no notification that FCC grant was to be suspended and FCC have committed money, Ian said FCC is statutory and FAF is not, some local authorities provide grants and a CC Liaison Officer and others have one or other, suggest speaking to local elected members. Attended a JCC meeting in Elgin and felt disappointed that Chair of FAF said that anyone can speak at Forum meeting but not at CC meetings. Chair apologised and had not intended to cause upset. CC is a formal meeting with those wishing to speak having to ask the CC Chair to speak or speak during the members of the public set time. At a Forum meeting anyone can speak at any time• AS - queried the criteria for an 87 year old to get into Varis Court, she had been unable to find out any further information. FCC has a rep who looks after health. Wheelchair hire is available from Inverness and they only deliver to 15 miles out of Inverness otherwise there is a fee for delivery• DP – Health and Wellbeing forum meeting on 16th April at the Inkwel in Elgin arranged by tsiMORAY from 2 pm to 4.30 pm. Coffee and soup event at St Leonard's on 20th April and a pop up shop at the Men's Shed and on 23rd April and a Penumbra event in FHCC• IT – Dawn and Sylvia, CSU team working in the area, Sylvia meeting with the Open Spaces and Findhorn Wildfowling groups, Dawn supporting at the TH. MAF – Moray Poverty Strategy with Cathy Ross, Lead Officer MC, Moray Food Bank spoke about poverty action plan and strategy for Moray. Moray Food Bank and café at forefront with 2 x seminars to look at poverty – Cathy invited to attend strategy groups. A lady at Buckie Forum had concerns about food distribution Tesco withdrew their support for logistical reasons. Salvation Army get Co-op parcels and those in receipt can only get 2/month. Cathy Ross to be invited to the next Buckie Forum	
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For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SM – grass cutting – invited to JCC meeting as Vice Chair of MAF, unsure which areas to be cut and not cut will speak to Ken Kennedy, MC – map with areas of non-cutting on it produced. FiB coffee morning on 11th May in the Town Hall from 10 am to midday. Money for Moray - £5k from Scottish Government – looking to run information groups on Participatory Budgeting in co-operation with MC and wait to have a meeting with new Finance Officer – 1% total of MC budget to be spent and has to have public engagement. Query as to whether Berryburn would provide money for grass cutting - no not as is but if a trust was set up or if FiB applied for the money for maintenance of the TH would be looked at – Grant Park Trust mentioned, query as to who are trustees and is it part of the Common Good 	SM
13. Councillors	There were no Councillors present.	
14. AOB	No other business	
15. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 1 st May 2019, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre (FHCC).	