



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 6th MAY 2015**

PRESENT

Brian McDonald, Chair (BM)	Sandra MacLennan, Vice Chair (SM)
John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Debbie Herron (DH)	Ian Todd (IT)
Willie Chisholm (WC)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Brian McDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Apologies	Apologies were received from Councillor Lorna Creswell and Gary Simpson.	
3. Minute of FAF Meeting held in April 2015	There was one amendment: Under Section 5, page 2 the current balance stands at £3,190.20 and not £3,109.20 as stated in the minutes. The minutes were proposed by John Bremner and seconded by Angela Sutherland.	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuation procedures within Forres House Community Centre (FHCC) – Willie Chisholm stated he had sent information on to his colleagues and they would be getting in touch with Councillor Creswell, as she was not present for this meeting item is carried forward to the next meeting. • FAF insurance – Treasurer has received an insurance form from Highland Council which was passed to Chair for completion. • Portable/pop up banners – Vice Chair is to send Secretary photographs suitable for inclusion on a banner - item pending. • Forres Learning Centre (FLC) site is up for sale and FACT were given 3 months notice in February 2015. FACT are currently looking for alternative premises to rent and are exploring the possibility of utilising Moray Council (TMC) property. Chair has been in touch with Forres House Community Centre (FHCC) with regard to renting the Blue Room during the day on a possible long let. Chair was informed person to speak to would be Nick Goodchild, TMC. • Treasurer forwarded on grant forms but has received nothing 	<p style="text-align: center;">LC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SM</p>

	<p>back from the group enquiring as to a set up grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FHCC Cafe – not ready as having to seek a building warrant for extraction fans, could be up and running possibly in June 2015. • Adopt-A-Station – Vice Chair attended a meeting and received no written confirmation about continuation of funding. It was thought if possible consideration might be given to Forres' railway station having a mural to celebrate Mount Stephen and Lord Strathcona. 	
	<p>Willie Chisholm updated FAF with Fire Statistics for Year to Date up to March 2015; Accidental Dwelling Fires 4 (9 previous year) Non-Fatal Fire Casualties 7 (3 previous year) Fatal Fire Casualties 0 (0 previous year) Special Service – Road Traffic Collisions 3 (2 previous year) Deliberate Fires 6 (9 previous year) Willie asked when FAF members would like information in relation to statistics and those present thought quarterly reports would be best. Date to be set in the future for Willie to give a talk on the role of the fire service.</p>	
5. Treasurers Report	<p>Current balance stands at £2,941.50 which includes £276 for insurance. There was 1 cheque cashed: £50 for secretarial duties. £200 contribution for Transport Directory. £500 was transferred in from MTP money into the wrong account and was transferred out of the FAF account into the Moray Forum account, there was 30 pence in interest.</p> <p>FAF funding – top up annually to be received from TMC (around £1,800 per year) – confirmation still awaited on this from TMC believed that TMC will top up any monies spent i.e. £1,800 to spend and spend £800 through the year, TMC will top up account by £800. Ian Todd volunteered to write to John Ferguson for clarification on whether monies spent up to £1,800 will be reimbursed and on what FAF funding can be spent on.</p>	IT
6. Moray Towns Partnership (MTP)	<p>Next meeting will take place on 18th May 2015. Alan MacBeth has sent out information ratifying money for FAF for the next 3 years - £15,000 per annum for 3 years. Buckie Area Forum elected to spend £15,000 to install wifi - not up and running yet awaiting line to be put in. Keith, Lossiemouth and Forres thinking about same facility – Debbie Herron, FACT gave some feedback after attending a meeting with Digital Scotland, Johanna from Rafford Consulting, Marc Hindley from Canary Dwarf were also in attendance. They met with staff from Digital Scotland and asked about wifi – currently undertaking a roll out programme due to finish mid 2017 and will be able to identify gaps in wifi and fill them in suggestion is to wait until system is upgraded and roll out identifies areas which were not covered by wifi. Members present agreed to update the current 3-year plan. Forres in Bloom will make an application for MTP money. MTP – four towns leaflet well received by public and communities. Sandra Maclennan is to contact Ian Widdowson and find out if four towns leaflet to be included in Piping at Forres packs. Discussion took place with regard to request for MTP money, following requests have been discussed at FAF meeting tonight: FACT – Forres Companion £750</p>	

	<p>FACT – 50 for 50 Campaign £800 Forres in Bloom £1,100 Nelson’s Tower £400 Piping at Forres £2,000</p>	
7. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>Debbie Herron, LDO informed members of the following: Toun Mercat – suggestion FAF, FACT and Forres Community Council (FCC) have a joint stall on the night – building on Spirit of Community and Debbie to lead on this. Stalls going well – 37 booked to date – stalls have to have appropriate licences in place and have to provide FACT (FCAA) with a copy of paperwork. Debbie met with National Theatre of Scotland who will collect stories from local groups. Older persons directory – Findhorn over 60’s group went through database list and pointed out items missing i.e. need chiropodists and pointed out items not necessary. OAP’s who meet in Town Hall feel they will use this directory – once first draft completed intend to have a random 10 older people for a focus group before going to print. FAF would like to see a copy of the draft directory. Intend to launch in café when it is ready – stress this is a pilot and experiment. Town Centre Working Group – going through a period of change and look at working with Forres Area Business Association – meeting planned for end of month. Tourism Group – 50 for 50 Campaign – 34 participants signed up and paid, shortfall of £800 – Debbie to put in a request to FAF for MTP money for the shortfall – suggestion that Debbie is to check with TMC with reference to the Common Good Fund – if no money left then Debbie to come back to FAF. Tracks programme – Canadian Pacific – had a meeting today with Fiona Murdoch and Sandra McIver re sponsorship and will write a proposal and send to key businesses in the area – potential community project through Heritage Lottery Fund to promote Lord Strathcona and Mount Stephen. Heritage Lottery Fund – opportunities for projects to do with First World War and also parks for people – long run in time and Fund keen to receive application. Attended launch of Forres Area Youth Zone (FAYZ). Skatepark – not successful with application for funding as not a sports hub – going to visit skatepark at Inverness – event for young people in October around skate park. Frances Powell (LDO) is working on digital project to do with access to laptops for those who claim benefits – 6 to 8 people able to access each time, ongoing programme and runs until December 2015.</p>	
8. User Led Group	<p>Councillor Lorna Creswell passed notes to Chair for this item – suggestion that FAF establishes a forum to ask groups who use the FHCC facilities how best the centre could be utilised to its maximum potential and engage with TMC. Agreed that Lorna is to hold exploratory talks with Ken Brown, TMC ensuring groups and staff are able to work together to maximise the building.</p>	LC
9. Consultations	<p>Moray Council Taxi Fare Review – there are no stop in the street taxis in Forres only minicabs which have to be phoned up or go in to an office and discuss/agree on a price before hand – all taxis are metered not sure why taxis are metered – agreed that Secretary to</p>	

	<p>query with TMC the use of the word taxi and the distinction between taxi and minicab – clarification required.</p> <p>A96 Consultation Dualling Inverness to Aberdeen exhibition on Tuesday 12th May 2015, 12 noon to 7 pm in Forres Town Hall.</p>	TC
10. Developer Obligations	<p>Chair, Vice Chair, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Eleanor Hayward, George Alexander and Graham Murdoch attended a briefing on Monday 20th April 2015 – large sums of money had been lodged by planning developers – meeting to discuss where money is to be spent – money eligible for proposed development and cannot be sought for existing deficiencies.</p>	
11. HITRANS Thistle Assistance Card	<p>Card to be given to driver by those with disabilities in order to have a safe and comfortable journey to their destination – card has stickers i.e. mobility or hearing and these can be attached to space provided on front of card to inform driver of disability.</p>	
12. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Maclennan – would like to borrow display screens for Forres in Bloom’s 25th birthday – items stored down at Bogton Transition Town. Treasurer has a list of items down at Bogton and he will send this to Sandra. Suggested FAF reviews items currently held and then circulate to other groups – suggestions that better screens are required. • Rotary - Helges Hole on Saturday 9th May 2015 – cutting back overgrown plants and removing weeds and self seeded trees. • Debbie Herron – Orienteering 3 days in Forres: Friday 31st July 2015 in evening sprint qualifiers, Sunday 2nd August 2015 a final in the afternoon and Tuesday 4th August 2015 an open sprint race. • Angela Sutherland – No 31 bus is now hourly from 20th April 2015. 	JB
13. Councillors	<p>Councillor Lorna Creswell has been busy with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning disabilities project for over 16’s linking in with Academy and Budge Trust - ongoing • Possible to have a paid worker for older people through Age Scotland and tie in with the directory anthology, the Osprey minibus and also with Auchernack trust – possible having an old people champion - to reduce isolation. 	
14. AOB	<p>Piping at Forres – looking for funding of £4,000 – discussed and due to other groups requesting money members present agreed to sponsorship package of £2,000 – Secretary to contact David Urquhart.</p>	TC
13. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 3rd June 2015, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre.</p>	