



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT**

<b>Brian McDonald, Chair</b>	<b>Sandra Maclennan, Vice Chair</b>
<b>John Bremner, Treasurer</b>	<b>Councillor Lorna Creswell</b>
<b>Councillor Anne Skene</b>	<b>Gill Bird</b>
<b>Angela Sutherland</b>	<b>Gary Simpson</b>
<b>Ian Todd</b>	<b>Naomi Zair</b>
<b>Chas Rodger</b>	<b>Terry Monaghan</b>
<b>Tina Coffey, Minutes</b>	

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1. Welcome from Chair	Brian McDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Apologies	Apologies were received from Debbie Herron and Fabio Villani.	
3. Minute of FAF Meeting held in November 2014	There were no amendments and the minutes were proposed by Sandra Maclennan and seconded by Councillor Lorna Creswell.	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request by Fabio Villani for £500 from MTP money and £200 from FAF funds towards distribution of Transport Directory is to be passed for payment upon receipt of an invoice. Chair attended an MTP meeting and members there were not willing to pay towards this. Transport Directory to be forwarded to Secretary for distribution to FAF members.</li> <li>• Transport forum meeting information forwarded to FAF membership.</li> <li>• Debbie Herron, FACT is waiting to hear from Visit Scotland Growth Fund, this is an ongoing process and she is hoping to hear something soon.</li> <li>• Secretary placed an advert in the Forres Gazette with reference to MTP monies remaining, no responses received.</li> <li>• Frances Powell, FACT to send electronic copy of the Forres online questionnaire to Secretary for distribution to FAF</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">BM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DH</p>

	<p>members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forres House Community Centre is booked for FAF meetings for 2015, query whether Red Room is available. Secretary to email request to Alison McLaughlin for change of room if possible.</li> <li>Coffee bar in Forres House Community Centre has been leased and is due to open in February 2015, name of person leasing premises is Ray MacDonald.</li> </ul>	<p>FP</p> <p>TC</p>
5. Treasurers Report	<p>Current balance stands at £4,115.49, which includes £2.90 left to spend of MTP money and £276 for insurance and 70 pence in interest. There was 1 cheque cashed: £50 for secretarial duties. The money in the FAF account was discussed; this money is restricted and is to be used primarily for admin purposes. Members present were asked to give some thought to the use of FAF monies for the publishing of the Spirit of Community report and a follow up meeting in the new year – to be placed on January's agenda.</p>	<p>All Members</p> <p>TC</p>
6. Moray Towns Partnership (MTP)	<p>Next MTP meeting to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Chair unable to attend due to a clash of meetings and Vice Chair offered to attend on his behalf.</p>	
7. Consultations	<p>There is a 12-week turnaround for the Health and Social Care Consultation, just coming out now.</p>	
8. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>Currently awaiting returns re money applied for both the Tourism and Town Centre Working Groups and waiting to hear from the Change Fund. Put in for a lot of money from Change Fund but it was over subscribed and £500 received. Part of money used to put together Spirit of Community event and report. Reni Milburn asked Chair to convene a meeting for the town centre, an assessment of the conservation area, likely to be in January 2015 – this item ongoing.</p> <p>FACT hosting a small Christmas gathering on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 10 a.m. to midday in the FACT offices, mince pies, tea and coffee on offer. FACT AGM to be held March 2014 and current membership will be asked to resubmit paperwork if they have been members for 3 or more years.</p>	
Tea & Coffee	<p>Provided by Vice Chair.</p>	
9. Forres House Action Group	<p>Forres House Action Group unable to attend November's FAF meeting but will attend the meeting in January 2015 with Gary Simpson.</p>	
10. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandra MacLennan – thank you to FACT who introduced Bam Nuttall (firm who are working on the railway line upgrade) to Forres in Bloom (FiB), Bam Nuttall have agreed to build a new small shed, repair an old shed, clearing a small area, cutting down trees and removing a cold frame. Rotary Club - Santa's sleigh will start visiting Forres from Tuesday. Town Centre Working Group have asked Forres in Bloom to help to put 3 Christmas trees at the Victoria roundabout. 2016 coffee morning booked for FiB.</li> <li>Naomi Zair attended a couple of meetings and handed out newsletters from the Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership. Attended the Ball Management Group meeting on Monday.</li> <li>Ian Todd – new member of Community Support Unit, Sylvia</li> </ul>	

	<p>Jamieson and she will attend a FAF meeting to introduce herself at some point in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chas Rodger – Community Council is at full strength with 12 members. Graham Murdoch has come forward with an idea to light Cluny Hill - in its infancy. Transition Town Forres (TTF) benefiting from Bam Nuttall who have been approached and are willing to take on the refurbishment of toilet and a bit of an access road, thanks to FACT for the introduction. TTF AGM took place and now have 10 Directors appointed. Community market starts on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 20 stall holders in the Town Hall with another market planned for 18<sup>th</sup> December. The Community Council will review this in January – fresh vegetables will be available on the High Street on these dates.</li> <li>• Gary Simpson – young people from Forres House Action Group (FHAG) are fund raising with a music night on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 6.30 pm for 7 pm start ending around 9.30 pm with tickets costing £3 and money raised will go back to towards the cost of renovation up the stairs in Forres House Community Centre. Knockando Woollen Mill have approached FHAG to do a one day musical event at the Mill and there will also be a music event in Grant Park over the summer.</li> <li>• Councillor Anne Skene – Moray Arts Centre in Findhorn are holding a month long Christmas arts and crafts fair.</li> <li>• Terry Monaghan – Riverview Caravan Park– trees were being cut down but this has stopped now due to court action. Card meters been installed outside chalets and new residents have started to move onto the park. Suggestion Terry could make an approach to the council to formalise any complaints he may have – there is information on The Moray Council's (TMC) website which includes the Planning Officers number.</li> <li>• Gill Bird – Findhorn Bay Arts Festival approached by Homecoming Scotland with regard to Great Folk on Your Doorstep which is taking place at the Red Lion, Forres on Saturdays and the Old Mill, Brodie on Sundays, includes songs and taster sessions.</li> </ul>	
<p>11. Councillors</p>	<p>Councillor Lorna Creswell has been busy with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last week Learning Disability Partnership Group met, clients, carers and staff brought together and topic last week, your community – what's in it, what's fun, where are the gaps. Challenging exercise with most saying they loved the swimming pool and community centres. Trying to engage every few months with a different topic</li> <li>• Today attended Social Enterprise Network about self directed support – lots of people attended from the voluntary sector</li> <li>• AGM for the hall at Dyke is on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014</li> <li>• Attended Logie Primary School's production of Aladdin on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – amazing</li> <li>• Steiner School held their Christmas Fair on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – great turnout</li> <li>• Auchernack Trust – applications for Posties money – Councillors and Chair of Community Council to meet on 5<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	

December 2014 in the afternoon – there have been no major applications – possibly looking at ways to help people fill in the application forms

- Change Fund to be replaced by another fund – waiting to hear further about it
- Handed information about Community Small Grant Scheme – which could fund match other monies, would take time and skill to apply for this. Applications for this to be in by 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015
- Spirit of Community – report has been written up and is around 30 pages in length, hoping report will be out by next week. As so few young people attended thought it would be possible to hold something in February 2015 to bring youth groups together and showcase what is on
- Attended Boys Brigade enrolment and received her badge
- Attended the Moray Resource Centre, undertook a service visit – some officers accompanied by a Councillor visit a service and have the chance to ask staff questions – working on being a user led organisation – from January 2015 in Forres a pilot will be undertaken with a group of people and what they would like to see in their own community
- Learning Centre – no date for opening yet
- Christmas lights were switched on by fancy dress winner (a sprout)
- Councillor Creswell has not met with Forres Mechanics about the Bogton area wrongly reported in the paper. She has met with some of the officers to get an update of the feasibility of what the Consultants have been doing

Councillor Anne Skene has been busy with the following:

- Busy with education and moving forwards after Sustainable Education Review. Various plans afoot and work is in progress. First big project going to Committee in February will be beginning the process for the rezoning of Elgin Schools, lengthy consultation process of over a year and won't become effective until August 2016. By 2020 Elgin area will be around 500 places short for primary school pupils
- In light of the Review going to start work on Sustainable Schools Policy – looking at the future of schools and how to sustain the school estate. Northern Ireland has a good model. Once policy is written will then start rezoning Forres. If Lochyhill goes ahead there will be a need for more primary school places
- The management structure of primary and secondary schools will be scrutinised. Primary schools under big pressure, there is a lack of teachers and there is talk of shared headships.
- Skillforce in Moray works in all 8 secondary schools, offers an alternative curriculum to those who are disengaged. In January 2015 it will be introduced into primary schools for Primary 7 pupils, is called Junior Princes Award. It will be piloted in Pilmuir, Dyke, Logie and Kinloss Primary schools – end result is to build character and resilience and to support the transition to high school

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Link Road – the debate to be taken to full council later this month</li> <li>• New one stop shop for autism set up in Elgin Library on Monday and Thursday afternoons - ongoing.</li> <li>• New membership card for access to all of Moray Councils facilities i.e. community centres, halls, swimming pools - membership for a family £27/month or a single membership at £19/month for the use of all council facilities, starts 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 – hoping to have 3,500 membership cards taken out and hoping to keep facilities open</li> <li>• Attended school productions and concerts – busy times</li> </ul>	
12. Transport Forum Meeting	<p>Took place on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Lhanbryde; minibus took Angela Sutherland plus others to attend the meeting which started at 10.30am and finished at 1 pm. The meeting was busy with 6 speakers over the period 10.45 am to 11.45 am these speakers included Stef Barber, Operations Director for Stagecoach, Christian Caxallah and Operations Manager for the North Area, in depth discussion ensued. 49 seaters coming to Moray area.</p> <p>Nicola Moss, Transportation Manager, TMC spoke about Dial M for Moray and Forres having the most increased usage for the Dial-a-bus service.</p> <p>Sheila Fletcher, Development Officer for Community Transport Association Scotland spoke about community car transport.</p> <p>Babs-dial-a-bus – have to pay for this service as privately run.</p> <p>Robin Patterson, Integration Project Officer, TMC – spoke with regard to the national standard for community engagement.</p> <p>Rounded off with a question and answer session and then into group discussions.</p> <p>Developers contributions allocated to Forres around £80,000 for pathways, Chair questioned if any money left could it be used for buses, Councillors reiterated money was for pathways only.</p> <p>Osprey bus has been ordered.</p> <p>No shows at Health Centre currently at a rate of 10 per day, could be due to lack of transportation.</p>	
13. AOB	<p>Chair received an email from Alan MacBeth, TMC re Greenspaces Scotland, offering ½ day event for up to 50 people for projects relating to producing health, social and environmental enhancements. Buckie and Keith have expressed an interest, Chair will take guidance from group and Secretary to email out information and come back to Chair with suggestions asap.</p> <p>Chair spoke about allocation of Moray Towns Partnership money, at the last meeting it was proposed that the funding allocations should reflect the population of each area.</p> <p>Forres Companion -Norman Thomson has approached FACT for support in terms of funding, proof reading, marketing and distribution. FACT Board are keen for this to go ahead. FACT wondered if they could apply for the remaining £800 from MTP money to partly support the Forres Companion publication. Chas Rodger proposed and Sandra Maclennan seconded carried by members, trying to have Companion with publishers by March 2015.</p> <p>TRACKS – Dufftown Community Tourism partnership with Forres and collaboration with other towns on tourism – applied for £2,500 of MTP money towards brochures for Forres. Dufftown will fund their own Tracks souvenir booklet separately.</p>	TC

	<p>Sandra Maclennan – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Forres in Bloom and Rotary planting a tree for Donnie Williamson beside the wishing well at 11 a.m. with tea afterwards at Transition Town Forres.          FAF coffee morning booked for 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016.          Bam Nuttall start work on the railway contract in February 2015.</p>	
13. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre, upstairs in the craft room.</p>	