



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2015

PRESENT

Brian McDonald, Chair	Sandra Maclennan, Vice Chair
Councillor Lorna Creswell	John Bremner
Gill Bird	Debbie Herron
Ian Todd	Angela Sutherland
Naomi Zair	Tina Coffey, Minutes

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Brian McDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Apologies	Apologies were received from Fabio Villani.	
3. Minute of FAF Meeting held in February 15	There were two amendments, page 1, item 3 Sandra Bremner should read Sandra Maclennan and page 2, item 5 the current balance should read £3,998.25. The minutes were proposed by Sandra Maclennan and seconded by Gill Bird.	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuation procedures within the FHCC – this was discussed and Councillor Lorna Creswell will find out about access/egress to buildings for those with a disability or using wheelchairs. There is an outside fire escape although it is not thought useable. Ian Todd thought it likely that the FHCC would have a Fire Safety Certificate and those present thought it unlikely. There is a need for an evacuation procedure in the event of a fire. There is wheelchair access to the second floor via a lift although there are computers on the ground floor for those unable to access the second floor. This would lead to segregation of able-bodied and those in wheelchairs – Lorna is to bring her findings to the next meeting. Secretary to send off an invoice to MTP with regard to the Transport Directory. Chair had heard via the Moray Area Forum (MAF) that FAF is insured until the end of March 2015. MTP – Vice Chair would like to thank Debbie Herron, FACT and the Tourism Group for all their suggestions in respect of the four towns map. A meeting will take place on 6th March 	LC TC

	<p>2015 with Cameron Taylor and it is hoped the maps will be printed and ready for distribution by Landmark by the end of March 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable/pop up banners – Secretary was asked to contact Graham Hilditch re this item as he has recently acquired a banner on behalf of the Community Council. 	TC
5. Treasurers Report	<p>Current balance stands at £3,783.82, which includes £2.90 left to spend of MTP money and £276 for insurance and 33 pence in interest. There were 2 cheques cashed: £14.76 for an advert in the Forres Gazette (AGM) and £200 for the grant request from June McIntosh. Treasurer is to forward a cheque with regard to the Transport Directory for £200, every Forum contributed £200 to this directory.</p>	
6. Moray Towns Partnership (MTP)	<p>Chair and Secretary attended an MTP meeting on 2nd March 2015. There is £65 left to spend of the MTP budget for Forres those present voted to spend this money on a pop up banner – Secretary to contact Graham Hilditch for more information before purchasing this item. Funding is likely to continue for the next 3 years (£15,000 per annum) and this is to be ratified at a meeting on 17th/18th March 2015. The Chair predicted that a 5 year plan would be needed for future years.</p>	TC
7. Consultations	<p>Moray 2023 – Ian Todd stated the Community Engagement Group discussed this item on 3rd March 2015 and approved it – looking to set up reference groups representing community groups – discussion is to ensure that whoever carries out the consultation is applying the national standards for community engagement. Presentation packs are being used and there is a need to recruit members. Ian stated that someone would be coming to speak to Area Forums on this item in the future.</p>	
8. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>Debbie Herron informed those present that it had been a very busy time including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An article in the Gazette with regard to the donated computers which are to help with the welfare reform, part of a programme to widen accessibility. • Samantha Fraser is involved with the health walks which start on Monday 9th March 2015. They meet once a week on a Monday afternoon at the FHCC around 1.30 pm and walk for an hour - brought in as part of health and wellbeing strand and also a spin off from Spirit of Community report. • Event for young people is ongoing in collaboration with Findhorn Bay Arts (FBA) and other partners. • Skate park – facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/forresskateparkgroup?fref=ts) has been set up – an application for feasibility funding has been submitted. The requested amount will be £25,000. • 50 for £50 campaign – part of Growth Fund to Visit Scotland in partnership with Moray Speyside Tourism - application going well – find out end May/beginning of June 2015 – even if Visit Scotland application is not successful there will still be £5,000 to spend in the Forres area. • Idea floated by the Town Centre Working Group (TCWG) about Forres becoming a Welcome Walkers town – working with the Moray Walking Festival and members of staff from 	

	<p>Moray Active Schools to see how FACT can work with this information, if FACT decide to continue it could take about a year with support from Diane Smith.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project which came out of Spirit of Community is an Older Persons Directory, extra funds received from the Change Fund to complete this project and should be out by April 2015. • Scottish Week – Mark Hindley and Rachel Philp are working together with FACT on the Toun Mercat and anyone who would like a table is to get in touch with FACT – takes place on 19th June 2015 – FAF expressed an interest in having a table – theme is ‘times gone past in Forres’. • FACT are funded up until 31st December 2016 and have to raise some money for a staff post (approximately £2,000) – engaged in two beneficial projects which may yield substantial amounts – have to raise cash by engaging with other groups e.g. theme day. • Chair notified everyone Reni Milburn will give a presentation on Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) which will be held in the FACT office on 10th March 2015. 	
9. FAF/FACT Meeting	Ongoing - Councillor Creswell and Debbie Herron to liaise.	LC/DH
10.	Tea and coffee break	
11. Area Forum Code of Conduct	The Chair will forward on an amended Area Forum Code of Conduct so that the Secretary can circulate it to the FAF members.	BM
12. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian McDonald – Piping at Forres – there has been a news release from David Urquhart calling for volunteers to help out during 2015. Any persons interested are to go to https://www.facebook.com/PipingAtForres <p>Forwards writing group – have put in an application to Join the Dots for a grant of £1,000. Forwards would like to engage with those over the age of 60 to help record their memories. Looking to hold sessions for 10 persons at a time and help get memories down on paper. Forwards members will run sessions in the community and produce an anthology to be published with any funds raised being reinvested to run more sessions – part of Spirit in the Community feedback. A vote at Join the Dots on 19th March 2015 to be held in Elgin Town Hall. Sanquhar Loch group will meet up on 7th March 2015 at 10 am until 1 pm to remove rhododendrons. Wild Things had a launch, they have acquired some money for the removal of giant hogweed, himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed, Chair will meet with Ken Kennedy, TMC to discuss how to remove unwanted plants from round the Loch.</p> <p>Awaiting a funding decision from TMC for commissioning a report from Dr Latimer, Environmental Consultant so that a plan can be in place so that wildlife will not be disturbed, still awaiting confirmation from TMC that they will pay for this, need the report before being able to apply for funding – at present dredging the Loch would cost £60,000. Forwards have got local writer Malcolm Archibald to give a talk at the Royal British Legion on 10th March 2015 at 7.15 pm.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina Coffey – coffee mornings upcoming both to be held in the Town Hall, Friends of Guiding on 14th March 2015 and St John’s Church on 21st March 2015, both from 10 am to midday. • Gill Bird – FBA are working with FACT on a youth event – National Theatre of Scotland spoken to by Forwards re local stories – first youth arts group to be held on Saturday mornings for free in Forres at FHCC, thanks to TMC for opening up FHCC - working towards a performance. Culture Day date thought to be 26th September 2015. • Sandra Maclennan – Forres in Bloom (FiB) is starting work days to clear up Grant Park and all plants have been ordered and should start arriving soon. Request from The World Orienteering Organisation – was it possible to have their colours in the bedding plants and could FiB do a sign for them - FiB will try. The Lodge at Grant Park is for sale, query regarding whether this property could be bought back as it was thought it is on Common Good land. • Debbie Herron – FACT have a Facebook page and twitter account and would like to publicise any activities going on around Forres, email FACT on samantha@forresarea.org 	
13. Councillors	<p>Councillor Lorna Creswell has been busy with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Café is in progress within FHCC with a possible opening date in April 2015 – charity is yet to be registered. There will be a fundraising night on 18th April 2015 in the Mosset, a ceilidh and stovies night. • Keen to get the four groups involved in the Spirit of Community working together. A topic through TMC recently is participatory budgeting, wanting communities to take some responsibility for developing their own projects. Share information and keep everyone informed – early days. • Involved in the formation of a user led organisation for people with sensory difficulties or disabilities – open day in the Town Hall and now group meet in FHCC. Lorna spoke to Ken Brown re user led organisations and would like to know if FAF would facilitate a user led organisation for FHCC – each group would have a representative attend a meeting. Idea of user groups forming a User Management Group discussed suggestion that at next meetings of FAF and Community Council help should be given to get this group established (remember to engage staff in conversations under Spirit of Community). Lorna to send information to Chair and Secretary which she has in relation to user groups. Members to think about this item and bring any thoughts back to the next meeting in April 2015. • Hydropool – 3 year relationship with TMC before funding would come to an end, need to keep it going as a Moray facility and not a Forres facility. Lorna to visit pools with someone with a disability to gather a user perspective (Lossiemouth and Forres Hyrdotherapy pool) - more investigation required need to find out facts before taking this further – Lorna will report back at the next meeting. • Integration of TMC and NHS has gone through. 	LC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osprey bus on line on 12th March 2015 – road tax documentation needs to be found and need to advertise for drivers under the age of 70 when the bus is on the road. • Photos from FHCC have gone to the Heritage Group, Tolbooth. 	
14. AOB	<p>Chair was asked at a Moray Area Forum meeting about Spirit of Community and how it was set up as it was recognised how effective it had been – Chair stated Lorna Creswell would be the person to speak to.</p> <p>Suggested that it would be good to invite a member of the Community Council to give a talk to FAF – speak to Chas Rodgers when he returns to FAF.</p>	
15. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 1 st April 2015, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre.	