

MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY 2015

PRESENT

Brian McDonald, Chair (BM)	Sandra Maclennan, Vice Chair (SM)
John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Debbie Herron (DH)	lan Todd (IT)
Naomi Zair (NZ)	Terry Monaghan (TM)
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, Willie Chisholm, Fabio Villani and Gill Bird.	
3. Minute of FAF Meeting held in June 2015	There was one amendment: On page 3, under item 9, Consultations the word 'new' before sewers is to be deleted. The minutes were proposed by Debbie Herron and seconded by Naomi Zair.	
4. Matters Arising	 Evacuation procedures within Forres House Community Centre (FHCC) – LC was not able to attend this meeting and this item is to be discussed at the next FAF meeting. Portable/pop up banners – Vice Chair is to send Secretary photographs suitable for inclusion on a banner - item ongoing. FAF funding – IT informed those present that there is to be no change to FAF funding and the budget is to remain the same as last year. Secretary to email Vice Chair the list of where Landmark 	LC SM
	 deliver their leaflets. Round the Table - Chair used gazebo borrowed from Transition Town Forres (TTF) for FAF/FACT table at Toun Mercat. Secretary has emailed Alan MacBeth with invoice received from Piping at Forres. Skate Park – although LC was not at this meeting DH had accompanied her to visit the skate park in Inverness. There 	TC



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	is work underway and an afternoon event is planned for	
	younger people to take part in. Younger people are to be	
	encouraged to attend.	
	 Planning for Real Group – working group has been formed 	
	and will meet soon.	
	 Community Council is to remain in the Tolbooth. 	
	 Burdshaugh – NZ has not heard back from either lan 	
	Drummond or LC with regard to this item which is ongoing.	LC
5. Treasurers	Current balance stands at £2,841.79, which includes £276 for	
Report	insurance. There was 1 cheque cashed: £50 for secretarial duties.	
	There was 29 pence in interest earned.	
6. Forres	There will be a meeting at the Town Hall with proposals to look at	
Regeneration	the town centre upgrade of building frontages. Please arrive by 5.45	
Meeting –	pm for a 6 pm start. Possibility that money needed to undertake the	
15 th July	work may be available – The Moray Council (TMC) through Rene	
2015	Millburn's team who will be leading on this.	
7. Forres	DH informed those present of the following:	
Area	FACT staff has settled into Leask Road Hall with opening hours from	
Community	10 am to 1 pm. Membership has increased with over 200 members.	
•	AGM was attended by 30+ people and a new Board member was	
Trust (FACT)	voted in.	
	Visit Scotland money – EU funding and all going well – there will be	
	a contribution required from FACT to monitor numbers visiting area	
	– aiming to have a 5% increase in the attractions and encourage	
	people to join the cyclists welcome scheme. Aiming to increase	
	overnight stays in area by 5% and increase visits to cafes, hotels etc	
	by 5%.	
	Videos to be made in the area – they will be about activity holidays	
	and adventure and incorporate Moray Speyside larder, Cycle Moray	
	Speyside and the draw of the coast. One film-maker will make all	
	films.	
	World host trainer – Forres is going to be used as an area of good	
	practice and then to be used as a case study.	
	Scottish Week – Toun Mercat and tea dance were well attended and	
	enjoyed.	
	National Theatre of Scotland – represented at the Toun Mercat	
	collecting stories for their play "The Journey" – they engaged with a	
	lot of people and were happy to participate.	
	Older Persons Directory of services - there is to be a focus group on	
	2^{nd} July 2015 and it is to be printed in the near future with	
	distribution via Royal Mail in August 2015. Those involved in putting	
	this directory together include Suzie Gentle – Age Scotland, Susan	
	Leslie – NHS Grampian, Sylvia Jamieson – TMC, members of the	
	Older Peoples Reference Group, Lorna Creswell, Forres OAP	
	Group and Findhorn over 60's group – taken weeks to produce and	
	meetings have been spread over months.	
	Digital work is ongoing and to start after the holidays.	
	Next FACT Board meeting is on 13 th July and will include election of	
	office bearers after the AGM and will be looking ahead at the plan	
	for going forward.	
	Creative Scotland – awarded Findhorn Bay Arts £100,000 – for	
	more information contact Findhorn Bay Arts.	
8. User Led	LC is composing a letter to send out to user groups through the	
Group	proper channels and would share with FAF members before sending	
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out. This to be added to the September 2015 agenda. TC 9. Shaping the No feedback received – IT informed members that there had been a meeting held on 1 st July 2015 and there had been a good turnout – suggestion that Survey Monkey link is to be forwarded to Secretary for onward transmission to members, closing date is Monday 13 th July 2015 – DH to circulate link via FACT – input on plan is needed from the public. DH 10. Three Year Need to engage with local groups in order to inform them of the Moray Towns Partnership money – possibility of the need for an article in the Forres Gazette – need to be looked at. DH offered to put a page onto FACT's website and something on to the Forres Web – has to be plain using simple terms with what FAF has undertaken to support the Forres Community – need to agree a press release – could possibly tie in with Visit Scotland and could promote MTP money for the community seconomic benefit. Secretary to email Plan to FAF members and to be placed on agenda for September 2015. TC 11. Round the Table Brian McDonald – the control of non native species i.e. giant hogweed has been allocated by TMC towards the spraying and eradication of plants around Sanquhar Loch amongst other areas. JB informed those present that it is not illegal to grow the plants but it is illegal to for land owners to allow the plants to propagate. Riverside Trust get rid of plants but unable to access Network Rail land and plants have sprung up everywhere. Sanquhar Loch – delighted to see very little Himalayan Balsam coming up, "Wild Things" have been involved in the past but the majority of work has been expedited by Sanquhar Loch volunteers. Huge inroads been made in tackling the rhododendrons which have been chopped back. TMC's contribution has been limited with the bulk of wor	
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belongs to TMC unable to access dredging funds – need to	
engage with the TMC.	ľ
 Sandra Maclennan – on "Facebook" a lot of interest in the war veterana' gardens and the mass under the Nimred 	ľ
war veterans' gardens and the mess under the Nimrod,	I
meeting with Graham Wells from Army Cadets who is hoping	ľ
to get a squad together to clean up area in August 2015. Need to sort out if this area is a war memorial or not – JB is to JB	ľ
	ľ
make enquiries with the Royal British Legion with regard to	ľ
whether this area is a war memorial. Council workers locking	I
toilets in Grant Park on their way home – toilets locked	I
around 5 pm each night, SM queried with Eleanor Hayward	I
and council workers were closing toilets on their own time on	ľ
their way home. SM believes that toilets should be locked	ľ
later than 5 pm. There used to be a volunteer to lock the	
doors at 8 pm and this has fallen through – there is no one	
dedicated person – to be placed on agenda for September	
2015 meeting. TC 3	



	 John Bremner – had a question for a Councillor with regard to a surplus of £5 million which has been put towards a new school in Elgin – thought it was up to Councillors who set budgets as to where the money goes – IT stated Moray received a £3 million rebate – JB unsure if unnecessary cuts had been made and why did Elgin High School benefit. IT stated decision went to Council and they decided due to rising costs of school but - ultimately Councillors decision and elected members agreed at a vote – JB would like LC to query this further – please contact JB for more information. Naomi Zair – concerned with disabled parking at Piping Hot – little available parking places and disabled parking areas were deemed to be too far away from the arena, request that bands are to be asked not to practice in designated disabled car park slots. Secretary to contact Ian Widdowson with 	LC
	concerns.	ТС
12.	No Councillor's available.	
Councillors	One des Manlaus en informa dithere anno est that for die should be an	
13. AOB	Sandra Maclennan informed those present that funding had been acquired from elsewhere and £1,100 will no longer be needed. Secretary to inform Alan MacBeth, TMC. MTP money spends are amended as follows: \pounds 500 - MTP four towns leaflet for 2016 $\pounds 2,000$ - Culture Day – Findhorn Bay Arts Festival \pounds 750 - FACT - Forres Companion \pounds 400 - Nelsons Tower (T-Exchange) $\pounds 2,000$ - Piping at Forres $\pounds 5,650$ - Total spend Secretary to contact Bill Graham, T-Exchange to see if money is still required for the project. Discussion ensued with regard to next meeting; proposed and agreed by all present that next FAF meeting to take place in September 2015. Secretary to inform FHCC staff that room will be required for August and Secretary to inform Ray McDonald that no refreshments will be required. Willie Chisholm will be giving a SFRS presentation at the September	тС тС тС
14. Date of	2015 meeting. Wednesday 2 nd September 2015, 7 pm in the Forres House	WC
Next Meeting	Community Centre.	