



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY 2016**

PRESENT

Sandra Maclennan, Vice Chair (SM)	John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)
Councillor Lorna Creswell (LC)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Debbie Herron (DH)	Fabio Villani (FV)
Gill Bird (GB)	Ian Todd (IT)
Dawn Anderson (DA)	Graham Murdoch (GrM)
Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Vice Chair	Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dawn Anderson, Families Outreach Worker and Graham Murdoch.	
2. Apologies	Apologies were received from Brian McDonald (BM), Gordon Morrison (GM) and Naomi Zair (NZ).	
3. Minute of FAF Meeting held in December 2015	There were no amendments, the minutes were proposed by Debbie Herron and seconded by Gill Bird.	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable/Pop Up Banners – a meeting took place, photos are being gathered and Secretary to query with Ian Todd as to whether Moray Council logo can be used on the banner. • Signage email circulated Debbie Herron informed those present there would be a review of signage this year – Moray Speyside and Moray Council will be looking at signage across Moray, no date set therefore put a hold on this item until information received. Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) – looking at High Street signage and street furniture. • Advert for FAF AGM has been placed in Forres Gazette, will appear in 20th January 2016 edition. • Lorna Creswell gave food parcels to Criminal Justice for 	TC

	distribution and for distribution locally in Forres.	
5. Treasurers Report	Current balance stands at £4,329.04. There were 2 cheques cashed: £50 for secretarial duties and £22.50 to Ray's Opportunities for catering.	
6. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>Debbie Herron informed those present of the following: FACT coffee morning to be held in the Town Hall on 9th January, 10 am to 12 midday all welcome, FACT office is still taking donations for home bakes, books and raffles.</p> <p>Skate Park – great return re questionnaire and there has been an article in the Forres Gazette, the survey is to remain open online until 20th January with access via the FACT homepage. There has been a 90% return from those replying wanting a skate park in the area. So far 193 responses and of those 3 or 4 have expressed an interest in volunteering for a steering group.</p> <p>Tourism Group – leaflet being produced should be printed by the end of January 2016 and distributed nationally by the end of February 2016.</p> <p>SCVO digital project is ongoing, open on Tuesday and Thursday pm (drop in sessions) and Friday am (to be booked). There was an article in the Forres Gazette in the 6th January 2016 edition.</p>	
7. FAF Hospitality Event – 30 th January 2016	<p>Secretary has emailed invites to local groups. Ian Todd is to speak at this event giving a short power point presentation overview of areas of responsibility and roles for both FAF and Forres Community Council (FCC). Secretary to ask Stewart Noble if he is willing to give a presentation on behalf of the FCC at this event. Secretary to confirm with Tom Logie that upstairs room of Tolbooth is to be used. FACT staff will supply a pop up banner and leaflets for the event and will produce and put up posters in Forres. Those able to help out on the day are to be at the Tolbooth for a 1 pm start.</p> <p>Locality Group Meeting – merger of The Moray Council and NHS and as from 1st April 2016 goes live – meetings will have been attended in Edinburgh and Lorna Creswell will share information at this event.</p>	TC TC
8. Round The Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB – Findhorn Bay Arts Festival – dates for next festival are 21st to 26th September 2016 – currently working on a programme – Creative Place Award - small amount of money available, check website for forms to apply for a grant www.findhornbayarts.com • GrM – Forres Business Association (previously known as Town Centre Working Group) number of meetings held and attendance growing. Lighting Event – Committee has been formed and to set up a company (bank accounts) and start to apply for funding. Looking to start to plan a route for display of lights round Cluny Hill – looking at end November 2016 or beginning December 2016 to be up and running – looking to initially run for 3 years on funding and then able to be self sustaining. Berryburn Community Trust – closing date for latest round of funding requests 18th January 2016. • FV – Moray Supports Refugees Group – steering group have met, 4 families coming to Forres – would be glad to have more representation on the group from Forres – next meeting 	

	<p>open to everyone takes place on 26th January at the Inkwel, Youth Cafe in Elgin from 6.30 pm to 8 pm. Third Sector Forums – groups involved and to share information.</p> <p>13th January – Environment and Sustainability Forum, Elgin Town Hall 10 am to 12 midday; 18th January - Health and Well Being Forum Harvest Centre, Elgin 2 – 4.30 pm; 25th January Children’s and Peoples at Inkwel in Elgin from 10 am to 12 midday; 23rd March Join the Dots annual conference 9.30 am to 4 m – Town Hall, Elgin - holding 8 workshops.</p> <p>SCVO - one digital project and looking to help build digital skills in the charity and voluntary sector, information in e-bulletin. Local Action Group (LAG) makes decisions about European money and where it goes - currently recruiting people – looking for up to 20 people and have 8 at present on the Board (morayleader.org.uk/local-action-group). Compact – agreement between 3rd sector and public sector – out for consultation closes 29th February 2016. Local Outdoor Access Forum – Ian Douglas looking for volunteers. Jobs advertised on the website - www.tsimoray.org.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT – Sylvia Jamieson has been busy with Planning for Real on green spaces in Forres and supporting other community groups in the area such as Forres Amateur Athletics, Forres in Bloom, Forres Sports Hub, Kinloss Abbey Trust, Moravia, FACT, Alves Hall and the early stages of supporting Findhorn Village Conservation Company, Planning for Real initiative. Sylvia is also supporting local groups and organisations in Lossiemouth and surrounding area. Due to demands in promoting wider engagement by communities in the updated 10-year plan, Sylvia’s focus may have to be concentrated in particular areas of the community, therefore she may be less visible in the wider area. Funding from Scottish Government of £65,000 and Moray Council of £60,000 approved for a small rural grants participatory budgeting fund to develop economic development in rural communities/area has been approved. Moray Council has also approved a further £60,000 for a second year. The Scottish Government money has to be spent by May 2016. • BM – along with other members of the steering group from the Sanquhar Dam Restoration Group he will be meeting with the Forres Woodlands Trust on 25th January – to explore ways in which they might collaborate in this project. • SM – Planning for Real – next meeting 7th January 2016, 7 pm. Busy working on Moray Music Festival. Forres in Bloom – looking at ordering plants for the summer with £1,000 donated from a Culbin Singers concert. 	
9. Councillors	<p>Councillor Creswell stated that over the past few weeks she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Disability Project – measuring up for adapting old dentists premises this week – article in Forres Gazette • Cathay Nursing Home – been meeting with a 100 year old lady and been involved in interviewing her to contribute to a Join the Dots funded project 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forwards – hoping to receive funding to make a video showing what the group undertakes with regard to creativity • Health & Wellbeing agenda – main focus with regards integration - government passed the scheme in use • Skate Park • Youth Café - in readiness to apply for funding • 2 x trips to Edinburgh this coming month • Forres Area Credit Union - AGM takes place on 26th January 2016 • Moray Council budget – Scottish Government paperwork have to save £11 million – have 1 year from May 2016 to decide on where cuts are to come 	
10. AOB	<p>Debbie Herron informed those present that information in connection with Expo 2016 has been circulated. A meeting took place before Christmas and Forres is part of event on 21/22 April 2016 in Edinburgh. Moray Towns Partnership has committed £500 towards this event, possibility of asking FAF for a contribution towards accommodation – Chamber of Commerce is negotiating accommodation costs and may use a minibus to get to Edinburgh – 2 reps from each of the 5 towns will attend and take turns on stalls. Secretary has not heard back from Dianne McGregor in connection with the amount of funds required by Forres in Bloom. Secretary to email out 3-Year Strategy to FAF members. AGM – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer all willing to stand for re-election. Secretary to email Iain Catto, The Moray Council and ask if he is willing to speak at the AGM. Vice Chair brought to the table information with regard to the Perth Card – a visa based program which can be used within towns and cities both as a gift card and a visitor pass - workshop to take place in Perth on 20th January 2016.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>
11. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 3rd February 2016, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre – AGM is to be held before usual monthly meeting.</p>	