



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM (FAF) MEETING

WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT

Sandra MacLennan, Vice Chair (SM)	John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)
Councillor Lorna Creswell (LC)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Brian McDonald (BM)	Debbie Herron (DH)
Graham Murdoch (GMu)	Ian Todd (IT)
Pat Ellison (PE)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

(Abbreviations of groups: TTF – Transition Town Forres, FACT – Forres Area Community Trust, FiB – Forres in Bloom, MC – Moray Council, BBCT – Berryburn Community Trust, FCC – Forres Community Council)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTI ON
1. Welcome from Chair	The post of Chair is vacant therefore the Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Apologies	Apologies had been received from Fabio Villani (FV), Mike Scott (MS), Ray MacDonald (RM) and Vicky Flood (VF).	
3. Minutes of FAF Meeting held in June 2017	There were no amendments, the minutes were proposed by John Bremner and seconded by Debbie Herron.	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 4 – Older Persons Directory launched today, copies available from FACT office Item 4 – Debbie has invited Laurie Piper to October 2017 FAF meeting - request to invite members of the Tourism group who attended Expo 2017 – Debbie to invite Item 4 – showcase of Environmental Groups – FiB event held on 8th August in Town Hall, successful showcase Item 5a – Secretary has completed and emailed report of MTP spends to Alan MacBeth at MC Item 7 – invoice from Colours of Cluny has been processed by MC 	DH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 8 – Equipment Storage and Access – letter waiting to be sent out • Item 9 – Voluntary Action Fund – Debbie explained fund was oversubscribed and FACT not successful in this round. Pat Ellison informed those present Graham Murdoch asked Ray MacDonald (an Ambassador for Euan’s Guide) for some information and support with disabled access to Cluny Hill – Graham, Pat and one other to take forward • Item 10 – Forres Area Network meeting Lorna attended • Item 11 – the application submitted by Vice Chair to Scotland’s Most Beautiful High Street was successful and Forres has been shortlisted, voting takes place on following link http://www.scotlandtown.org/voting_open_to_find_scotland_s_most_beautiful_high_street 	<p>DH</p> <p>GM/ PE</p>
<p>5. Treasurers Report</p>	<p>Current balance stands at £4,736.94. There were 3 cheques cashed: £88.20 for the hire of the Town Hall for the coffee morning, £50 for secretarial duties, £25 for Ray’s Opportunities (for catering on a FAF meeting night), also insurance for a month (£9.24) was deducted.</p> <p>Treasurer informed FAF members letter received from the Chief Executive’s office at MC, FAF would be receiving £2,165 for admin for the year. Treasurer has sent copy of accounts to Andrea McArthur, MC awaiting money to be deposited into account.</p>	
<p>6. Correspondence</p>	<p>Moray Draft Local Scottish Fire and Rescue Plan 2017-20 – consultation closes on 12th September 2017 – no points raised. Traffic Speed Reduction on Forres High Street – email received from FCC requesting FAF support. Grant fund available to lower speed to 20 mph on High Street – late submission saw Lossiemouth chosen and Forres was asked to submit an application. Request from FCC to write a letter of support – brought up at Planning for Real and supported – Secretary to submit a letter to FCC.</p> <p>Wifi funding – not much notice received, Alan MacBeth, MC applied for £5,000 on behalf of 4 towns – FACT agreed with application but money will not go far – Debbie informed those present there is a plan in place and no decisions on new area rollout for wifi until the end of December 2017 – have to wait Developer Contribution – MC proposed a maximum of £6,500 per residential unit – updated guidance can be viewed at access points and libraries from 21st August to 30th October 2017 – suggestion that community not consulted on how money is spent and should be publicized to Community Councils and Forum and be able to consult with Council – information is available but have to look for it – Lorna to take forward and request a copy of how much money there is and how it is split.</p> <p>Qualifying businesses in Moray receiving reduced domestic rates bills – MC working towards paying back to businesses who had been overcharged - rateable value more than £18,000 no</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>LC</p>

	<p>reimbursement, less than £18,000 25% reduction – looking to reimburse businesses. Springfield Development – R3 Ferrylea public exhibition on 5th October 2017 Part 8 of the Community Empowerment Scotland Act – Guidelines on Common Good – consultation document on guidelines of Community Asset Transfer (CAT) – consultation closes 29th September 2017 and comments back to Secretary by 20th September 2017 – Treasurer to give a copy of documents pertaining to the Grant Park Trust to Debbie at FACT.</p>	JB
7. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>Debbie informed those present of the following: Town Hall and CAT – presentation given to 2 of the 4 Community Councils, rest in November. Held a meeting end July 2017 in the Tolbooth with current user groups of the Town Hall – going through process of CAT and have submitted in an Expression of Interest and requested more information from MC. Talking to potential funders who allow 12 months from discussions, time pressure. Holding a public consultation on 2nd October 2017 in Town Hall from 2 pm to 7 pm – posters and invites are to go out and publicize to all. Progressing but a complicated piece of work and should have more accurate costs. National Lottery Grant successful in bid and interviewing for post of Community Development Worker on 11th September 2017. Forres On-Line tutor post interviews to be held on 7th September 2017 – both to be in post asap. Directory of Services Launched today with 30 people attending. Befriending Scheme (Cameron’s Champion) – first volunteers have started their training, more information available from FACT. Forres Fire Service offering free CPR training for voluntary sector groups – information from FACT. Forres On-Line – family history starts tonight, 4 classes available. Community Tourism – next meeting on 21st September 2017 at 9 am talking about World Host. Moray Speyside Tourism donated a pop-up banner which requires reskinning. Secretary and Debbie to discuss further – at draft design stage, costs around £50 per strip with 5 required. Skate Park – ramp at The Loft dismantled and will be put up after barley has been harvested. In partnership with the Heritage Trust looking to put in an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Lord Strathcona project – tenders put out and information received, will need to match-funding – outcome will be a travelling exhibition about Lord Strathcona to teach about Strathcona and his relativeness to Forres and how important he was as a philanthropist. Moray Business Week 8th to 15th November 2017 – starts with Moray Speyside Tourism Conference on 8th November tickets on sale. FACT holding an event in Town Hall in partnership with Business Gateway and Forres Business Association on 14th November 2017 in the afternoon – HIE and Business Gateway present together with local businesses – more information</p>	DH/ TC

	<p>coming. 3rd Sector Interface Awards on 6th October at Innes Hall, Elgin – no tickets released for sale yet - £10 if want to purchase let Debbie know. FACT AGM on 19th September 2017 in Court Room, Tolbooth starting at 7 pm – presentation from Moray Leader – interested in standing as a Director then contact Secretary, Fabio Villani or Bea Jefferson at FACT.</p>	
8. Moray Towns Partnership	<p>Request from Rays Opportunities for funding for another year for a Development Worker, Pat to submit letter requesting funding. Secretary to request up to date information with regards MTP money remaining. Interpretation signage money was discussed, this item has not moved on and money has to be spent by the end of March 2018. Vice Chair, Brian and Debbie to meet to discuss. Vice Chair and Debbie to attend next MTP meeting on 12th September 2017. Lorna stated feeling from Councillors was they would like invite to go wider to explain to the Council what the 4 towns are all about. Participatory Budgeting Group have submitted application for more funding. Ian Todd – meeting on 5th September to discuss money how much money would be given to Economic Development Group - £60,000 set aside for the Money for Moray – successful in their application. Application submitted by tsiMORAY for PB and was unsuccessful. Council money for regeneration and Scottish Government money for health and social care elements – Ian to email information to Chair.</p>	<p>PE TC SM/ BM/ DH IT</p>
9. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC – 9th September 2017 – St John’s Church plant and produce sale at the church from 11 am to 3 pm. Forres Flower Show at Town Hall on 9th September 2017, coffee morning 10 am to 12 pm and teas from 1 pm to 4.30 pm • AS – last couple of Transport Group meetings cancelled, next meeting on 26th September with AGM on 30th September although nothing heard – Fiona Rolt should know, Vice Chair to email Fiona with regard to meeting dates. Bam Nuttall – last public site office visit on 7th September 2017 from 3 pm to 6 pm • GMu – Burn survey – Bob Laughton has estimates of between £3,000 to £3,500 – no meetings as yet and Bob not come back to Graham. FCC has ring-fenced £1,000 towards survey charges – will approach other associations regarding money. Cluny Hill - Eddie Tomkinson looking at putting together a project to get quotes to remove roots from path and resurface paths, estimate of £40,000 to £45,000 – planning to apply to Land Fund Trust and Colours of Cluny to put up 12.5% of money. Been up Nelson’s Tower with Ryan MacDonald from Euan’s Guide and another wheelchair user. Vice Chair queried that the original team from Piping in Forres had intimated that if there was any money left at the end of six years it would 	<p>SM</p>

	<p>be spent in the community – unsure of the intentions of the present members of the current Piping in Forres committee – does anyone know what the committee intends to do – nobody at FAF meeting knew any other information. FCC winds up at the end of this session and applications are sought from new Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BM – Sanquhar Pond - £5,500 secured from Berryburn with another pathway on south side in process of being built, 2 benches and a picnic table installed, removal of trees and looking to upgrade and repair paths and remove invasive non-native plants. On 22nd September 2017 in Tolbooth by invitation, Forwards writers group have produced a book collection of recollections called Only a Lifetime Ago – meet OAP’s who have their stories told in the book on 27th September – book will be on sale at Tolbooth and Washington for £6.50 • PE – third independent living skills programme starts next week – 10 weeks of workshops with 1:1 mentoring – funded by Berryburn – thank you to FAF for funding support enabling Ray’s Opportunities to be able to submit funding applications • SM – seagulls in paper with article stating Elgin streets cleaned 3 times per week. Town Hall bookings coming up soon thought booking is the same procedure as last year. National Theatre of Scotland – Rocket Post production on 30th September 2017 in Forres Town Hall with tickets on sale. Christmas Lights – plea could they weed plants off the front of the museum. Thank you to everyone for supporting FiB in August 2017. Planning for Real – Sylvia Jamieson back to work and looking at dates for groups to get together to do reports – please send any photos to Vice Chair 	
<p>10. Councillors</p>	<p>Councillor Lorna Creswell updated those present on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Social Care meeting, second one and another to come – Leancoil decision wanted • Development Plans – comes out from Planning thought a bit too late and need to watch what comes out – brief from Planning Community about the future • Article in paper – mentioned how well doing at Sanquhar Pond • Integrated Joint Board – local community groups should be forming, network of people formed from different strands in the town who are interested in health and wellbeing driven by Holly from tsiMORAY – brought people together from different locations, next meeting on 20th September 2017 at Forres Golf Club • Police, Fire and Rescue – attends the hub meetings weekly – need to encourage folk to report things • Lots of complaints about lack of information, working with Link Worker at the Health Centre – folder beside library 	

	<p>containing information about groups in town also put an article in paper to put more information out – other folders could be placed in various locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Aid invite – advertised on tents and could adopt and advertise like this in Forres • Feel Good Festival – programmes are out • Tri-athlete speaker here to tell his life story and stayed in Forres • Wheelchair access and borrowing one – in Forres have to contact NHS Raigmore or Moorings at Greshop Industrial Estate • New Councillors have held 3 days of meetings – looking at priorities, mostly Economic Development • Forres Area Credit Union Development Manager started on 4th September – HIE contributes towards wages • Visit to Forres by 50 German visitors • Tesco drop in end of August for young people • Alzheimer’s Scotland – Dementia Friendly Town Forres has been recommended for an award down to Kerry Speed, Tesco and Wendy Menzies 	
11. Chair Appointment	Vice Chair asked if there was any interest in taking on the post of Chair – no takers and Vice Chair to continue.	
12. AOB	<p>Brian – Sanquhar Dam Renovation Group obtained £4,000 from MTP money and are to work in partnership with other groups, no meetings as yet, unsure who other stakeholders would be – look at interpretation boards and need to spend money before end March 2018. Understood that at last Planning for Real meeting would bring all groups together – Chair stated this would happen after the Planning for Real group had met on 20th September 2017. Some discussion about possibly removing some boards which were no longer needed – possibly go to Leader for match funding – looking for an identity for the signage which has to be appropriate. Debbie offered FACT office to facilitate a meeting between Vice Chair, Brian and herself – would have to make up an invitation list, select a date and FACT will send out invitations.</p>	BM/ DH/ SM
13. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 4 th October 2017, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre (FHCC)	