



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT

Sandra Maclennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
John Bremner, Treasurer (JB)	Debbie Herron (DH)
Mike Scott (MS)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)	

APOLOGIES

Councillor Scott Lawrence (SL)	Councillor Paul McBain (PM)
Councillor Kathleen Robertson (KR)	Martin Robertson, Moray Council (MR)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair paid tribute to Bob Hellyer and the group send their condolences to his family, he will be a great loss to the community, he was a former Community Councillor and was heavily involved within Forres. He was passionate about trying to ensure Forres issues were looked after.	
2. Minutes from 3 rd August 2022	The minutes from the last meeting had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Debbie and seconded by David.	
3. Matters arising	Item 3 – roundabouts – not heard anything, Martin to find out who took over Item 3 – Auchernack House, informed it had been purchased and would become a business centre with offices to let out and incorporating a cafe – only heard via gossip on Facebook Item 3 – rose beds near Drumduan, land belongs to the houses with some beds removed, some cut back and	MR

	<p>some left, Forres in Bloom have offered to donate daffodil bulbs – resident owners are negotiating</p> <p>Item 8 – MTP – Scott to report to the group</p> <p>Item 10 – Mannachie Park – no progress on meeting up with Rothes people – Chair has asked to meet with them, Chair to report back to the group. Mannachie Park – there will be two consultation sessions on 22nd September in FACT, 1.30pm to 3pm and 6.30pm to 8pm. The consultants Rankin Fraser will present the draft plan and also discuss steps in terms of moving forward.</p> <p>Item 10 – Forres in Bloom judging – results to be known by 15th September, results via Zoom</p>	<p>SL</p> <p>SM</p>
4. Treasurers Report	<p>The balance on the current account stands at £2,356.23, with the following paid out:</p> <p>£30 - FACT</p> <p>£50 – Secretarial duties</p> <p>£113 – Zurich Insurance</p> <p>Coffee morning made £341.56 before the Town Hall (TH) hire is paid out, thanks to FACT for donating raffle prizes and to the volunteers who helped out on the day.</p>	
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • STP e-bulletin • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • Scotland Loves Local Awards • STP e-bulletin • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • STP e-bulletin • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • Help required for the coffee morning • STP e-bulletin • SFRS Quarterly Report • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin 	
6. FACT	<p>Debbie updated the meeting as follows:</p> <p>Not successful with the Just Transition Expression of Interest (Eoi).</p> <p>Successful to go to Stage 2 of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and application for £3 million to be submitted by 21st October 2022.</p> <p>Forres On-line – busy and growing, new volunteers joined over the summer.</p> <p>The Employability Project has hit its target of getting people into work. Michelle Gillibrand has taken over from Caroline and starts on 12th September. David Hammond starts full time as the Operations and Finance Manager on the same day. Vacancy for a Booking and Admin Officer funded through MERI for a part time 25 hours per week post for 1 year, if interested please contact info@forres.org.uk</p>	

	<p>Attended the Development Trust Association Scotland conference – enthusiastic and inspiring event with lots of information, lots of discussion around Community Wealth Building, Chris Muir, Moray Council (MC) has met with Debbie and FAF looking to host – plan to hold a meeting in November.</p> <p>Forres Town Hall – submitted the building warrant – roof leaks when there is heavy rain.</p> <p>Coffee morning dates for 2023 available, get in touch with the office to book a date and they will take details.</p> <p>Pantry - really well attended on alternative Fridays and Saturdays, reducing food waste, free membership and £2.50/shop. Application submitted to the Postcode Lottery trust for additional funding for a further year.</p> <p>Forres – becoming a banking hub although will take a while to be set up.</p>	
7. Spirit of Community 2022	<p>Spirit of Community event – Debbie emailed out an update. Martin and Debbie met with Kath Riley, MC and the school have agreed in principle to sessions with pupils in school before the end of October, they will also meet with Kinloss Army Barracks welfare service. From October to November hoping to write the report and will send it round then hold a session to amend the contents and the final report should be ready by the end of the year together with action plans. Waiting to hear about suitable dates from the school. Lindsey will lead with the schools with support from Debbie.</p>	
8. Moray Towns Partnership	<p>Chair to email John Cowe, MC, could tie in to Community Wealth Building.</p>	SM
9. Moray Area Forum	<p>No meeting has taken place since the last FAF meeting. Treasurer has a bank statement which has £1,299.40 in the MAF account with another £250 added which was received in April. Chair to email Martin with the information.</p>	SM
10. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DH – Findhorn Bay Arts festival starting on 23rd September and they will use the TH for a lot of their events meaning a change of provision for a couple of coffee mornings – this Saturday holding a Harvest event and mini conference in the afternoon. Activities Programme due out contains exercise, arts and writing FACT are taking bookings. Film Forres started their autumn film season • AS – timetables at most bus stops, picnic at Leancoil in their grounds, information in the Forres Gazette, 17th September from 12pm to 4pm • MS – lease has hit a dead end • JB – Royal British Legion poppy launch on 16th October at 7 pm – more details to follow • SM – war memorial judged on 1st round, not heard anything. Money for Moray working with tsi on Just 	

	<p>Transition Participatory Budgeting, £1 million to be split evenly between the Shire, City and Moray, launch on 16th September and money to be spent by March 2023, have to register at 3.30pm in the Town Hall, Elgin. Max to claim £50k for capital project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP – Community Council – Orchard Road junction running 2 weeks late, causing traffic jams. Moray Open day on 24th September at Tolbooth and Men’s Shed is open and hoping to use electric buses. 1st October Forres Crofters event at Tolbooth. Men’s Shed table at coffee morning made £190 • DH – signage – lots of conversations re funding for big regeneration projects but not ready to submit applications, discussions about having a meeting mid to late October to discuss how to make plans, need a work plan to go forward around signage for key locations in the town. Need consistent signage through the town, lots of work done on this and have paperwork which paid for stands and £5k to be given back. Chair spoke to George Alexander, Forres Heritage, ongoing. People, Place and Heritage – MC initiative and replacement for CARES – MC put in an EoI on behalf of Forres area – find out in a month and if accepted work starts next financial year – 12 month slot to plan and if successful could get £2-3 million for work to be undertaken 	
11. Councillors	There were no Councillors present.	
12. AOB	Update from Martin from the last meeting: The Transport Forum has a proposed relaunch date of Wednesday 12 October, just waiting venue confirmation.	
13. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 5 th October 2022, 7pm in the North Room of the Town Hall.	