



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2023

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Councillor Kathleen Robertson (KR)	
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Minutes from 7 th December 2022	The minutes from 7 th December were proposed by Debbie and seconded by Martin.	
3. Matters arising	Item 4 – Debbie checked and there is a room free in Forres Town Hall to accommodate the meeting to discuss the Development Contributions Item 4 – Martin checked and Money for Moray paperwork can be used Item 4 – Chair still awaits an answer from AMEY Item 4 – Conversation Café has been rescheduled to 25 th January in Forres Town Hall from 10am to 12pm Item 4 – Mike received the lease he had requested Item 4 – Transport Forum meeting will take place on 31 st January at Elgin Town Hall commencing at 6pm	

4. Treasurers Report	There have been 3 cheques written: £100 to the Secretary, £136 to FACT and £118.80 to Scotland Towns Partnership. The current balance stands at £2,257.50.	
5. Correspondence	Secretary emailed out the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • STP e-Bulletin • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin 	
6. FACT	<p>Debbie informed all of the following:</p> <p>Received funding of £50k from Just Transition Fund for insulation for the Town Hall, will take a big community effort to store 600 rolls of insulation in the loft – dates for moving the insulation tbc.</p> <p>Menopause Project – funding received with money to be used for events and information sessions which will happen before the end of April 2023.</p> <p>Received additional funding until the end of May for the Cameron Project befriending as there is a big waiting list – will enable the employment of a short term member of staff.</p> <p>Fund application submitted for the building and waiting for a response from Regeneration Capital Grant Fund – still have to match fund and if successful work on the building will start in September/October 2023 taking 12 – 14 months.</p> <p>Activities programme through to the end of March 2023 is available.</p> <p>Operations and Finance Managers posts – assessing candidates and hoping to invite people in for interview, hope to have staff members in place asap.</p> <p>Coffee mornings start on 14th January with FACT hosting, followed by the Volleyball Club, currently 28th January is available to book otherwise a pop-up one will be held by FACT.</p> <p>Pantry starts on 13th January and additional work around food, have secured funding for another year – reuses food waste.</p> <p>Received lots of enquiries regarding using the building and there has been a lot of engagement.</p> <p>At the next THUG meeting – will look at costs for hiring rooms in the Town Hall and will explain the price rises in negotiation and discussion with the group.</p> <p>Congratulations to all at FACT for securing £50k funding for the insulation.</p>	DH
7. Town Centre Improvement Plans	<p>Hoping to meet week commencing 20th February and Martin to confirm steering group date.</p> <p>Once a date set Tina to email out invitations to stake holders in Forres, to include FACT, FAF, Business Association, Heritage Trust, Forres Events, Friends of the Museum, Open Spaces Group plus others to be confirmed during a meeting between Chair and Martin. Agreed first</p>	MR TC SM/MR

	<p>meeting will be an open meeting then following on representatives from groups to attend. Martin to confirm dates with Kirsty Conti.</p> <p>Sandra and Debbie to make up a list and circulate and add other groups.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>SM/DH</p>
8. Spirit of Community 2022	<p>Martin is compiling all the information and hopes to have a draft document to send round by 20th January. There will be a meeting on 31st January to review the content and comment. Hoping to have a final document ready by 22nd February to be signed off – purpose of the report is around people and who relates to who, not connected to the place planning but they are complimentary to each other.</p>	
9. Mannachie Park	<p>Martin informed all a revised master plan has been received and he will email this to Tina for circulation. The next steps are to form a Steering Group – Laura looking to identify additional funding streams to add to the £50k/£70k currently available to be spent in the next financial year. There is a group to look at general improvements around planting, seating and shelters. Martin to lead and looking to seek help from the Green Spaces Group.</p>	<p>MR</p>
10. Moray Towns Partnership	<p>Nothing to report.</p>	
11. Moray Area Forum	<p>Martin informed all Dawn Brodie, Moray Council (MC) is working on this and hoping to rekindle the Forums by holding a meeting at some point to look at revamping to include Speyside and Milnes.</p>	
12. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS – forwarded paperwork to Lands and Parks and awaits a reply regarding the booking of Grant Park for the Theme Day and Forres Highland Games (to be held on 8th July). Boundary hedge at current premises is to come down together with a few trees and wait to see how matters develop regarding replacement. Martin to find out if trees and hedges are a Landlord matter • MR – Conversation Café to be held on 25th January in Forres Town Hall from 10am to 12pm – a focus on financial wellbeing and look at a community approach to the hardship fund. Transport Forum to take place at Elgin Town Hall on 31st January from 6pm. Place Plans – there is a statutory requirement from Moray Council (MC) that consultation work around developing of Local Place Plans, community organisation have to take these forward and there will be consultation work by the Council probably around 4th March but need to confirm a venue. Looking at some of the key capital projects happening in Forres and how to move this forward and what is required and where. Developer Contribution Participatory Budget meeting to be held 	<p>MR</p>

	<p>on 7th February at Forres Town Hall commencing at 6pm to discuss the developer obligations money, less than £6k available and stringent criteria, no deadline for money being spent at present – MC will hold the money and applications will be submitted and if approved through the participatory budgeting scheme the Council will make the payments of that money or may purchase the goods required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP – Film Show on 14th January showing Dune, on 20th January St John’s Church is holding a Brass Concert at 7.30pm. Community Council will meet on 19th January and hoping local Councillors will attend, discussions from the last meeting included flooding at Forbeshill and in the field next door to Forbeshill • SM – Green Spaces Group next meeting is 26th January 	
13. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
14. AOB	AGM will take place at the next meeting, Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary all willing to remain in their posts for another year.	
15. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 1 st February 2023 including the AGM, 7pm in the Town Hall.	