



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT

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

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting on Candlemas. FAF send their condolences to the family of Anita Milne, who was a volunteer par excellence and was Chair of many groups including the Moray Area Forum, Milnes Area Forum, Federation of Village Halls, Transport Forum and Money for Moray. She had not enjoyed good health recently but her determination, enthusiasm and dedication to promoting Community did not flag and she will be greatly missed.	
2. Minutes from 11 th January 2023	The minutes from 11 th January had been circulated, there was one amendment the date on the first page is to be changed to 11 th January 2023 and minutes are to be re-issued. The minutes were proposed by Martin and seconded by David.	TC
3. Matters arising	Item 3 – Transport Forum will meet on 7 th February at 1.30pm in the library in Elgin, date rescheduled as a mark of respect to the Chair Item 6 – insulation for the Forres Town Hall has not been received Item 12 – boundary hedge (contains trees) between Forres in Bloom (FiB) and Forres Highland Games (FHG) group in Grant Park, Mike attended a Green Spaces meeting – Graham Murdoch and James Hunter will look at the trees next to the games store – dependent on tree if Landlord	

	<p>will be involved – boundary hedge between FiB and FHG – may have to get permission from Moray Council to take down trees. FiB wants to clarify if the hedge is to be taken down will MC put up a fence</p> <p>Item 12 – Conversation Café – held on 25th January emotive conversations took place and look at the hub idea with different services coming together for a one stop shop, next meeting on 7th March and look at developing workshops – encapsulate whole of Forres ASG – FAF does cover whole ASG area and might be able to fund this in some way – hoping as community led will be able to apply for funding. FAF can fund help with start up’s i.e. the cost of hiring a place to meet - hope to reach those who need help and look at a peer support based model</p> <p>Item 12 – Place Plans – meeting on 4th March led by Planning and supported by Community Support Unit and other organisations, initially looking at Local Development Plans, to be held in Town Hall from 11am to 3pm</p> <p>Item 12 – Developer Contributions Participatory Budgeting meeting on 8th February and need to put out invites and Martin to chase up criteria and forward on</p>	MR
4. Treasurers Report	The current balance stands at £2,257.50.	
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray Transport • STP Funding Finder – January 2023 • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • STP invite • News regarding Anita Milne • tsiMORAY e-Bulletin • Guide to Forres Banking Hub <p>New form to be completed when using the Forres Area Community Trust building.</p>	
6. FACT	<p>Tina informed all of the following:</p> <p>Two members of staff have been appointed, Finance Manager and Operations Manager.</p> <p>Staff and Board meeting on Monday to look at the way forward. Presentation given by ex-Treasurer on future economic perils which included the cost of energy.</p> <p>No Saturday morning spaces available for coffee mornings until July and August.</p> <p>Regeneration Capital Grant Fund – informed FACT were unsuccessful in their application and will apply again when the fund reopens.</p>	
7. Town Centre Improvement Plans	<p>Martin is looking to arrange a meeting and email out invites via a list of attendees which is currently being collated – Martin agreed to initially support the group and has agreed with Kirsty Conti, MC, to go back to her with specific queries when they occur. Martin to check with Debbie Herron, FACT regarding a room space in the TH. FAF’s aim is to get Forres groups together to share what is</p>	MR/DH

	happening with other groups. Looking at an unstructured universal meeting with loose terms of reference. TCIP based on research going back a while, Martin to help with drafting the wording for the invite and then an email to go out with a date and time for the meeting, Sandra to check room availability in Town Hall for 8 th March.	SM
8. Spirit of Community 2022	Martin attended a meeting of the steering group yesterday and intends to stick to the format of the last report. Need to confirm draft document by the end of February and circulate for final comment. Would like to include previous work undertaken – new plan will include information from SoC 14 and the 2020 Vision document. Responses have been collated by Martin. Census – cannot wait for figures and have updated information and child poverty statistics through information from the Locality Plan – this will be a working document and constantly evolving.	
9. Mannachie Park	Main Park – Martin is waiting for costings and will then email out a master plan – Laura, MC is the lead on the play park and there is a separate group regarding green spaces.	
10. Moray Towns Partnership	In abeyance.	
11. Moray Area Forum	Waiting for a date for a meeting.	
12. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TC – pop-up coffee morning on 11th February to be hosted by FACT • MS – likes the painting undertaken in the building up above the home fashion shop in town • MR – Youth Participatory Budgeting Initiative – Martin is looking to explore organisations who would be willing to hold the money involved (£60k) which will be ringfenced – FAF is willing to hold the money • DP – Film Forres will be showing films over the next few months, see link for details Film Forres Local Movies in the Town Hall Men's Shed advertised on Facebook and received 18 orders for bird tables. Received a visit from Community Team to see how £2k from the Local Community Fund was spent. New extension to the shed and 1 or 2 women now attending • SM – Rotary Coffee morning on Saturday 4th February. Money for Moray and tsiMORAY were administering the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting and held a celebration event for those who were successful with Richard Lochhead in attendance and he spoke to it, he has been very supportive. Encouraging those groups who were unsuccessful to reapply and possible short timescale next time – looking at the criteria 	MR/JB

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com

	regarding reducing carbon footprints for the next time. Bob Cherry has recently died, he was involved with setting up the Community Centre in Forres, he entered Forres into Britain in Bloom, he was also a founding member of Forres in Bloom	
13. Councillors	<p>Councillor Lawrence informed all present of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget setting – budget cuts to be made • Forres Academy – awaiting information regarding funding bid – going out to public consultation, unsure of where school will be built but looks to be a community school • Change of the speed limit on the Grantown Road and out to public consultation • IJB - closure of surgeries in Burghead and Hopeman – patients mostly moving to Elgin • Publishing of Locality Plans – Martin to forward on • Possible buyer has come forward to purchase Auchernack, closing date set and MC received offers 	MR
14. AOB	There was no other business.	
15. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 1 st March 2023, 7pm in the Town Hall.	