



MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2023

PRESENT

Sandra Maclennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
Michelle Gillibrand (MG)	Martin Robertson (MR)
Gordon Ruddiman (GR)	Angela Sutherland (AS)
Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Mike Scott (MS). Chair introduced Gordon who will replace Martin who is leaving the Moray Council (MC), there will be a handover and although Gordon works out of Elgin as a Community Support Worker he has capacity to offer help to this group.	
2. Minutes from 3 rd May 2023	The minutes from 3 rd May 2023 had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by David and seconded by Angela.	
3. Matters arising	Item 7 – Town Centre Improvement meeting set for 16 th May was postponed as nothing heard about funding coming to Forres from 2 heritage based funds and will also attract a Development Officer, will let the group take this forward Item 13 – Chair passed on bank statements Item 15 – Chair spoke to Grant Speed and Martin spoke to James Hunter about the cutting down of trees at the Mosset, no answer as yet	SM

	<p>Item 17 – Secretary cancelled the room booking for August</p> <p>Item 17 – Chair attended the Tourism Group and the Town Centre Group event in Elgin</p>	
4. Treasurers Report	There was no Treasurer update.	
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tsiMORAY e-Bulletins x 5 • FACT June newsletter • Forres Community Council minutes from May • STP Bulletin x 3 • Osprey Bus newsletter • Funding information from HIE • Just Transition Participatory Budget Fund • Forres Community Council Minutes for April • Funding Scotland • FACT May Newsletter • Coronation Weekend information • Zero Carbon Moray and Community Energy Moray event • STP Funding Finder April 2023 <p>It was proposed FAF join the Forres Area Business Association, all agreed and Secretary to join on behalf of FAF.</p>	TC
6. FACT	<p>Michelle updated all on the following:</p> <p>Directory of Service for People in the Forres Area has been printed with launch to follow. There are a couple of omissions and there will have to be a rerun and larger print copies together with a digital directory, hope to do a Spirit of Community joint launch with the directory. Garry McCartney, Forres Gazette has agreed to do a piece on Michelle to publicise both.</p> <p>Consolidating at present with funds at their end and await new funding.</p> <p>tsiMORAY funded the Town Hall Hoolie and the Great Volunteer Event.</p> <p>New staff – 3 members are leaving, Francis Anderson is moving from the area and have advertised for her replacement, there is still 2 years funding and closing date is on Monday, 4 applications received so far. Esther is leaving and Molly is to take over for the next couple of months. Operations Team – Graham is the General Assistant and 2 cleaners, Iain Watt and Aggy Fraser make up the cleaning team.</p> <p>Debbie is still employed at 1 day per week to look at capital funding and helping Michelle with funding applications.</p>	

	<p>Capital grant – looking for £3 million plus to refurbish the Town Hall (TH), waiting to see how funding applied for goes so we have a picture going forward over the next couple of years.</p> <p>Jim Farquharson is the new Chair with Vice Chair not decided as yet.</p> <p>Will be looking for new Director's and looking at the recruitment process.</p>	
7. Town Centre Improvement Plans	<p>Michelle has attended meetings with Kirsty Conti, MC, meeting on 16th May cancelled as MC secured money for a Development Person for a year. This person will co-ordinate ideas of what people in Forres want to do for the next 5 years, FACT would like to be involved by pulling together information and working closely with MC and other organisations. This is to be community led, Michelle attended the Forres Community Council (FCC) meeting, good dynamic feel and the FCC is looking to make a difference, Michelle followed up with FCC Chair.</p> <p>Development Post to be advertised over summertime and possibly in post for September.</p> <p>Martin is to share group information with Michelle and Kirsty.</p>	MR
8. Spirit of Community 2022	<p>Draft document is with Angus, MC, he is aiming to have a draft for the second to last week in June. Community Support Unit (CSU) were to be the lead to review each year, discussed and provisionally agreed FACT will review annually in conjunction with the CSU – Michelle to check with FACT Board and then liaise with Gordon and Dawn at MC. Angus to email draft document to Michelle who will co-ordinate the replies, the draft document to be emailed out to the wider steering groups also to include FCC. Angus to take more photos of the area for the draft.</p> <p>Directory launch will take place at the same time – possibly launch in August, date tbc.</p>	MG MG
9. Mannachie Park	<p>Scope of service will go out over the summer holidays and then to a public vote when the schools are back, Martin to check with Laura and confirm with Secretary.</p> <p>Unsuccessful application to Berry Burn Fund, could apply again on 18th September but aiming to be in by 11th September in order to get the application checked.</p>	MR
10. Developer Contributions to Forres ASG	<p>Martin – criteria was strict and application form had to be changed to suit the development obligation requirements – various groups invited to attend steering group, not many engaged. The application devised by the steering group was not acceptable and had to be changed, the criteria was very strict and there were queries, applications to the</p>	

	<p>value of £2.5k received.</p> <p>Developer obligations are to revert back to the usual process which is to seek permission from the Elected Members in the area to give money to the groups that applied – Michelle to feedback on the form so Martin can learn from the feedback.</p> <p>Participatory Budgeting (PB) – 2 pots of money: £20k – youth activities – 13 applications received £40k – youth spaces – 3 applications received Both closed now and will go to a vote in school before the end of June and can do PB, a well subscribed process. This has been a lot of work – looks like money will be spent.</p>	
11. Money for Moray	<p>Just Transition PB – first funding roadshow launch on 26th June in Elgin and other meetings all over Moray. Forres meeting is on 12th July in the Community Centre from 3pm to 8pm. Funding is mainly for carbon reduction £500k in the pot with awards of up to £50k.</p> <p>The money is split with £225k open to any group to apply for and the further £225k is only open to groups who do not have paid staff.</p> <p>£50k is to be used for a Youth Participatory Budget which Fiona Herd will run.</p>	
12. Moray Towns Partnership	In abeyance	
13. Moray Forum	<p>Martin informed all the Moray Forum has adopted a new constitution and meet 21st June. Martin has drafted a constitution for all the individual forums in order to bring them in line with each other i.e. all AGM's at the same time and improve communication. Draft is to be finalised and presented on 21st June and then discussion how it feeds up to the Community Engagement Group.</p> <p>Forums – none in Elgin and look at how to bring in more organisations to make it more equitable. Also highlight the differences between Community Councils and Area Forums, there is the potential for conflict over who does what and why. Moving forward looking to strengthen links to the Community Planning Partnership. Area Forums have huge value reinvigorating on a Moray wide scale. MC withdrew financial support and as a community organisation could look to identify smaller funds and draw them down, could look at small funders i.e. Co-op and Awards for All. Could also be something the Moray Forum could look at on a wider level, could look at community empowerment by working together.</p>	

	<p>Councillors have been given a small pot of public money, initially as a PB process, unsure if the money will be administered this way. Suggestion of showing the Councillors the Spirit of Community Report and ask if there is anything in there that the money could fund. Chair to write to ask them to come along.</p>	SM
14. Transport Forum	<p>Angela and David attended on 6th June at Elgin Town all, 9 in attendance although 60 on the email distribution list. Discussed the top 3 priorities and 3 short term goals – no Stagecoach representation. Joint Community Council representative attended. New M.Connect discussed numbers have increased. The express service discussed, it has limited stops going from Inverness to Aberdeen. Paper based bus timetables discussed, it is MC responsibility to put into shelters but there are none at present, most bus shelters have no paper timetables but it was mentioned that could access timetables on an app on phones for those with the technology. The newly formed Transport Forum is progressing a draft action plan but still requires input from more members. Martin to forward on to me the 3 key priorities for emailing round FAF members. Next meeting is on 11th/12th July, Martin to confirm.</p>	MR MR
15. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP – has stepped down and is now Vice Chair of FCC with Steve Ferris as Chair, meeting this month in the Green Room in the Community Centre – can't use the lift in the Centre – Martin to check with Kim Slater why the lift is not being used. BBC programme about touring toolsheds and Men's Shed applied to the BBC. FCC have a stall at Forres Highland Games – Steve to take table forward and look to do a mail drop with the Scouts • SM – Auchernack – spoke to Grant Speed – site is full of weeds, due to the site being in hands of estates who would have to pay to cut the grass. FCC – will ask about roundabouts, the contract is with AMEY – nothing done and they are eyesores Spoke with roads about options for roundabout – concrete cheaper option as does not require follow up • TC – Moray Firth Credit Union coffee morning on 17th June, Youth Choir Concert at St John Church on 24th June and Highland Games on 8th July 	MR SM SM
16. Councillors	No Councillors were present.	

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com

17. AOB	Secretary proposed paying the annual insurance, all present agreed. Secretary to pay Zurich Insurance and claim money back. Michelle to speak to Nick regarding Turning Point Church booking for the first Wednesday of each month.	TC MG
18. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 5 th July 2023, 7pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	