



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH 2014**

PRESENT

Brian McDonald, Chair	John Bremner, Treasurer
Sandra MacLennan, Vice Chair	Councillor Anne Skene
Councillor Lorna Creswell	Andrew Anderson
Angela Sutherland	Ian Todd
Kresanna Aigner	Naomi Zair
Terry Monaghan	Kerstin Heath
Tina Coffey, Minutes	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome from Chair	Brian McDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
Apologies	Apologies were received from Carol Shaw and Councillor Aaron McLean and Fabio Villani.	
Minute of FAF Meeting held in February 2014	There were no amendments and the minutes were proposed by Sandra MacLennan and seconded by John Bremner.	
Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kresanna Aigner had purchased the extension cables and brought the receipt for the Treasurer. • Secretary to circulate 2012 Study of Town Centre Economic Activity by Rowena MacDougall. • Third party insurance – Ian Todd passed information to the Secretary. • FAF Handbook has been updated and includes additional changes i.e. 10 year plan. Ian Todd is awaiting ratification of strategy before forwarding on to the Secretary to circulate to FAF members. • Moray Area Forum – British Red Cross hospital transportation facilities – ongoing. • Berryburn, an email has been received in connection with this item which stated that a Board of Trustees had been set up and the field of membership encompassed 	<p>TC</p> <p>IT</p> <p>EH</p>

	<p>Grantown on Spey, there is no constitution and the Board were looking to appoint an outside Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TsiMORAY's Join the Dots information sent to all on FAF email list. 	
Treasurers Report	Current balance stands at £3,284.18 with 1 cheque cashed for £9.64, an ad for the Forres Gazette.	
	Kerstin Heath spoke to the group with reference to Transition Town Forres (TTF), to raise awareness of an initiative spearheaded by Jackie Barrere and Diana Kwok to create a food forest in the Bogton area. The idea has been used in other parts of the world to use the land near TTF in order to grow foods which could be used by the community. Others ideas included a pet agility area.	
Moray Towns Partnership (MTP)	<p>Chair and Vice Chair to attend a meeting with Alan MacBeth, The Moray Council (TMC) on 18th March 2014 to discuss previous spending of MTP money, to report back at the next meeting. Possible underspend of MTP money in FY 2013/2014 of £5,500, this figure to be clarified.</p> <p>£15,000 available to spend in FY 2014/2015, this was discussed and ideas for spending should be brought to the next FAF meeting.</p>	<p>BM/SM</p> <p>BM</p> <p>All</p>
Consultations	Moray Local Development Plan – large document and should be available in the library.	
Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>FACT will interview for the post of P/T Administrator before the end of the month.</p> <p>At the last FACT meeting the Board of Directors voted to move to the Moray College Learning Centre (MCLC) which is much bigger and better situated for access than the present working space. It is hoped that FACT will work in partnership with the Moray College. At present just one room of MCLC is rented with FACT planning on using the Tolbooth for larger meetings.</p> <p>There is to be a consultation with the public re a solar meadow site (converting sun rays to electricity), looking to create electricity and site being looked at could produce 5 – 7 megawatts of electricity, cost £7 – £10 million to establish - any income would come from a feed in and export tariff – holding public meetings to see how the community feels, then if supported undertake an in-depth evaluation.</p> <p>FACT will hold it's AGM in May 2014, venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>Forres Craftmakers collective have set up there own trust.</p> <p>Grantown on Spey have been in touch asking them to supply products made by Forres craftmakers.</p>	
Community Engagement	Meeting took place today – leader from Scottish Development Centre attended to look at an engagement support plan – meeting was fully attended by members of the group. Chair and Treasurer attended the last Moray Area Forum meeting and reported back.	
Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina Coffey on behalf of Fabio Villani – Join the Dots on Friday 14th March 2014 at Moray College UHI from 10 am to 4 pm. • “Drop in café” on Saturday 15th March in the Forres Tolbooth from 10 am to 1 pm • Sandra Maclennan – Forres in Bloom (FiB) public meeting held on 21st February 2014 resulted in 40+ volunteers 	

	<p>offering their help, FiB now on Facebook and have set up a Core Group to plan planting schemes. Jackie King who owns a gardening business is to lead the group. Negotiations ongoing with Grant Speed for approval. George Alexander and James Duncan lead a working group on upgrading the greenhouses – Minute of Agreement to be clarified before signature.</p> <p>17th March 2014 – Piping Hot Forres meeting 19th March 2014 – meeting to seek volunteers for Nelsons Tower 23rd March 2014 - Community Day in Grant Park starting at 2 pm, meet in Grant Park to collect fallen branches and tidy up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian McDonald – Peoples Millions Fund and Coastal Communities Fund launched • Andrew Anderson – Moray Tourism Strategy formal launch last week with positive feedback. Customer Care training by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) underway following methodology of World Host – target to achieve World Host Destination Status • Kresanna Aigner – Dyke and District Village Hall committee developed a Marketing Plan and new look website. Findhorn Bay Arts Festival appeared on STV news along with Cameron Taylor to discuss Macbeth and Moray. TMC are supporting the Festival and will match fund £10,000 towards the Festival in September 2014. Almost moved into new offices in town at 3 Bank Lane, 104 High Street. • Naomi Zair – Age Scotland meeting held in the Mosset on 10th March 2014 – 1 speaker did not turn up, transport discussed. Marie Simpson spoke about blue badges. Men’s Shed meeting on 22nd March 2014, 11 am to 2 pm at Wastebusters. • John Bremner – Community Council meeting to be held on 20th March in the Tolbooth at 7.30 pm. • Ian Todd – Community Support Unit, small team, busy behind the scenes facilitating engagements and attending meetings, involved in Community Asset Transfers. Helping those in community only not visible amongst community. • Councillor Creswell – Director of Public Health attending a meeting in the green room in Forres House Community Centre on 14th March at 10 am, Sir Lewis Ritchie to speak re merger of NHS and Social Care. Policy and Resources funding meeting to be held on 18th March 2014 to discuss resources and the after school club. Tenants Forum going back to an Area Forum for whole of Moray Forres Area Credit Union preparing to roll out across Moray. 	
tsiMoray	TsiMoray awards to be held on afternoon of Friday 14 th March 2014.	
Councillors	Councillor Anne Skene stated that she had been busy with the following:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Alleviation Sub Committee meeting – A96 will be ready and should return to its old route by the end of April 2014 – several weeks ahead of schedule. Works should be completed on this project by the end of November 2014, almost 4 months ahead of schedule with substantial savings. • Interviews for permanent posts of Depute Headteachers of secondary school has begun – interview for new Depute Headteacher for Forres Academy next week. • Youth Area – Forres House Community Centre – young people have raised £9,600 to develop facilities and make them user friendly for young people. • Sustainable Education Review – on line questionnaire, last week over 1,000 responses – Community briefings to be held in April 2014 – please respond to the online questionnaire which finishes at the end of March 2014. • Forres Out of School Club – in December 2013 the Children and Young People Committee decided to close it subject to an Equality Impact Assessment report (EIA). In March 2014 the EIA was deemed unsatisfactory by some members of the committee and it went to a vote. On the basis of the EIA not being robust, 7 out of 13 members voted to keep the club open and so it received a stay of execution. However, there is no budget allocation for the club for this financial year so it will go to Policy and Resources Committee next week. It is likely that there will not be enough support to create a budget and closure will be inevitable. Councillor Skene to report back. <p>Councillor Creswell reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Hub – showed Craig Barron round Forres who is developing SportsHUBS across Moray – Forres is well represented by racquet and football sports. • Auchernack Trust – bids to be submitted – requests for capital trusts will be looked at, capital started at £82,000 with accrued interest now worth £650,000 	AS
I-kiosks	I-Kiosks in Forres and Buckie will reach the end of their contractual lives soon. At a FACT meeting suggestion of Wifi hotspots was raised – those present agreed this was a good idea. Secretary to email Alison McLaughlin with the suggestion that I-kiosks would be better employed as Wifi hotspots.	TC
AOB	Dr William Latimer has undertaken a survey around Sanquhar Loch and will write a survey report, partly a management plan with other suggestions as to how the loch can be restored. TMC appears to have money ring fenced for this item. Possibility that FACT may receive the funding and disperse it. Hope to meet with the general public in April 2014.	
Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 2 nd April 2014, 7 pm in the General Purpose Room at Forres House Community Centre.	