



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST 2014**

PRESENT

Brian McDonald, Chair	John Bremner, Treasurer
Councillor Lorna Creswell	Chas Rodger
Angela Sutherland	Gary Simpson
Gill Bird	Iain Todd
Naomi Zair	Terry Monaghan
Tina Coffey, Minutes	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Brian McDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2. Apologies	Apologies were received from Councillor Anne Skene, Sandra MacLennan, Kresanna Aigner, Debbie Herron and Fabio Villani.	
3. Minute of FAF Meeting held in July 2014	<p>There following are amendments:</p> <p>Under AOB Naomi Zair has stepped down from the position of Chair of the BALL Group. Irene Weedon, The Moray Council (TMC) has assigned Wendy Strachan, TMC, to give the BALL Group some assistance.</p> <p>Under Round The Table, bullet point 9 Alan Bennett should read Allan Burnett.</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by John Bremner and seconded by Councillor Lorna Creswell.</p>	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accounts requested by TMC have been forwarded. A copy of the FAF grant form has been passed on and nothing has been received back re the fuel buying group at Rafford. After a discussion it was felt that the savings made by the group when purchasing the oil would leave enough money to fund themselves. Councillor Creswell offered to follow up this item and report back at the September 2014 meeting. The Chair is to contact Cameron Taylor for a copy of the Moray Speyside branding guidelines and forward on to the Secretary for distribution. 	<p>LC</p> <p>BM</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair has received no more information in connection with MI Moray. Secretary has forwarded dates of 2014 FAF meetings to John Ferguson TMC as requested. 	
5. Treasurers Report	Current balance stands at £4,392.71 with 2 cheques cashed; £50 for secretarial duties and £200 to the Mosset Burn Conservation Society. This leaves £2.90 left to spend on MTP money and there is £276 set aside for insurance. The remittance of £1,899 has been received from TMC and the account earned 22p interest.	
6. Moray Towns Partnership (MTP)	There is an under spend of £2,000 on the money set aside for the maps which are now in circulation, the majority stored within the FACT building, the maps are being distributed by FACT staff to various businesses in and around the Forres area. The underspend of MTP money was discussed with the following suggestions for the use of the money: signposting in town (top of Tolbooth Street), ride-on lawnmower and the Chair and Lorna Creswell have been in touch with Professor Harper from Aberdeen University re a heritage creation in connection with Lord Strathcona, authorisation has not been given towards it as yet by the University. It was agreed to keep on inviting the public to submit applications for the remaining balance.	
7. Consultations	<p>Health and Well-being – meeting to be held on 11th August 2014 from 1 pm to 4 pm in the Youth Café in Elgin.</p> <p>Family Support Consultation coming up through tsi brief - from Scottish Government initiative to people to engage in identifying different kinds of provision required i.e. early years/childcare Forres, Elgin and Buckie in consultation and another childcare one running in parallel for the rural areas.</p> <p>Gary Simpson undertaking Community Profiling, trying to collate items already in the community – Maggie Bell TMC to take the lead – gathering information from communities i.e. Scouts, Boys Brigade and other groups etc to be completed before the end of this year – aiming to collate information and incorporate all information received, Gary undertaking Forres and Kinloss area – Associated School Groups to collate then all information gathered will be put together, should be available on TMC website.</p> <p>Leisure and Sports Review – small working group of elected Members and draft programme put together with dates put together of when it is to be rolled out, possibly when schools are back. Staff and users of service to be contacted and should be completed by October – online access and paper copies to fill in.</p> <p>Debbie Herron from Forres Area Community Trust (FACT) and Suzie Gentle from Age Scotland will be undertaking a small informal consultation during the Forres Area Credit Union (FACU) coffee morning taking place on 9th August 2014 in the Town Hall from 10 am until midday.</p>	
8. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>FACT has a 6 month extension to the lease of the Forres Learning Centre (FLC). Moray College (MC) are keen for FACT to stay in the building, FACT would like to enter into partnership with the MC and if possible acquire the building and if possible remodel it and encourage other community groups within the town to use the building.</p> <p>The Chair attended a meeting with Accunostics at the Forres Enterprise Park – company deals with the development of medical</p>	

	<p>equipment and has an interest in diabetes and is keen to support community issues, they will be in touch with the Chair.</p> <p>TRACKS – in September 2015 a party of Canadians will be visiting the area in connection with Lord Strathcona and a limited liability company is being set up, in future other areas/towns will be encouraged to be involved using the Canadian model as a template – hoping for a joined presentation of visitor attractions throughout the year, due to happen following the 2015 experience.</p>	
9. Community Engagement	<p>Date of 2nd October 2014 in the Town Hall Forres has been set for this meeting in order to bring together different groups and build connections between them, mention of involving the College and Glasgow School of Art. Meeting planned for 7th August 2014 to decide on who to invite as Town Hall capacity is 220. Councillor Creswell to report back to September 2014 meeting.</p>	LC
10. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian McDonald – a thank you letter has been received from Benromach re Red Hot Piping Competition in connection with the £2,000 contribution. On 9th August 2014 at Sanquhar Loch there will be a group meeting at the weir at 10 am in order to remove the Himalayan Balsam, please wear Wellington boots and gloves if you would like to attend. Findhorn, Lossie and Nairn Fisheries Trust will spray the giant hogweed in Sanquhar Pond – more details to follow. Rene Millburn TMC has approached the Chair, she would like to chat about setting up a group to restore buildings in Forres, she would be able to access some money would be looking over the next 5 years to alter/restore buildings - more information to follow. • Chas Rodger – Steve Walker, Managing Director of Stagecoach has approached the Community Council – there are gaps in the evening rota and Stagecoach will make changes to the timetable to cover them in order to allow people to get home. Community Council are looking to become more accessible via Facebook – training is being given to CC members. Community markets – going ahead, meeting held with REAP – possible venue of Town Hall to start with - community market requires one traders licence to cover everyone – first trial market at Transition Town Forres on 27th September 2014. • Gary Simpson – youth groups will be returning to Forres House Community Centre with effect 11th August 2014. Drop in on Friday night for S1 up but possibility of splitting the time between S1-2 and S3 and up. • Gill Bird – FBAF – the programme is out. Eddie Reader gig at Universal Hall is almost sold out and FBAF is looking for volunteers to steward music events and invigilate art exhibitions, if interested please contact Gill at FBAF. • Lorna Creswell – Osprey bus is about to be ordered, Auchernack Trust gave money towards it, primarily to be used for older and disabled people. More volunteer drivers are required and they will attend a driving familiarisation course. Bus able to take up to 14 people but depends on 	

	<p>amount of wheelchair users, can be used for anything with criteria being those who are old, infirm or disabled and aged 65+ - no charge for the bus but a donation will be accepted, can only be booked by groups collected and returned to one specific location – not a taxi service to separate doors. Co-ordination of the bus is to be arranged by the Army camp. The old bus was traded in.</p> <p>Interviews taking place on 7th August 2014 to appoint a Health and Social Care Officer.</p>	
11. Councillors	<p>Councillor Lorna Creswell stated all Councillors are continuing to deal with residents' issues although currently there are no surgeries. An email will enable Councillors to deal with any issues that need to be taken forward.</p>	
12. AOB	<p>Naomi Zair was worried that the Blue Badge Scheme is harder to remain a member of due to the new assessment criteria. The meeting was reminded that an appeals process in which GP's were consulted had already resulted in blue badges being reinstated. The isolation and lack of support that many residents were experiencing could be an issue that was featured in Community Engagement on October 2nd.</p>	
13. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 3rd September 2014, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre.</p>	