



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2014**

PRESENT

Brian McDonald, Chair	Sandra Maclennan, Vice Chair
John Bremner, Treasurer	Councillor Lorna Creswell
Councillor Anne Skene	Gill Bird
Angela Sutherland	Debbie Herron
Ian Todd	Naomi Zair
Tina Coffey, Minutes	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Brian McDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Apologies	Apologies were received from, Gary Simpson, Fabio Villani and Chas Rodger.	
3. Minute of FAF Meeting held in October 2014	There was one amendment: The next Tracks group meeting is to take place on 27 th November 2014 and not 17 th November 2014. The minutes were proposed by Councillor Lorna Creswell and seconded by Angela Sutherland.	
4. Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport forum meeting cancelled no new date set – to carry this forward to next meeting. • Bank of Scotland Community Fund - Forres in Bloom (FiB) came third and were awarded £1,000 (Cullen Playgroup 1st, Mosstodloch Scouts 2nd). Thank you from Forres in Bloom (FiB) to all those who voted. 	TC
5. Treasurers Report	Current balance stands at £4,164.79 which includes £2.90 left to spend of MTP money and £276 for insurance. There was 1 cheque cashed: £50 for secretarial duties. Fabio Villani to send invoice to Treasurer for £200 towards distribution of a Transport Directory to houses throughout Moray. Sub group who sit on the grant committee consists of Sandra Maclennan, John Bremner, Lianne Milligan and Tina Coffey.	FV
Tea & Coffee	Provided by Vice Chair.	
6. Moray Towns	Meeting took place on 28 th October 2014. Secretary contacted Alan MacBeth, The Moray Council (TMC) with	

Partnership (MTP)	<p>regard to £500 requested by Fabio Villani for distribution costs of Transport Directory. Alan MacBeth stated commitment could be honoured and £500 is to be put towards this item. Fabio Villani is to send invoice to Secretary for onward transmission to Alan at TMC. Chair attended MTP meeting where members present felt the Transport Directory was not a project to be funded by MTP as there was no formal application for support submitted and no opportunity to properly assess the publication. Ian Todd – this item is on Elgin South agenda, Buckie, Keith and Lossiemouth MTP threw out this item although Buckie Area Forum approved a spend of £200. MTP is anxious money is spent before the end of March 2015. Application received from FACT via Tourism and Development Group – Debbie Herron (FACT) stated case for funding support – looking to receive £50 from 50 businesses/organisations on the High Street (£2,500 in total), looking for FAF to donate £2,500 from MTP money and FACT will submit paperwork to the Visit Scotland Growth Fund for match funding (£10,000 in total). Members present voted and agreed to allocate £2,500 of MTP money towards this project. Debbie to send an invoice to Secretary for onward transmission to Alan MacBeth, TMC.</p> <p>Secretary to place an advert in the Forres Gazette requesting groups interested in this funding or how any future funding is to be spent are to contact the Secretary.</p>	<p>FV</p> <p>DH</p> <p>TC</p>
7. Consultations	Secretary to resend information in connection with the Empowerment Bill to all FAF members.	TC
8. Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)	<p>Debbie Herron, FACT – survey re Digital Media to see the level of interest, experience and age of those using the internet, available by email or in paper form in the FACT office. Suggestion of placing copies of survey in library. Debbie to send electronic copy of survey to Secretary for distribution to FAF members.</p> <p>The next Board of Directors meeting will take place on 10th November 2014.</p> <p>The next newsletter is due out soon.</p> <p>Tracks – Chair met with the new owner of the company Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the proposed visit has been put back from September 2015 to March/April 2016 – intend to look at what is on in the area during this period.</p>	DH
9. Forres House Action Group	Forres House Action Group unable to attend Novembers FAF meeting but will attend Decembers meeting with Gary Simpson.	GS
10. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Maclennan – FiB coffee morning will take place at St Leonard’s Church Hall on 15th November 2014. FiB AGM takes place on 19th November 2014 in the Tolbooth. 40 volunteers over a 24 hour period aged from 3 to 87 years helping to clear the park of plants. Application submitted to the Berryburn Wind Farm Fund for £15,000 for FiB. Children in Need Rotary Quiz will take place in the Mosset on 14th November 2014 - £100 per team entry fee at present 22 teams entered. • Naomi Zair – attended Moray Change Fund on 4th November 2014, workshops completed similar to that completed with Older Persons Reference Group. • Tina Coffey – coffee mornings on 8th November 2014 (St John’s Church) and 22nd November 2014 (Friends of Guiding) 	

	<p>both in the Forres Town Hall from 10 am to 12 midday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Lorna Creswell – 2nd October 2014 meeting still collating findings and noted there was a 2 page spread on the Spirit of Community in the Gazette with positive feedback. • Angela Sutherland – queried the times of buses to get people to the health centre – Councillor Creswell stated that the Council were waiting for money from Edinburgh, suggested there was the Dial-a-Bus available. • Gill Bird – Findhorn Bay Arts Festival and Culture Day went well and thanked FAF for the MTP money. Over 2,000 people visited Forres on culture day alone and shop keepers had reported positively, still collating information. Kresanna Aigner has secured some money for a traditional music group for evenings in the Tolbooth. • Debbie Herron – from 2nd October 2014, Spirit of Community event notes are in the process of being typed up. • Brian McDonald – Sanquhar Pond Group have been busy clearing rhododendrons from around the pond, there was a working party on 1st November 2014. He has met with the TMC and a chipper will dispose of felled rhododendrons left on the sides of the woods – Chair has been in touch with Dr Latimer re a management plan - restoring the loch to its original state – quotes around £60,000 to dredge the pond – management plan cost could possibly get through Entrust. Forres Woodlands Trust has suggested that they may take a more active involvement in the restoration of the areas surrounding the loch. Chair to meet with Graham Hilditch – suggestion of applying to the Berryburn Fund for financial support. Continuing to chop down rhododendrons. Himalayan balsam also being tackled. Sandra Maclennan, Lorna Creswell and the Chair have been involved in an event comprising music, film, dance and dramatic performance in the Tolbooth and at Eden Court – University of Highlands and Islands have requested another 2 sessions to be staged in Moray; also want them to take part in “Celtic Connections” on 29th January 2015 in Glasgow – a coming together of music, poetry, sketches and dance to perform in the auditorium of the National Piping Centre in Glasgow. 	
<p>11. Councillors</p>	<p>Councillor Lorna Creswell has been busy with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum open on 1st November 2014 - thank you for those who helped support the museum, now closed for winter • Café in Forres House Community Centre – 4 tenders at present and applications to be in soon – looking to have someone in place by the end of November 2014 • Joint inspection of Older Peoples Services – reported on - went well • Drug and Alcohol Seminar on 31st October – self directed support new system of choosing own care • Credit Union AGM to take place on 20th January 2015 – local auditor used • Spirit of Community – well supported and hope to bring facilitators and volunteers together to speak to each other – good connections made and Gazette highlighted the range of 	

	<p>different people who attended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auchernack Trust – any requests for Postie’s bequest to be in by end November 2014 • Duke of Edinburgh awards to be held on 14th November 2014 in the Town Hall in the evening • Oban – Rural Parliament meeting • Invited to a local currency meeting to introduce currency to the local area but not able to attend - will follow up • Brighthouse – shop opened in Elgin – targets most vulnerable – small amounts with long pay back times • Attended various committee meetings <p>Councillor Anne Skene has been busy with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMC has a new Corporate Director of Education and Social Care – Laurence Findlay who was appointed in October 2014 • Still seeking a Corporate Director of Economic Development Infrastructure and Planning - ongoing • Community Asset Transfer policy has been rewritten and updated and is available on TMC’s website • Special full council meeting to discuss the Sustainable Education Review Report, decision taken not to do anything about progressing the provision of education in Moray for the next 5 years – re-zoning school areas in Elgin and look at Forres’ re-zoning – decisions to be taken over the next few years – lots of fall out – Alan Wright leader of the Council has stepped down – Councillor Skene considering her role • Western Link Road, Elgin – hearing due in the next week over 3 days for the hearing • Planning application in for Lochyhill site for over 200 houses to be discussed on 25th November 2014 • Redco Milne – Councillors invited to a briefing on 10th November at 8.30 am 	
12. AOB	<p>FAF AGM to take place on 4th February 2015. Secretary to book Forres House Community Centre GP room for FAF’s meetings in 2015.</p> <p>Film Forres is on 7th November 2014.</p> <p>Gill Bird informed those present that Logie Primary School are putting on a performance of Aladdin in the Town Hall on 28th November 2014 from 6.30 to 8.30 pm.</p>	TC
13. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 3rd December 2014, 7 pm in the Forres House Community Centre.</p>	