



FORRES AREA COMMUNITY TRUST

Annual General Meeting held via ZOOM

Thursday 26th November 2020, 5.30 pm – 6.20 pm

PRESENT:

Fabio Villani (Chair), Tom Villani, Bea Jefferson, Jim Farquharson, Joanna Taylor, Lesley Edwards, Laurie Piper, Lorna Creswell, Peter Airey, Sandra MacLennan, Debbie Herron, Charlotte Grigg, Kirsty Williams, Janice Cooper, Loretta Oliphant, Jan McPherson, Ruth Whitfield, June Airey, Andrew Anderson, Kath Todd, Maryan Whyte, John Channon, Val Treen, Jamie Nicol, Kevin Skivington, Sue Taylor, Rob Coffey, Phil Mills, Paul Johnson, Mike Scott, Alison Davidson, David Parker, David Morrison, Franz Schubert, Hannah Heaton, Karen Chamberlain and Tina Coffey (Minutes)

APOLOGIES:

Pery Zakeri, Jeanette Homewood, Lauren Causier and Chris Thomas

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Fabio Villani, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to FACT's first virtual AGM. The Lead Development Officer, Debbie Herron informed those present that the meeting would be recorded for the Secretary to refer to when typing up the minutes and would be erased when the minutes are typed up.

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Acknowledgement of Volunteers

Kirsty Williams acknowledged the support and invaluable contribution the volunteers have provided to FACT over the last year. Thank you from the team at FACT to all those volunteers who donated their time and talents during the year.

4. Minutes of AGM from 15th November 2019 held at The Town Hall

There were no amendments and the minutes were proposed by Peter Airey and seconded by Laurie Piper.

5. Annual Report of FACT Activities April 2019 to March 2020

A summary of activities and achievements is available in the Annual Report, which also includes an extract from the financial activities statement and a list of directors and staff. The Chair wished to thank his fellow Directors for their direction and support and he wished to thank the staff for their hard work and support.

The Chair wished to thank the volunteers for all they do within the community and he thanked all members for their continued support. The communities have risen to the challenge and meet the needs of the local area ensuring the most vulnerable members of our community do not face dark times alone. FACT are just about to take formal ownership of the Town Hall.

LDO wanted to highlight and acknowledge the income FACT have raised. These funds going forward are due to the work of Charlotte and the team attracting bookings into the Town Hall and the continued support of the user groups. The income has enabled the Town Hall to survive during this time of Covid. LDO wished to acknowledge how great the user groups have been and she wanted to thank other agencies, Reboot, Wastebusters and to Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) for their continued support and advice.

A question regarding increased levels of income since Moray Council had the Town Hall was asked. FACT have increased the level of bookings by 100.4% and more than doubled the income brought in by Moray Council on a good year.

6. Financial Report April 2019 to March 2020

An extract of the full financial statements was available for information; a full set of Annual Accounts is available and can be emailed out if requested.

The income to the end of March 2020 was £257,383, up 40% from the year before. Income comes from a range of sources with the majority from grant funding with important funders being HIE, National Lottery Charity funds and other funders listed on the annual report. Income of £40k has been generated from Town Hall bookings.

Expenditure for the year was £207,461, up 26% on the previous year. Activities have grown and a large part of expenditure goes towards staffing and costs related to the Town Hall i.e. upkeep and maintenance of the building and the electric bill. There was a surplus of around £50k for the year, this puts FACT in a good position going forward with 6 month's worth of expenditure which has helped deal with the months of lost income. The bills have decreased due to non-usage of the Town Hall and FACT received finance of £25k of non-domestic rates grant which was available. Additional support was received from HIE to help support the community with Covid related work and many other funders who were extremely flexible in how their funding was used. Due to having strong reserves we are still in a strong financial position even though it has been a difficult period. The accounts were approved and signed off by the Board of Directors and were proposed at the AGM by Paul Johnson and seconded by David Parker.

A summary of the accounts will be made available on www.forresarea.org

7. Nominations and Election of Board of Directors

The Chair informed those present that he would be stepping down but was leaving the Board in great shape with increased recognition of FACT. In accordance with FACT's constitution three Directors, Jim Farquharson, Tom Duff and Laurie Piper, are to step down by rotation, all were eligible to stand for re-election. There were no opportunities to take nominations at the meeting, if anyone is interested in joining the Board please contact any member of staff. The Chair proposed to elect all 3 candidates onto the Board in a single formal vote, there were no objections. The proposer was Paul Johnson and was seconded by David Morrison, all three were unanimously re-elected to the Board. They join continuing Board members Peter Airey, Tina Coffey, Lorna Creswell, Lesley Edwards, Bea Jefferson and Joanna Taylor.

Each year co-opted Board members are to step down, Sandra Maclennan stepped down and agreed to be co-opted for the coming year.

8. Special Resolution – update Memorandum and Articles to include use of video conferencing

The special resolution is to update FACT's Memorandum and Articles to enable the use of virtual meetings, the changes to be made to the constitution are more complicated, therefore are to be set out in details well in advance of an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). At present FACT would like to draw your attention to the reviewing and revising of the current constitution. Joanna Taylor informed those present that there has been special legislation passed by the government allowing groups to hold meetings virtually due to the Covid crisis. There will be a change to the articles in the future.

9. Thanks and Close

The Chair wished to thank all present for attending FACT's virtual meeting. He also wished to thank the board and wished them all the best going forward. Fabio was presented virtually with a gift from the staff and Board of FACT. There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.