



FORRES AREA COMMUNITY TRUST

Annual General Meeting

Friday 26th November 2021, 6.00 pm – 6.35 pm

PRESENT:

Joanna Taylor (Chair), Bea Jefferson, Lesley Edwards, Lorna Creswell, Peter Airey, Sandra MacLennan, Susan Longmuir, Charles Perry, Debbie Herron, Charlotte Grigg, Loretta Oliphant, Euan Kershaw, Eleni Cawthra-Hewitt-Wallace, Jan MacPherson, June Airey, David Parker, David Morrison, Liz Stewart, Mike Mair, Lauren Causier, Peter Green, Paul Johnson, Josh Johnson, Murray Drummond, Romany Buck, Ian MacLennan, Lorraine Sutherland, Marion McFadyen, John Channon, Lindsey Standing, Sam Morrison, Katherine Morgan and Tina Coffey (Minutes)

APOLOGIES:

Jim Farquharson, Tom Duff (proxy), Kenneth Bews, Fabio Villani, Jo Camplin, Ruth Whitfield, Rob Coffey and Sandra McIver (proxy)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Joanna Taylor, introduced herself and welcomed those attending to FACT's AGM.

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Minutes of AGM from 26th November 2020 via Zoom

The meeting last year was entitled to take place via a Zoom meeting. There were no amendments and acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Peter Airey and seconded by David Parker.

4. Acknowledgement of Volunteers

The Chair acknowledged the support and invaluable contribution the volunteers have provided to FACT over the last year. She stated a huge number of volunteers are doing amazing work and FACT could not do without them. FACT has long term volunteers and new people who have recently started. Thank you from the team at FACT to all those volunteers who donated their time and talents during the year.

5. Report on FACT Activities

A summary of activities and achievements is available in the Annual Report, which also includes an extract from the financial activities statement. The Chair paid tribute to the staff and their response to circumstances, although the Town Hall shut FACT remained open and available to help. FACT distributed 8,000 leaflets to let everyone know where to go for local help. Some asked for help for themselves and for others, FACT and partners gave help. With social isolation, FACT were there with the Cameron Project and met online, Forres Online helped people with IT issues, CVs, job applications, benefits, mail chimp and drop-in sessions online. Both projects came together when befriending went online and this happened effectively.

FACT now own the Town Hall, this will be a long-term project and the plan is that the building is to be a catalyst to help the town, the area, those organisations who use it and the community. This will all take time.

None of this would be possible without staff, funders and fellow partners. Thanks to all especially the staff.

6. Annual Accounts to 31st March 2021

An extract of the full financial statements was available in the Annual Report for information; a full set of Annual Accounts is available on the FACT website and can be emailed/posted out if requested.

The income to the end of March 2021 was up from the last year to £384,465 due largely to:

1. Money received to buy the town hall from the Scottish Land Fund. This is shown in income in the income and expenditure account, but not in the revenue expenditure as this shows up on the balance sheet. This means we have increased capital reserves through acquiring the building.
2. FACT received grant funding to help Forres deal with the pandemic and we worked in partnership with other organisations who delivered services.

Our income from grants went up considerably during the year but the income from the town hall was negligible. Our unrestricted funds at the end of the year were £155k. It is the Board's policy to hold £130k in reserves, which is 6 months' worth of expenditure. This gives us some reserves we can use this year while our income from bookings is still low.

Our priorities for the future are getting income from room bookings backup and getting funding for major refurbishment of the building.

Thanks go to all funder especially Scottish Land Fund and Highland and Islands Enterprise and other funders.

A question was asked about to what extent the income from users of the Town Hall covered running costs. Before the pandemic, the income from users covered direct costs such as electricity bills, cleaning and staff time dealing with bookings. During the pandemic there was no income. In the longer term we would like to cover overheads and staff time and begin to generate a profit. But to do this the refurbishment is necessary to reduce our electricity bills and give us more lettable space. In the short term we aim to balance income and costs. There are no plans to increase rates. It is important that the facility is affordable.

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

7. Election of Directors

The Ordinary (adult living in Forres Area) members attending received voting cards and the election took place with the following elected to the Board:

Name	For	Against	Abstain
Peter Airey	17	-	1
Tina Coffey	19	-	-
Lorna Creswell	18	-	-
Susan Longmuir	18	-	-
Charles Perry	17	-	1
Kevin Skivington	18	-	1

There are room for more Directors on the Board so if anyone would like to join the Board, please speak to the Chair.

8. Special Resolution – that FACT adopt the proposed Articles of Association recommended by the Directors

Last year the AGM took place online thanks to government legislation, this was temporary legislation and companies have been asked to change their articles. A proposed set of new articles based on the articles from the Development Trust Association of Scotland have been put forward. There are a number of changes including allowing general meetings to be held online, referring to the Board and not Directors, simplifying the power of the company by bringing them in line with best practice and simplifying the process whereby members re-register their interest in being members. The changes allow for an easier process of informing members by email. The Articles have been simplified and the rules made clearer. In the Articles the Forres Area is defined by the catchment area of Forres Academy; this is unchanged. An appendix gives the postcodes within that area. The town has grown and a new set of postcodes is appended, updated with help from Moray Council.

In changing the Articles this changes the way in which FACT is governed, and this requires this special resolution to have 75% of the members present to vote in favour. The vote for FACT to adopt the new Articles of Association took place with 18 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstaining. The proposed Articles were therefore duly adopted.

9. Close of Formal Business

The Chair thanked all present for attending FACT's AGM. There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.35 p.m.