



**FORRES AREA COMMUNITY TRUST**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 6.30 pm – 6.45 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Jim Farquharson (Chair), Peter Airey, Joanne Barry, Audrey Boyd, Nick Clark, Lorna Creswell, Michelle Gillibrand, Helen Janousek, Ruth Jeffries, Euan Kershaw, Susan Longmuir, Sandra Maclennan, David Parker, John Robinson, Kevin Skivington, Joanna Taylor, Graham Watson, Ruth Whitfield, Ilona Wood, and Tina Coffey (Minutes)

**APOLOGIES:**

Debbie Herron, Jane Johnston and Lindsey Standing.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Jim Farquharson, introduced himself and welcomed those attending to FACT's 12<sup>th</sup> AGM which was quorate with 13 members present.

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Minutes of AGM from 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

There were no amendments or points to raise and acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Peter Airey and seconded by Lorna Creswell.

4. Acknowledgement of Volunteers

From the Chair: on behalf of the Board of Directors, the Management, the Staff of FACT, our Funders and the Users of the Town Hall. I would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our volunteers.

Our Volunteers are FACT's greatest asset. That ladies and gentleman is you. Our Volunteers, you turn up when we need you, you are the backbone and the strength of the Town Hall. You are the people, the do-ers, that make FACT what it is.

It is no exaggeration to say we could not do what we are tasked with, without you. You are the ones who have built FACT's reputation and good regard.

I would like you to join me in applauding the excellent work our Volunteers do.

I know for many of you that will mean applauding yourselves, but do join in, you have the right to be proud.

Thank you one and all.

5. Report on FACT Activities

Please find below the Chair's report:

2022-23 has been a complex year.

The unexpected resignation of our last Chair did cause a short term hiatus. However after discussions with HIE we were found to be a reasonably sound organisation. However like many other charities it has been a difficult balance between the funding we get, and the services we provide.

The Board of Directors would like to express our appreciation to our Funders.

The local ones like Berry Burn Community Trust, Auchernack Trust, Beatrice Community Fund, TSI Moray and Moray Local Area Fund.

The national ones, National Lottery Community Fund, Historic Environment Scotland, AHF, DTAS, Crerar Trust and the Community Ownership Fund.

Highland and Islands Enterprise have provided and continue to give us unrivalled support in the day-to-day operation of FACT.

Let's not forget the local residents and local companies who have made notable donations, and of course all the bawbees dropped into the collection tins. We are very grateful to local shops for donations to the weekly Coffee Mornings and special thanks to TESCO and the CO-OP for their support of our Pantry.

The Board have, throughout this year have been updating our Policies and Procedures. These are our Governance documents, which ensure we comply with the various legislations that apply to or affect FACT.

We have continued with our plans for refurbishment of the Town Hall.

However rampant inflation and subsequent price rises have forced us to phase the project. The Refurbishment Team meet regularly and continue to try and push things forward. We hope to achieve a major step shortly and arrange for the repairs to the roof and the installation of insulation to the roof area. This alone is expected to have a positive effect on the running costs of the building.

The team would like to say how much we appreciate LDN Architects for answering our seemingly unending questions.

The Board and Management will continue to work to make the Town Hall a welcoming place, and an improving asset for the Community.

The Board recently agreed to look at raising monies to pay our Core Costs. These are things like electricity, our FACT employee's wages, the incidental things that every household has to purchase.

The ambition is to make FACT self-financing. We hope to set up small group of volunteers and supporters to collect ideas and to implement the best of them. So please, if you are

interested in being part of this group, please contact any member of the Board, or Nick Clark (Operations Manager) or a member of staff. We can also be contacted through email or website and Facebook. There have been some very interesting ideas put forward already.

You may have noticed the poster as you came in, or the press release in the Forres Gazette that we are looking for FACT members to join the Board of Directors.

The work is not onerous, it is a commitment to attend Board Meetings to read various documents, to discuss them, to voice your opinions and to exercise your skills. If you join a subcommittee or become an Office Bearer, yes it's a bigger ask, but no one has to do more than the initial commitment, unless they wish to.

I can tell you, it's very rewarding, being part of this venture. We are very proud of what has been achieved over the years.

It is the Board who will make the decisions, taking FACT forward into the future, and continuing the sterling work that FACT does every day in the Community.

If you feel you could, or would like more information, please get in touch through the methods previously mentioned.

There were no questions.

#### 6. Annual Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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 Finance Manager was present and when asked there were no questions.

The accounts were proposed by Peter Airey and seconded by Lorna Creswell.

A summary of the accounts is available on [www.forresarea.org](http://www.forresarea.org)

#### 7. Election of Directors

In FACT's Articles of Association, 3 Directors are due to retire by rotation and all who are stepping down are willing to stand for re-election.

There are 4 people willing to stand for election. 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 – re-elected    | 7   | -       | -       |
| Tina Coffey – re-elected    | 10  | -       | -       |
| Lorna Creswell – re-elected | 8   | -       | -       |
| John Robinson – new member  | 8   | -       | -       |

All 4 Director's were re/elected unanimously. There is space on the Board for more Directors and there is the option of co-opting Director's during the year, including for those living

outwith the Forres ASG area. They could then be elected by members at the following AGM for a year. The Board carries out an audit for skills gap and always welcomes a wider range of skills, ages and interests. If anyone would like to join the Board, please speak to the Chair.

8. Close of Formal Business

The Chair thanked all present for attending FACT's AGM. There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.