



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE 2025**

PRESENT

Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)	Lorretta Oliphant, Treasurer (LO)
Laura Cameron (LC)	Lorna Creswell (LCr)
Mike Scott (MS)	Lindsey Standring (LS)
Angela Sutherland (AS)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were received from, Gerry Fraser (GF), Ray MacDonald (RM), David Parker (DP) and Ann Rossiter (AR).	
2. Minutes from 7 th May 2025	The minutes from 7 th May 2025 had been circulated, there were two amendments: Item 4 – Change the sentence to – Treasurer transferred the remaining balance of the bonus ball money, raised at the last coffee morning into the FAF account - £35. Item 4 – delete the repeated word letters. The minutes were proposed by Lorretta and seconded by Lorna.	
3. Matters arising	Item 3 – Roysvale – Laura checked and the income generated from the hire of Roysvale does not off-set costs to maintain and look after the asset and Moray Council (MC) subsidise the asset, costs include: caretaker, utility, insurance admin costs, repair and maintenance of the pavilion and goalposts. Grass cutting and lining of the pitch are recharged to the Common Good account and costs more to run it than it makes. Schools are invoiced for special lining for sports day. Sports and Leisure, MC have standardised hire charges of £27/hr juniors and £75/hour adult – never had an events	

	request for the use of Roysvale Item 4 – maps – awaiting copy of the illustrated map before it goes to print Item 12 – Vice Chair to follow up Money for Moray at the Joint Community Council	EW DP
4. Treasurers Report	Since the last meeting paid out £40 to FABA and £100 for secretarial duties. Current account balance is (£2,737.04 - £900 restricted funds) £1,837.04. Public liability insurance requires renewing, estimated at around £135.	
5. Correspondence	Secretary emailed out the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarriers unpaid carer update • STP Funding Finder – May 2025 • STP Bulletin x 2 • Consultations – Community Council Scheme of Establishment Review – 2nd Consultation Period and Public consultation of the Forres Common Good Land • Forres Volunteer Marketplace – 6th June 2025 • Window of Opportunity poster • Forres Area Tourism Network (FATN) meeting • FABA event 	
6. FACT	Board are working hard to get up to speed and they have split into teams, a diverse Board with lots of skills. Currently sorting out job description for 2 vacancies. Volunteers Week – various events on including a thank you tea for all FACT volunteers, the volunteer pool and volunteers who support events in the Town Hall (TH). Volunteer Marketplace in conjunction with Moray Pathways on 6 th June – 10 groups attending from 1pm to 2.30pm. Snagging for the building – leaks in roof and had to move insulation which was being stored in the roof space so that the builders are able to examine the area.	
7. Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme	Fiona Skiffington appointed and she should start in July 2025.	
8. Forres Connections	Meeting held and mainly introductions to people, next meeting to be held later in the month. Currently an informal group who are looking into interpretation; Town Trail for Youth; digitising photos with Forres Heritage Trust and shop fronts improvements.	
9. Forres Tourism Group	Group met and they come under the FACT banner. Query whether FACT are to look to apply for funding to try to keep the network going.	
10. Spirit of	LPP group met and discussed comments received on the	

Community (SoC) 2022 and Local Place Plan (LPP)	draft LPP, not many comments received. Group went through all the comments and updated the LPP. The LPP draft will go to the next Community Council meeting and Forres Community Council (FCC) can agree they are happy with the changes and then submit to MC. FCC are the community registered leading body when submitting the LPP. Next step is to set up sub themes and get groups together and see what progress has been made, aim to bring together groups under the 6 themed headings and progress actions not taken forward. Forres Events have engaged a consultant to look at the community's views around Grant Park.	
11. Pilmuir Park	Installed and open to the public. MC received a thank you message regarding the park from a member of the public. From MC perspective there was panel damaged during installation and scratches on a swing frame, request for them both to be reinstalled and repaint the panel, awaiting a new panel. Laura is looking to get feedback from the children regarding the park. Next parks to be looked at are in Aberlour and Archieston with the possibility of still more money coming although not confirmed. Will look at those parks which score badly, Grant Park will be inspected in August. Laura to look at past inspection reports.	LC
12. Developer Contributions	£3,700 in developer obligations fund, confirmed will likely not have another funding round due to low level of fund, although can still request it through the Developer Obligations email. Capital funding can only be used for the purchase of items for a community facility.	
13. Money for Moray	Year 4 launches in June 2025. tsiMoray funding workshop on 26 th June, 3pm to 7pm in Forres TH.	
14. Moray Forum (MF)	Meeting held today – informal discussion as not quorate.	
15. Transport Forum (TF)	Nothing to report – Vice Chair to speak with the Joint Community Council. All electric bus running between Aberdeen and Inverness – Ember bus (Edinburgh based) and not stopping in Forres.	DP
16. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RM - Ray's Opportunities has been confirmed as the recipient of a £5k grant from the Newbold Legacy Trust. This will be utilised to cover the costs of the architects initial feasibility study. Holding a Charity Bingo evening in the Forres Costa Coffee Lounge at Tesco Supermarket on 18th June, admission charge is £10.00 per person, over 18yrs only and a prompt start time 6.30pm AR - Saturday Lunches at St Laurence on Saturday, 14th June, 11.00am - 1.30pm 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC – working with Forres in Bloom, Community Asset Transfer case to be forwarded on for approval. Transition Town Forres (TTF) update, the gardeners have become a formalised group and expressed an interest in taking on the land under a lease but not under the same terms as TTF. Discussion with MC legal department as the land is Common Good and have to go to court to re-lease it and would need to go to public consultation • MS – shed is complete and will paint the brick work by March 2026 • LCr – Window of Opportunity (WoO) being promoted, attended tsiMoray session regarding categories of neurodivergent conditions. Dementia Awareness Week and a session at Auchernack today. Osprey diesel bus is off the road until Monday for repair. Care homes are beginning to engage more and they are using the bus, need escorts. Highland Youth Theatre show on in the TH, Fame Junior and Film Forres nights continue • LS – continue to promote TH items and the Volunteer Marketplace. Tiny Tim (comedian) and Hue and Cry booked, Soul Food Café Summer Dance on 28th June and a Ceilidh on 5th July • TC – upcoming coffee mornings in the TH, 7th June Friends of Guiding and 21st June Moray Firth Credit Union. St John's church plant sale from 10am to 2pm on 7th June and on the same day St Leonards plant and seedling swap 2pm – 4pm 	
17. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
18. AOB	<p>Chair will be the Chieftain at the upcoming Highland Games. Due to essential investigation work being carried out at the Forres Pool & Fitness Centre regarding the future building works with Forres Academy. The whole facility, including the Hydrotherapy Pool, will be closed for access from 30th June until 4th July.</p> <p>Andy Hall, MC would like to come out and speak with groups regarding small areas of land created when the current Forres Academy is knocked down.</p>	
19. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 6 th August 2025, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	

Meeting dates in 2025: 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December