



## MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

### PRESENT

<b>Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)</b>	<b>David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)</b>
<b>Lorretta Oliphant (LO)</b>	<b>Lorna Creswell (LCr)</b>
<b>Gerry Fraser (GF)</b>	<b>Ray MacDonald (RM)</b>
<b>Angela Sutherland (AS)</b>	<b>Ewen Watson (EW)</b>
<b>Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)</b>	

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were received from Laura Cameron (LC), Ann Rossiter (AR), Mike Scott (MS) and Lindsey Standing (LS).	
2. Minutes from 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	The minutes from 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Lorna and seconded by David.	
3. Matters arising	Item 4 – Treasurer transferred bonus ball money into the FAF account, £35 raised at a coffee morning Item 5 – Secretary replied to a member of public regarding replaced maps in Forres Item 5 – Secretary emailed out information provided by Yvonne Joss Item 10 – Developer contribution – small amount of money available Item 16 – Roysvale – revenue for pitch hire, query regarding what happens to the money collected when Roysvale is hired out – Laura to follow up	LC
4. Map	Ewen Watson, author of Fantastic Forres children's book involved in a project creating a new illustrated leaflet map of the town of Forres which has businesses on it and pictures of	

	<p>shop fronts for businesses on the reverse. Could become part of a wider scheme of maps/projects and proposed to Ewen by Under the Leaves in partnership with Babalu. Local businesses being asked to participate to pay for production costs, these include print, design and admin and all is covered by 18 local businesses who are involved. Looking to include local heritage sites on the map. Letters were put out letters to local businesses in the surrounding area as well as the High Street. Hoping to put the finished product to the printers at the end of June and distribute at the end of July. Hoping to get people to come to Forres and will also distribute maps locally and in information racks outwith the area, with maps available free to the public. Three tiers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. £70 – icon and business name</li> <li>2. £150 – as above and advert and shop picture, QR code and links</li> <li>3. £350 – as above and businesses get the rights of use of the illustration</li> </ol> <p>Most have chosen tier 2 and all costs have been covered with the goal being to carry on updating and printing each year. The map stretches from Mathers, Grant Park to Mackenzie and Cruickshank. Ewen will feedback the illustrated map to the group before it goes to print. All informed FAF have set aside £500 for maps which was money received from the local Councillors. Contact details for Ewen are below:  <a href="mailto:Fantasticforres@gmail.com">Fantasticforres@gmail.com</a></p>	EW
5. Treasurers Report	<p>Current account has £1,977.04 available with a further £900 ringfenced.</p> <p>Ringfenced money of £400 came from Mannachie Park Consultant who had to provide some kind of benefit and gave a £400 contribution to the group so that it could be used to add to something for use in the park – applied to Berryburn for extra money for fencing and seats, turned down. There was a master plan and money could be spent on bins or seating. The original working group has disbanded and the suggestion was to try to engage with nurseries to try and rejuvenate the steering group .</p>	
6. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STP Bulletin x 2</li> <li>• Damage to noticeboards information</li> <li>• Update to those attending March 2025 meeting re noticeboards and police buzzer</li> <li>• STP Funding Finders for March and April</li> <li>• Forres Conservation and Heritage Project Officer post</li> <li>• Quarriers unpaid Carer update</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FABA upcoming events</li> <li>• Kinloss Childcare Opportunity</li> <li>• Overnight parking for Campervans/Motorhomes</li> <li>• Forres Local Place Plan</li> <li>• Independent Money Advice Support Service</li> </ul>	
7. FACT	<p>Gerry, Vice Chair of FACT informed those present of:  FACT is going through changes – old Board stepped down and left only 3, the Board now have 14 on the Board who are settling in and undertaking research.  Development Manager post has ceased as the funding stopped, Operations Manager post is also vacant, both posts discussed by the Board and cannot make any decisions until a finance report is received. Looking at both posts terms of contract and job descriptions and hope to have someone in a management role and hope to be in a position to advertise next month.  As a Board working to help support the staff in their roles, Board has been split to help staff and look after the admin side as well as the events.  Finance Assistant has been appointed.  The Board is made up as follows: Chair – Ken McLennan, Vice Chair - Gerry Fraser, Treasurer – Joanne Barry and Company Secretary – Tina Coffey.  Received a small grant from the Auchernack Trust to support activities for older people.  Job Club has ended due to funding stopping.  Forres Online continues on a Tuesday and Thursday offering digital support.  Events Group continue to look at how to utilise space and raise funds and also looking at charges for the building hire.  Looking to improve the look of reception and how it is laid out.  Reading Room is to be repurposed and is now to be used for meetings.</p>	
8. Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme	<p>Lorna updated all - £3.3 million identified for Forres includes appointing a Project Officer for a 5 year period, should be in post by June.  Group meets quarterly, a good networking opportunity.  Spoke about 4 projects which tenders have been put out for. Grants will be made available for property owners to repair and conserve traditional building and shopfronts. Official launch in June/July.  Forres Connections – small group meet to share ideas, they received funding and produced a leaflet. They were unsuccessful at the next bid. Looking to a Memorandum of Agreement but it was turned down and due another meeting.</p>	

9. Spirit of Community (SoC) 2022 and Local Place Plan (LPP)	LPP currently out to the community for consultation, due to finish on 12 <sup>th</sup> May and group will meet to consider any feedback received.	
10. Pilmuir Park	No further updates.	
11. Developer Contributions	No further updates.	
12. Money for Moray	Chair has retired from the Board – event in May for previous applicants to attend to pass on information about their experiences. Vice Chair to follow up at the Joint Community Council (JCC) meeting.	DP
13. Moray Forum (MF)	Next meeting to be held on 21 <sup>st</sup> May.	
14. Transport Forum (TF)	Angela stated there was nothing to report, there have been no meetings. M.Connect are expanding to Saturdays in Buckie. Findhorn to Forres service is not going ahead. Vice Chair to attend next JCC meeting and informed Community Council would be taking it over, asked to bring the subject up with the JCC – what is happening to the Transport Forum	DP
15. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TC – coffee mornings in the Town Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> May – Accordion Club and on 24<sup>th</sup> May – Forres in Bloom</li> <li>• LCr – connecting with groups re transport and accompanying users to Varis Court, looking at those isolated and trying to generate use of the Auchernack Fund for folk who don't get out and could use the Osprey Trust for trips and days out – need drivers and escorts. Film Forres showing their community film in the Town Hall this Saturday. Moray Firth Credit Union has its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, Windows of Opportunity (WOO) project matches volunteers with situations and aiming for volunteers week 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June. VE Day events at Findhorn on Thursday. Gallery – article for Gazette re artwork in the TH. Been helping FACT Board members until they bed in. Desperadoes event went well, February Frolics dance went well and keen to do another on 28<sup>th</sup> June, waiting to see if the TH is available. Tourism meeting – FACT should have a rep at the meeting and Board to discuss it</li> <li>• DP – on 11<sup>th</sup> May Film Forres showing A Complete Unknown - Bob Dylan film, received £1k from Tesco's tokens fund and membership stands at 57</li> </ul>	

For further information please email: [forresareaforum@btinternet.com](mailto:forresareaforum@btinternet.com)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RM – press release due out regarding Ray's Opportunities and the recent acquirement of the Leys Road toilet block</li><li>• SM – Rotary coffee morning on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> May there will be a Rotary Quiz in the TH</li></ul>	
16. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
17. AOB	Nothing to report.	
18. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2025, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	

Meeting dates in 2025: 6<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December