



## MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

### PRESENT

<b>Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)</b>	<b>David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)</b>
<b>Lorna Creswell (LCr)</b>	<b>Ray MacDonald (RM)</b>
<b>Ann Rossiter (AR)</b>	<b>Mike Scott (MS)</b>
<b>Angela Sutherland (AS)</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. Apologies were received from Kresanna Aigner (KA), Laura Cameron (LC), Lorretta Oliphant (LO) and Lindsey Standing (LS).	
2. Minutes from 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	The minutes from 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 had been circulated, there was one amendment, item 7 remove the line "15 <sup>th</sup> February .... Pilot Project". The minutes were proposed by Ann and seconded by Mike.	
3. Matters arising	Item 7 – Forres Connections Chair was unable to attend the meeting, she asked for minutes but had no reply Item 14 – Transition Town Forres (TTF) and Forres House Community Centre (FHCC) - Forres Community Council (FCC) had 100 attend a meeting at Erskine to discuss – well organised and advertised in the Forres Gazette, on Facebook and in the library – wait to see what Moray Council (MC) decides	
4. Treasurers Report	Treasurer forwarded on the following: The transfer from the Co-op bank is complete. RBS full balance @ 28 Feb 25 = £2,902.04 Ring Fenced - £900 (Moray Council Maps £500, Rankin Fraser Mannachie Play Park £400) Available - £2,002.04 Groups agreed £35 raised from the coffee morning bonus ball	

	<p>is banked by the Treasurer into her personal account and the money is paid from her account into the FAF account. Agreed to wait until the final statement is received from the Co-op account before trying to close this account.</p>	LO
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STP Bulletin x 2</li> <li>• BT Digital Voice Event</li> <li>• Vacant Property Event – 25<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• Findhorn Bay Festival Outcomes Report</li> </ul> <p>Noticeboards in Forres discussed – complaint received from a resident regarding the state of notice boards and the buzzer/intercom at the police station does not work, the state of the notice boards has been brought up before. FCC Chair stated they will take both these matters forward and will bring it up at the next FCC meeting. Explained FAF have funding to go towards maps and informed money had been allocated by MC. Yvonne Joss, MC, informed that FCC will take this on. The work on the maps is to be completed by 14<sup>th</sup> March, and Yvonne is able to access another pot of money for the notice boards. FCC Chair has been in contact with Helen Stirling (map designer). The present maps do not have the whole town on them as Forres has grown and new housing estates do not appear on the maps.</p> <p>Chair of FCC will notify the police regarding the buzzer. Both issues discussed and they are being addressed by the FCC who have direct contact – during the discussion a number of people noted they had had success contacting police via the buzzer. Secretary to reply to complainant and inform them the FCC would be following this matter up.</p> <p>Signage - believed it should all be done to a similar format to keep continuity within the town. FAF had received funding for signage (£5k), contracted Big Sky at Findhorn who then went bankrupt and the money was lost.</p> <p>Museum Square plans – map board was to go against the wall but MC workers moved the posts further away from the wall after discovering there were utilities positioned at the wall. Many people are able to access maps online. How to create a resource that does not date and is not affected by elements. Any further correspondence will be forwarded on to the FCC.</p> <p>Helen Stirling is to update the maps – would depend on copyright and accessibility to determine whether the ringfenced £500 could be spent on providing maps for the community. Agreed to make contact with Yvonne Joss and FCC Chair to request access to a copy of the map for printing.</p>	TC

	Secretary to email out information received from Yvonne Joss, MC to FAF membership. BT upgrade will only happen to those with BT, if the hub goes down then all connection is lost.	TC
6. FACT	Lorna informed those present by email: New Board is evolving and should be in place for the next Board meeting scheduled for 17 <sup>th</sup> March Ops and Dev Mngrs due to leave on 31 <sup>st</sup> March Still awaiting funder's response to application submitted pre-festive Government funding to be announced later in March that may help continuity of projects or a variation under an 'Employability' heading Jobsclub to start Fridays in March 12 to 2pm in the Online Project based in the North Room of the Town Hall Crisis Intervention has agreed 5 days of Business Support for the Board An Events Group has been formed so ideas received include: repeat of dance bands, ceilidh after Highland Games, Hogmanay Party and FACT envisages the IGG and THUGs merge for those interested Funding application submitted to enhance marketing and programme development	
7. Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme	Waiting to hear whether will receive £3.2 million – delay in sharing the news.	
8. Spirit of Community (SoC) 2022 and Local Place Plan (LPP)	Identified that maps used in the LPP are to be changed to ones with clear locations and areas for the Forres boundaries, being updated by Laura Cameron and once updated should go to public consultation – should meet the timeframe if out soon.	
9. Pilmuir Park	Update provided by Laura Cameron: Randolph Lane/ Pilmuir Primary School – The winning supplier was HAGS. This contributes to one of the outcomes of the SoC and LPP that green spaces and play areas are updated and better managed.	
10. Developer Contributions	Provided by Laura Cameron - there is £3,775.78 remaining for community facilities. This must be spent on community facilities and can't be spent on roads or lighting. Also, developer obligations must be a <i>capital spend</i> and must <i>increase the capacity of that community facility</i> and cannot be spent on maintenance. So, unfortunately fixing potholes would not fit the criteria.	
11. Money for	Money for Moray meeting on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February postponed as	

Moray	only 8 groups able to attend. Informed the money for 10 years of funding was agreed but now hearing perhaps not getting the money, will depend on elections.	
12. Moray Forum (MF)	<p>Group met on 26<sup>th</sup> February, Speyside are forming a Forum. MF Chair attending the Community Engagement Group and is trying to get money to support forums.</p> <p>New Chief Executive starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April and looking at a review of the Community Planning Group, the Community Planning Officers Group (3 tiers) then Community Councils and Forums looking to restructure, MC will head this with possibly Community Support Unit (CSU) involvement.</p> <p>Milnes Forum is struggling.</p> <p>Buckie Forum is going from strength to strength, received money when the new Tesco was built.</p> <p>Transition Town Forres discussed.</p> <p>Thoughts were there should be a dedicated Officer needed to run all the layers of group and are they all necessary.</p>	
13. Transport Forum (TF)	<p>Angela updated all that since the last meeting was cancelled there has been no word or information.</p> <p>Findhorn – Kinloss – Forres – there is no transport. Plans are MC will put a bus to Kinloss and Findhorn but they need £7k and will probably only run 2 days a week.</p> <p>Possibly extend M.Connect hours, unsure when as requires more drivers and a bus. Heard that there would be new buses in April. Mundole taxis provide the Dial-a-Ride on behalf of MC.</p> <p>Complaints – bus booked and not turned up – to be reported to MC.</p> <p>Contact for concerns would be to get in touch with the group directly at <a href="mailto:moraytransportforum@outlook.com">moraytransportforum@outlook.com</a></p>	
14. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCr – Moray Firth Credit Union (MFCU) held it's 30<sup>th</sup> AGM, which was well attended and MFCU received a congratulatory letter from Douglas Ross MSP to say he had raised the long service at Parliament of a dedicated team. Several activities have been planned this year to acknowledge MFCU members' loyalties and recognising that the whole area around McDermotts Fabrication Yard that closed in 1995 is now being re-developed and a new Community Benefit opportunity has been promoted. Haventus supports some communities around the Nairn area served by 4 Community Councils. Osprey is soon to receive proceeds from Moray CAR Share folding as that service has sadly come to an end. Film Forres had a successful AGM recently with some new volunteers offering to join the team always welcome!! Formed an Events Group at</li> </ul>	

	<p>FACT to make better use of the main hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TC – St John’s coffee morning in the TH on 15<sup>th</sup> March and Soup and Sweet in the church hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> March concert by the choir in the church</li> <li>• AR – attended a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February for the future of St Laurence. Warm space lunches 1<sup>st</sup> March well attended and the next is on 12<sup>th</sup> April at usual time at St Laurence’s. Forres outdoor gym notice board vandalised and has been made safe, notice board removed from frame. Forres Sports Hub meeting in FHCC on 10<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm – input re FHCC and invited Councillors to it – open to those in the Sports Hub</li> <li>• MS – Highland Games is on 5<sup>th</sup> July. There is no Theme Day as it was thought FCC has no insurance to cover the event</li> <li>• DP - Forres Men’s Shed open day on 5<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 2pm. Film Forres family and community films ongoing. Forres Heritage Trust opening up and looking for volunteers</li> </ul>	
15. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
16. AOB	Roysvale – queried how much this venue receives in revenue for hire of pitches and how many other pitches are used without payment.	
17. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	

Meeting dates in 2025: 4<sup>th</sup> June, 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