



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025**

PRESENT

Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
Lorretta Oliphant, Treasurer (LO)	Lorna Creswell (LCr)
Alison McInnes (AM)	Ann Rossiter (AR)
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. Apologies were received from Ray MacDonald (RM).	
2. Minutes from 6 th August 2025	The minutes from 6 th August 2025 had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Lindsey and seconded by Ann.	
3. Matters arising	Item 14 – RTT – around £935 was raised at the FACT coffee morning Item 14 – RTT - warm space lunch was well attended and the Victory in Japan service saw 220 attend with donations amounting to over £700 split between 3 charities.	
4. Treasurers Report	Since the last meeting the following has been paid out: £50 for secretarial duties. This leaves available funds in the account of £1,583.05 with an additional £900 which is ringfenced, the total in the account is £2,483.05.	
5. Correspondence	Secretary emailed out the following information: • Minutes from the FAF meeting • STP Funding Finder August 2025 • Quarriers Unpaid Carer Update • STP x 3 newsletters • Warm Space Initiative – St Laurence Church	

	• Can Moray Feed Moray report • STP – AGM on 3rd September • Forres Conservation & Heritage Scheme – Community Drop-In Event • Forres Conservation & Heritage Scheme Launch • Town.Heat.Voice	
6. FACT	Alison McInnes introduced herself and has started in post as the General Manager. Most project staff finish their contracts in September and is relying on Board members to cover other roles. Have 2 x Finance staff and 3 x Cleaning staff in permanent positions. Key focus in coming weeks is to increase volunteer numbers in order to plug gaps on a voluntary basis. Forres On-line will continue once a week on Tuesdays from 2pm to 4pm and it continues as a drop in service. Gerry will continue to look after the volunteers. Chair stated FAF set up FACT when RAF Kinloss closed and worked closely together in the beginning and would be happy to re-engage. Alison will be happy to continue the joint working.	
7. Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme	FCHS are holding a launch on 12th September from 3pm to 4pm in the Town Hall followed by a Community Drop-in Event from 4.30pm to 6pm. Project Management Group (PMG) to support Moray Council with the spending of £3.3 million for the Conservation and Heritage Scheme. A meeting was held to inform High Street premises owners of the opportunity to apply for funding to upgrade buildings. Three buildings on the High Street have been identified to receive funding. Other owners are invited to apply for funding and will have to contribute to the costs. There is also the opportunity to have a free building survey. Laura Cameron, Moray Council is to make contact with FCHS and school team regarding ensuring they are aware of the Local Place Plan. Fiona Skiffington will attend the upcoming Green Spaces Group.	LC
8. Forres Connected Culture and Heritage	Await another meeting.	
9. Forres Tourism Group	Group has not met – awaiting more information regarding the dissolution of Moray Speyside Tourism. Moray Council will hold meetings to discuss a council Tourism Strategy. FACT has agreed to continue leading Moray Firth Tourism Group and will attend the meeting.	

10. Spirit of Community (SoC) 2022 and Local Place Plan (LPP)	LPP was accepted by Moray Council and has been published on their website. At upcoming LPP meeting Ann has created a template and will discuss it as will now be reviewing what has been identified for the SoC. Collating the document and will review in September what progress has been made and how does it feed into the LPP and how to drive it forward and bring groups together. Paper copies of the LPP document will be made available and requested to share the LPP and give all access to it. Next LPP meeting will be on 8 th September – need to find out what is happening with Forres Academy.	
11. Money for Moray	Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Funding is up and running with Money for Moray allocating the money with tsiMoray from the Scottish Government. Funding applications to be in by 29 th September.	
12. Moray Forum (MF)	No meetings held, Laura to update at the next meeting.	LC
13. Transport Forum (TF)	Angela informed all that the TF is continuing and the group hope to meet in November. Lorna met with Donald McCrae and Timothy Mackay and asked if TF was reconvening, Donald said he would contact Mrs Ross. Lorna will follow up with Timothy. Ember bus starting to stop in Forres from 24 th September – have to book it in advance.	LCr
14. Round the Table	- LS – last week at FACT – completed the paperwork for Investing in Volunteers award and Voluntary Scotland have agreed to pause for a while then assessments with volunteers – Lindsey has completed all paperwork and will continue as a volunteer, Chair stated on behalf of FAF thank you for your input and help - TC – Doors Open Day in the Town Hall on 13th September - MS – had a successful Forres Highland Games and he has started organising next year's games - LC – Film Forres nights start on 5th and 6th September - DP – Friday 5th September Country Club meeting at the Mosset from 8.30pm, 10th September Forres Men's Shed starts, Accordion and Fiddle Club meet, Forres OAP's coffee morning in October and Men's Shed is taking part in the Doors Open Day on 13th September open from 10am to 2pm - article in the Gazette. Forres Community Council (FCC) elections for new members take place in October – advert in the Spotlight and last FCC meeting this month which David will Chair - SM – Forres in Bloom (FIB) AGM on 17th September at	

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com

	7pm in the North Room of TH purpose is to create and formalise a SCIO, FIB to be closed down in order to create FIB SCIO – Chair will be stepping back as a Trustee from FIB. Green Spaces will meet at 7pm on 25th September at Auchernack • AR - Doors Open Day is on 13th September in St Laurence Church in conjunction with the warm spaces lunch	
15. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
16. AOB	Vice Chair will be stepping down from the Forres Community Council and we record our thanks to him. AGM will take place at the next meeting, Chair will be stepping down, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer willing to remain in post. Ann has stated she would be willing to take on the role of Chair. Secretary has contacted Richard Russell, Crime Reduction and Architectural Liaison Officer and awaits a date from him. Secretary to contact Fire Services regarding their quarterly fire updates to request the report.	TC
17. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 1 st October 2025, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	

Meeting dates in 2025: 5th November and 3rd December