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MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT

Ann Rossiter, Chair (AR)	Loretta Oliphant, Treasurer (LO)
Sandra MacLennan (SM)	Mike Scott (MS)
Angela Sutherland (AS)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

1.	Welcome and Apologies: Chair welcomed those attending and apologies were received from Ray MacDonald (RM) and Lindsey Standing (LS).	
2.	Scam and Fraud Presentation by Richard Russell: Richard gave an interesting presentation which the 13 present found informational. Copies of handouts will be emailed to the FAF membership. 11 of the 13 were over 60 with two of the committee members being under 60. Feedback given – 11 out of 13 completed evaluation sheets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did you find the session interesting? 10 replied Yes, 1 replied Yes-Very. Did you gain information that you will now be able to put into practice? 10 replied Yes, 1 replied Yes especially re grandchildren Are you now more aware of how to spot a Fraud or Scam? 9 replied Yes, 1 no response, 1 – replied Hopefully. 	TC

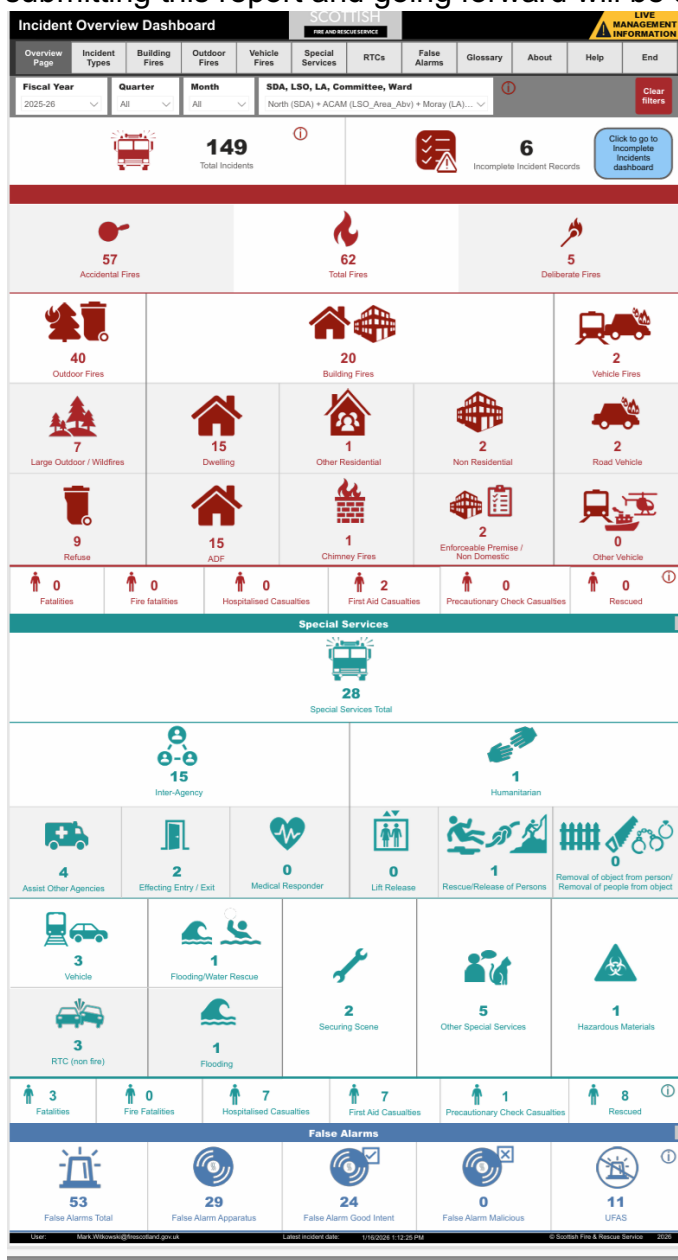
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you now more confident in what to do if you if you do get a scam phone call or being pulled into a fraud situation? <p>11 – replied Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you rate this information session on a scale of 1 – 5 with 5 being the highest rating. <p>Rating of 5 – 10</p> <p>Rating of 4 – 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What other events/ information sessions would you wish to see being made available? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Basic First Aid ➤ Any new information is always useful – can't think of any specific topic. ➤ Possible interest depending on type of session but no idea given. 	
3.	<p>Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 7th January 2026:</p> <p>The minutes from this meeting had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Lorretta and seconded by Tina.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Our grant application to the Auchernack Trust was successful receiving the full amount requested - £750.00. This money will be ringfenced to meet the objectives of the grant application. Chair will submit a report to the Trust on completion of the spend in accordance with grant award criteria. Treasurer will support this by creating a balance sheet to accompany this report. Statistics will be required for events held and feedback from those attending.</p> <p>AR has completed the necessary admin work to receive the grant funding which will be transferred shortly.</p> <p>A programme of events will be created for this particular age group over the course of the year. It is hoped to work in partnership with key services and groups to support the over 60's to meet their needs. Chair has already made contact with some services and groups including Moray Food Plus, Benefits and heat and energy savings and NHS Grampian, Active Moray with a suggested topic of foods, cooking and budgeting. Now that we have funding in place further progress and plans can be developed.</p>	<p>LO</p> <p>AR</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer's report:</p> <p>Current balance £2,562.96 which includes £900 ringfenced money.</p> <p>Income this month was £550.20 from the coffee morning held on 17th January 2026.</p> <p>Payments were £50.00 for secretarial duties and £11.49 for some coffee morning expenses.</p> <p>Coffee morning report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New entry amount of £3.50 per person, most folk accepted this, there has been an increase in facility hire to justify this. We took £560.70 on the day made up of entry fee, raffle and 60 squares. Total expenses were £21.99, biscuits/extra milk/napkins. Tina donated the main milk. All raffles were also donated. Balance was £538.71. (Room hire still to pay) 	
6.	<p>Correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Molnar's Memorial Quarriers Unpaid Carer Update STP Newsletter 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STP Funding Finder January 2026 • Moray Healthy Weight Survey link - The survey is now live online on the Moray Engage platform. Learn more about the project and take part at: https://engage.moray.gov.uk/improving-healthy-weight-in-moray • Environmental Health Moray Council - Short survey on Moray Engage to gather insight and inform the final Food Sampling Strategy for 2026 Food Survey Moray Engage 	
7.	Mount Dora Twinning Association: Chair has spoken briefly with Andy Hall. The representative who was to attend the last meeting could not find the North Room – signage probably required. May be looking for volunteers to help and come on board, Chair to arrange to meet with them.	TC AR
8.	FACT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held on Monday for prospective Board members • Operating with an Acting Temporary Chair and Vice Chair 	
9.	Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme: Meetings as and when with the next due in February. Volunteers for High Street Histories wanted, Sandra volunteered to be the FAF representative. Chair to make contact with Keava Fraser, Sandra and Chair to meet on Tuesday 10 th February to meet with Keava when she is in Forres CC.	AR SM
10.	Forres Connected Culture and Heritage: No update.	
11.	Spirit of Community (SoC) 2022/3 & Local Place Plan (LPP): Chair and Tina met to move forward with this. The following dates have been provisionally booked for the meetings. Forres Community Council's (FCC) Chair Steve Ferris has been kept in the loop and supports what has been decided. Monday, 9th March 2026 – North Room in the Town Hall – 6.30pm – 8.30pm. FCC will be covering cost of room hire, their contribution for the LPP, they will have representatives attending and engaging KS and TB. Themes to be covered on this date will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Environment • Transport, Traffic and Access • Leisure, Tourism and Heritage Invites to go out to groups and individuals identified when working through the SoC and LPP. Monday, 23rd March 2026 – North Room in the Town Hall – 6.30pm – 8.30pm FCC will be covering cost of room hire, their contribution for the LPP, they will have representatives attending and engaging KS and TB. Themes to be covered on this date will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities and Services • Cost of Living • Young People 	
12.	Moray Forum: Date of next meeting unknown, Chair to contact Dawn Brodie regarding a date.	AR
13.	Transport Forum: Angela has spoken to the TF Secretary and received no further information.	
14.	Forres User Group Meeting: Chair received no notification of the 2 nd meeting which she found out took place on Monday 26 th January 2026. Chair has since emailed to express her	

disappointment at not being included especially when she had been informed she would be. Chair has been promised that she will receive the minutes, agendas and is to be included in the emails to confirm meetings.
Looking at facilities available in Forres and collating usage (need and demand).

15. **System Based Approach to Physical Activity and Health (to be re-named Active Moray Strategy and Plan):**
Change of launch date, now to be in March but still to be confirmed. Work is going on behind the scenes with partners of this plan working on their areas. To date reports have been met with support from those who have been present at the Community Planning Officers Group (CPOG). A link to the video, survey and strategy can be found here - [Active Moray | Moray Engage](#)
This survey will be open for 4 weeks (until 23rd February).

16. **Forres ASG Fire Report:**
Grateful thanks to Mark Witkowski, Station Commander Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire & Moray LSO Area. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for submitting this report and going forward will be submitted quarterly.



17.	<p>Ray's Opportunities:</p> <p>On behalf of Ray's Opportunities, I am pleased to be able to tell you a few things more about our Ray's Rest Rooms plans which you can share with your networks. It's exciting.</p> <p>We are delighted that the Scottish Government has granted us the funds to establish a CPT in Forres, on the site of the currently derelict Ley's Road toilet block.</p> <p>The Scottish Government CPT fund is designed for disabled people families and carers, to increase –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities to take part in leisure and other activities outside the house and to enjoy outdoor spaces • connections to other people and with the community • wellbeing and fun • safety, dignity and confidence when going out <p>It addresses the issue of people, adults and children, with complex needs who need more support in the community if they are to be able to get out and about with their carers, and experience relative independence, without the indignity of having to be changed on the floor. A Changing Places toilet has a hoist and a bed and other features which accommodate those needs.</p> <p>As you know, this for us is nested in a wider project which is to establish a new modern Rest Room facility, badly needed, in the centre of our town, designated a Heritage Quarter. This is for everyone in our community and for travellers, tourists, hopefully adding to the attraction of Forres as a destination and thus supporting the local economy. On this basis, a planning application is currently lodged with Moray Council. Part of the building will be sectioned off as a street food outlet, facing east towards Leys Road, sitting behind the Coop. The purpose of this is to sustain the maintenance of the unit, particularly the CPT which obviously needs to be kept safe and secure for all its users. It will be let on this basis, as a small entrepreneurial opportunity, not in any way to compete with other high street offerings, but as, we hope, a fun addition.</p> <p>Fundraising; we can't do any of this without more help. Our recent small survey gave us great confidence that local people support the project 100%. But we will of course have to ask people to back up their support with some of their hard-earned cash to help us move forward. We are applying for whatever public funds are available to us - we will be grateful for any help we can get – and we will shortly be launching a Crowdfunding initiative; this will be aimed at funding the new roof on the building, necessary to accommodate the required height of the CPT, and giving a much more attractive pitched appearance to the whole thing. And it will give us breathing space to develop the interior to the quality we aspire to. The Crowdfunder will be called <i>Ray's the Roof</i> and you will have details as soon as they are fixed and the scheme is launched – Ray McDonald</p>	
18.	<p>Round the Table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM – Rotary Coffee morning on 7th February, primary school quiz, coming up and Youth Concert on 3rd March, Rotary Quiz on 27th February • MS – prep for Highland Games is ongoing • TC – FACT/Pantry coffee morning on 14th February • AR – Badminton Moray – Auchernack 60+ funding and other grant funding from Moray Council through a Changing Lives grant application. The funding will be supporting a new P6 – S2 initiative. AR will be attending further meetings relating to Active Moray Strategy Planning. 	

19.	Councillors: No Councillors attended.	
20.	AOB: Facebook - now have 72 Followers. Vice Chair will continue to add regular posts in between sharing information for other local community events and groups, so it's not the same thing repeated. Also shared the Forres Gazette post about Rays Opportunities and the refurbishment of the Toilet Block. Chair submitted a comment when asked by Gary from the Forres Gazette with reference to the Forres Academy planning.	
21.	Date of next meeting - 4 th March 2026, venue 7pm in the North Room, Forres Town Hall	

Meeting dates in 2026: 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com