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MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE 2026

PRESENT:

Ann Rossiter, Chair (AR)	Lindsey Standing, Vice Chair (LS)
Lorretta Oliphant, Treasurer (LO)	Councillor Kathleen Robertson (KR)
Councillor Paul McBain (PM)	Sandra MacIennan (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 McDonald (RM).	
2.	Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2026: The minutes from this meeting had been circulated, there were no amendments, the minutes were proposed by Sandra and seconded by Lindsey.	
3.	Matters arising: Item 7 – the town hall clean up date was changed to 23 rd May 2026.	
4.	Treasurer's report: There has been no expenditure on the account, the current balance is £2,957.96 which includes ringfenced money of £900 and £750 Auchernack Trust grant money which leaves £1,307.96 available in the account.	
5.	Correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STP – Scotland Loves Local Awards • Quarriers Carers Week Summer Newsletter • FABA – Build Business Relationships Event • STP - Funding Finder May 2026 • tsiMORAY – Grant Funding Workshop – 15th June 2026 • Moray Community Garden Festival (brochures available) 	
6.	FACT - update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EGM – 25th June 2026 at 5.30pm in the town hall • Prices for room hire are being updated – there will be increases. • Successful with 1 fund application • Board ran a bar at an Over 30's event and took in £2,500 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking to rent more space in the town hall 	
7.	Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme: A new logo, the 4 th option, was chosen and the consultation has finished.	
8.	Spirit of Community (SoC) 2022/3 & Local Place Plan (LPP): Awaiting input from Moray Council and notes are awaited from the last meeting, Chair to follow up. Funding workshop is booked in partnership with tsiMORAY which has been shared on Facebook, an article has been put in the paper, tsiMORAY mailing list and shared with other groups. It would be appreciated if everyone attending could sign up using the link to Eventbrite. To book please click on the link - https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/developing-successful-funding-bids-tickets-1989377320117?aff=oddtcreator	AR
9.	Moray Forum: No further updates received.	
10.	Transport Forum: Secretary tried to contact the Secretary of the Transport Forum, still awaiting a response. Query as to whether the Transport Forum has morphed into a Community Council platform rather than an Area Forum issue, Councillor McBain volunteered to follow this up.	PM
11.	Forres Leisure User Group Meeting: Date of next meeting is set for Monday, 8 th June 2026 - 6.00pm. Chair will be attending, discussion will be regarding the Fitlife card, if anyone has anything they would like the Chair to bring up please email forresareaforum@btinternet.com We had a new person who has taken up the offer of giving input to the User Group via the SportHub as was offered when the Chair attended the FCC meeting and was received well by the Chair of the Forres Leisure User Group.	AR
12.	Active Moray Strategy and Plan (System Based Approach to Physical Activity and Health): No further update at this time.	
13.	Moray Healthy Weights Systems Network: Chair attended a meeting and the group is progressing well, part of the Community Planning Board and work is being undertaken behind the scenes.	AR
14.	Forres Events – Friends of Grant Park (FoGP): Kathleen attended as a Forres Events Director, there is a sum of money and what is to be done with it to support Grant Park, questionnaires were completed with two most popular themes being the toilets needing upgraded and basic infrastructure in the park needing upgraded i.e. power in the park and lighting and looking at how to make the park better at present the structure of the park is managed by Council under two public trusts. Any decisions on the park have to go to Council meetings. The group is looking to bring all users of the park together and act as a seedcorn group to bring in more funding for the park. Looking to set up a SCIO charity for FoGP, with a membership and looking at setting up a Friends of group to create a sustainable income. Looking to attract Trustees who have a specific skill set. Looking to maintain and enhance Grant Park and to maximise its potential. At the meeting there was a request for groups to write a letter of support – Chair proposed and Sandra seconded, Chair to write a letter of support on behalf of FAF.	AR
15.	Round the Table:	

	<p>AR - Moray Good Food Partnership, next meeting is to be face to face on Friday, 12th June, looking at food source production and distribution of food – creating sustainable partnerships – access funding support initiatives in Moray and build good relationships and health sustainability – agreements sit alongside healthy weight programme</p> <p>AR – Summer of Sport – more than 50 applications received and 32 successful with a maximum bid of £7,500, Badminton Moray were successful and received £7,260 and they will deliver a programme of events</p> <p>AR – Warm Space Food Initiative – ‘Door to Door’ – ongoing, continues to be very well received, certainly meeting a need in many ways, could add to numbers but stopped by capacity at this time. Looking at ways to overcome this.</p> <p>SM – Rotary Colour Run on 18th June, 4pm to 6pm in Grant Park part of events for the 75th Anniversary of Forres Rotary Club</p> <p>MS – Highland Games are progressing and safety plan has been sent to the Moray Council and received a parade licence, the dance platform has been extended and portaloos will be in place</p> <p>LS – continuing to publicise businesses on Facebook and will ask for prizes for the upcoming coffee morning on 29th August - intends to ask the Men’s Shed and a local farm shop if they would like a table at the coffee morning</p> <p>LO – has stopped her career break and will attend the FAF meetings as and when she can</p> <p>TC – Moray Firth Credit Union coffee morning at the town hall on 20th June</p> <p>AR – will bring see to refreshments/biscuits for the Grant Funding Workshop</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>AR</p>
16.	<p>Ray’s Opportunities:</p> <p>Ray’s Opportunities and Ray’s Rest Rooms, Market Street car park</p> <p>Thanks to all FAF colleagues who supported the <i>Ray’s the Roof</i> Crowdfunder appeal.</p> <p>We reported to you last month that the project now has planning consent in place from the Moray Council. This means that we are able to plan in more detail for the building work to commence. As you know, the new Restrooms will have a Changing Places Toilet (CPT) at the heart of things. This is the part of the project being funded by the Scottish Government as part of their national project.</p> <p>A CPT is designed for people with complex needs and their carers, although it is our view that there are many people who at some time in their lives need access to a quiet and private safe space. Changing Places Toilets are essential for people with profound learning and multiple disabilities (PMLD) and others who require additional support when using the toilet.</p> <p>They have adequate turning space for the largest electric wheelchair, and the correct equipment – including a peninsular toilet, a height-adjustable, adult-sized changing bench and ceiling track hoist. The equipment layout is flexible to accommodate the needs of different people.</p>	



	<p>This photograph gives an example layout.</p> <p>Our contract is to deliver this service in the Spring of next year, so people can expect there to be building works in the carpark before too long. There will of course be some disruption, especially as the Council have asked us, as part of the planning consent, to look at the signage and the current road markings.</p> <p>It will be good after all this hoping and planning to be able to make a start on the building work.</p> <p>Ray McDonald, Founder and Chair</p>	
17.	<p>Councillors: Councillor Robertson – Community Planning Board meeting held today, looking to move away from being reactionary to being preventative, discussed at the meeting and papers are available on the Moray Council website: NHS to be recognised as a Public Health Organisation, GIRFE (Getting It Right For Everyone) wraparound storied for individuals and families by only telling a story once, multi-agency work approach through police, health, education, council and housing and funding, Moray Growth Deal Report and renewable energy. Councillor McBain attended the Falconer Museum AGM, will be open possibly in September. Going forward with the twinning with Mount Dora, USA and Forres is more business based and looking to make connections.</p>	
18.	<p>AOB: Discussion ensued regarding Forres Community Heat Network presentation. Volunteers Week, 1st to 7th June. Ground has been broken for the new plant structure for Forres Academy.</p>	
19.	<p>Date of next meeting – 1st July 2026, venue 7pm in the North Room, Forres Town Hall</p>	

Meeting dates in 2026: 5th August, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com