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MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY 2026

Present:

Ann Rossiter, Chair (AR)	Councillor Kathleen Robertson (KR)
Julie Lawrence (JL)	Sandra MacLennan (SM)
Angela Sutherland (AS)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

1.	Welcome and Apologies: Chair welcomed those attending and apologies were received from Laura Cameron (LC), Lorna Creswell (LCr), Ray McDonald (RM), Lorretta Oliphant (LO), Mike Scott (MS) and Lindsey Standring (LS) and introductions made.	
2.	Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 2026: The minutes from this meeting had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Sandra and seconded by Angela.	
3.	Matters arising: Item 10 from minutes of 6 th May, FAF is requesting an update from Martin Robertson. Item 14 – Forres Events thanks FAF for the letter of support.	MR
4.	Treasurer's report: Current balance of £2,637.77, made up of £900 ring fenced monies, £750 Auchernack Trust Grant and £1,307.96 available. The following payments were made since the last meeting: £100 secretarial duties (May/June 2026), £30 room hire and £190.19 Zurich public liability insurance, this leave a balance of £987.77 available. In May the Forres Area Business Association sent FAF a 2026/2027 invoice for membership, FAF had paid twice last year and we opted for the second payment to be held on account for this year's invoice. Signatories to be updated and Treasurer to try and close the Co-op account.	AR/TC/ LO
5.	Correspondence • Quarriers Unpaid Carers Newsletter • FACT – EGM • STP Newsletter	
6.	FACT update: Following the EGM on 25 th June, those attending were informed that FACT is in dire straits and need to do a public push to try and get funding in. Monthly outlay of £11k and income of £4k, £7k deficit which is eating into reserves, if continues at this rate then current funding will keep the Town Hall open until	

	January 2027. Hopeful in trying to get a grant award and need to maximise income. Poster displayed for Friends of Forres Town Hall income generator, poster to be updated to be made easier to donate and information regarding the Town Hall position to be made public.	TC
7.	Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme: Nothing received and informed there is a meeting in July – Chair to contact either Keava Fraser or George Alexander, Chair, for a meeting date.	AR
8.	Spirit of Community 2022/3 & Local Place Plan We are still awaiting an opportunity to meet up again with Laura Cameron to complete the update on one of the Themed Sessions. Grant Funding Workshop A need identified through the SoC. Developing Successful Grant Funding Bids - This was delivered in partnership with tsiMoray on Monday, 15 th June 2026. It was delivered by Kate Armitage and was very well received by those in attendance, a most informative and well delivered session. 21 signed up for the event with 15 in attendance on the evening. One group has been so motivated that they have already submitted a grant application. To move forward with this most positive uptake and interest I would like to move forward to create a Forres Grant Funding Hub,(this was suggested at the workshop) Chair would like to work on developing this, identify time and space along with continued partnership working with tsiMoray who are already in support of this. Funding for facility hire in all probability will be required. This workshop has allowed us to identify other key people in our area who will be added to our mailing list.	
9.	Moray Forum: Tina emailed and there has been no reply.	
10.	Transport Forum: Update from enquiry – received an email from Timothy Mackay, Service Manager, Moray Council regarding the status of the Forum, informed currently not meeting but have received representations from a few members of the community to restart it. Contacted our representative and asked if they would be interested in being involved, our representative has contacted Timothy Mackay via email and asked to be part of the Forum if it is going forward, they will follow up. Moray Council is undertaking a public consultation on the future of the 314 bus service in Forres, Please find the link below: https://engage.moray.gov.uk/consultation-on-service-314-forres-town-service Informed the Transport Forum's had stepped down as the Community Councils has taken this on and it is to be discussed at the Joint Community Council.	AS
11.	Forres Leisure User Group Meeting: Chair attended the meeting on Monday, 8 th June 2026 at 6.00pm. Core Focus Topic Fit-Life – discussion around this topic took place, including review, comparison with other like membership, activities accessed via use of Fit Life membership only to be used for individual sports, not for use by a person who would like to attend their Club, they would have to pay. Minutes are not yet available. Public can also comment via Moray Engage - https://engage.moray.gov.uk Next meeting will be in September 2026.	
12.	System Based Approach to Physical Activity and Health (to be re-named Active Moray Strategy and Plan): Logo has been created but no further update to share. No other updates and no meeting date set, possible community planning	

	Launch run up to games and ministerial visits – higher profile visit.	
13.	Moray Healthy Weights Systems Network Chair attended the next meeting on 2 nd June 2026 at MLC. Very good mix of members around the table which allowed excellent discussion on topics covered. Still working through the plan but progress is being made.	
14.	Moray Good Food Partnership: Chair attended the face-to-face meeting on Friday, 12 th June 2026. At this meeting we formally agreed on the terms of reference. This represents a significant milestone, providing a clear foundation for: • Partnership governance • Shared purpose and priorities • Future action planning and delivery. The next phase will focus on developing a partnership action plan, continuing mapping and engagement across Moray, exploring opportunities for coordination/resource support, strengthening links with national networks and policy developments. At the meeting we heard practical learning from Aberdeen's journey which was very interesting. There was clear recognition that a great deal is already happening across Moray. The Partnership's role is to bring this together, strengthen connections and increase visibility and impact.	
15.	Ray's Opportunities: Ray's Opportunities thanks the Forum for its support over the past months. We have nothing of note to report this month as we are waiting on Moray Council to confirm a building warrant so that we can begin the construction of the CPT. We hope to be able to report renewed progress in August. Wishing everyone a great summer.	
16.	Community Information Group regarding Forres Academy Chair and Sandra represented FAF at the meeting held on Tuesday, 23 rd June, 6.30pm at Forres Academy. We were introduced to the key people working on the development at this time. A very clear and concise presentation was given which clearly outlined the area being used for the different aspects of the work, the timescale of the different phases of work, special considerations being given for noise and air pollution and how this is to be addressed. Access to various areas will be restricted at times and there will be road closures for Albert Street for infrastructure work. Various communications have already gone out to the affected residents but this may require further visits/communications. Questions from the floor were clearly answered and some additional points for consideration were noted for the developers to follow up on, these were well received. Those in attendance will be provided with clear and accurate information that they can then share with members to ensure the public are kept up to date with factual information. Updates will also be available on the Moray Engage online platform and a noticeboard will be positioned on the Balfour Beatty Site Entrance with development updates and pertinent information.	
17.	Forres Events – Friends of Grant Park (FoGP): Chair has sent a letter of support to Joanna Taylor on behalf of the group.	
18.	Round the Table: SM – Findhorn Bay Arts are looking for volunteers, FAF discussion around becoming a SCIO, have a constitution aligned with Moray Council, possible conflict although more opportunities to go for funding if FAF becomes a SCIO	

	TC – coffee morning for FACT on 4th July and Highland Games in the afternoon, coffee morning for Guides on 22nd August and FAF on 29th August AR – benefits training for entitlements for those aged 60+, keen to come in September/October time mid-afternoon, hold as a separate event (Wendy Laing works alongside Moray Food +), FAF approved and Chair to move ahead and organise a meeting planned for the lesser hall. Quarriers, CAB and Money Advice Team in the Council, Chair to contact them. Home safety from the Fire Department CO2, fire alarms and switching off items, looking to raise awareness and double up with safety of house and security and make this a day event, Tina to contact Mark Witkowski. Badminton Moray have a full summer programme planned: two camps organised P3 – S2 with some funding from the Summer of Sport money and also focus on young carers P6/7 to S6 Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm in Forres, they will pay a contribution although heavily subsidised and will run from 19th August through to June 2027, supported by funding until March (excludes the school holidays), also have four come and try family sessions, two in Elgin and two in Forres at the Community Centre, still to confirm the dates and two Introduction to Squads to trial these sessions. Volunteers are free but cost of room, coaches and resources comes to £7,260, over 50's in Elgin and over 60's in Forres also for pickleball and badminton JL – Healthworks practitioner and Manager of Healthworks, running a charitable organisation aiming for people to have a better quality of life	AR TC
19.	Councillors: Councillor Robertson informed all of the following: Attended Full Council on 30th June – included finance, climate change strategy and decided no control zones for short term lets as do not have a housing crisis. Education Community – cessation of transport for Moray Music Centre bus, hoping increased uptake of bus passes or parents carsharing Approved the £213k Summer of Sports Received feedback regarding the no phones policy in schools, mostly positive feedback and no cost to Moray Council and building trust in young people Approved new pilot of after-school activities programme to support families to enter employment, wraparound care once received funding for primary schools, also breakfast clubs expansion Active school awards – lots of Forres winners Attended the Newbold Legacy Trust celebration event with £500k distributed to Forres groups, £8k of funding left and voted on by all groups with the following 4 groups received £2k each: Film Forres, Highland Youth Theatre, The Gaffe and the Osprey Bus Forres Common Good has a lot less to distribute as have to look after Forres's common good assets, have to de recharge to cut grass. Around £5k/year to disperse with 2 groups applied so far. Payment to the Common Good from the purchase of the land for the school which will go into the capital fund and which will generate a little more interest and developing the register as have to go through the old title deeds	
20.	AOB: The Forum is looking for donations of bottles and raffle prizes for the coffee morning, these can be dropped off with Tina, please email forresareaforum@btinternet.com Those present agreed to cancel the meeting in August, Tina to cancel the room booking.	TC

21.	Date of next meeting: 2 nd September 2026 at 7pm, venue North Room, Forres Town Hall	
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Meeting dates in 2026: 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com