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MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT:

Ann Rossiter, Chair (AR)	**Lindsey Standring, Vice Chair (LS)**
Lorretta Oliphant, Treasurer (LO)	**Councillor Kathleen Robertson (KR)**
Lorna Creswell (LCr)	**Sandra Maclennan (SM)**
Angela Sutherland (AS)	**Tina Coffey (Minutes) (TC)**

1.	**Welcome and Apologies:** Chair welcomed those attending and apologies were received from Councillor Paul McBain (PM) and Mike Scott (MS).	
2.	**Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 2nd September 2026:** The minutes from this meeting had been circulated, there were 2 amendments which are to be incorporated and the minutes redistributed.	**TC**
3.	**Matters arising:** Spelling of Balfour Beattie to Balfour Beatty corrected.	
4.	**Treasurer's report** Treasurer issued a paper incorporating receipts and payments for the year ending 1st October 2026. The accounts consist of income of £2,045.20, payments of £1,680.08 with ringfenced income of £1,650. The final available bank figure is £1,148.17. Sandra has been removed as a signatory and Ann added. The Co-op bank although empty needs to be closed and the Treasurer will continue to follow this up. The accounts were accepted as a true record by all present.	
5.	**Correspondence** ▪ STP Funding Finder August and September 2026 ▪ STP – latest news and general meeting ▪ FABA – latest news ▪ Film Forres – latest news ▪ OAP Benefits Session Poster	
6.	**FACT update:** The Board is collaborating on funding applications and planning income-generating events. Volunteers are currently needed to assist with the Pantry, reception duties and upcoming events. Additionally, following the resignation of the Treasurer, the Board is actively seeking to recruit a new Treasurer and an additional Board	**TC**

	member.	
7.	**Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme:** The last meeting provided an opportunity for Icecream Architects to deliver a presentation on the work completed for the developments that will be taking place on the High Street. A professionally produced (LDN) ring binded book was given to those in attendance, this is also available electronically. Opportunity to provide additional feedback was also given. There is no update as to the next meeting date. There was attendance at Forres Culture Day. Stories from the Shadows Forres podcasts, 10 stories are available. The tenders are to be sent out and then sending in of costings.	**AR** **SM**
8.	**Spirit of Community 2022/3 & Local Place Plan** The document will continue to be updated meeting the review process first agreed when completing the Spirit of Community Consultation. We do recognise that there are gaps which we need to fill by approaching those who are driving these projects/initiatives forward. There is also a need to include an additional section that includes New Projects that have been identified and work is progressing e.g. Bank Lane residential development, Ashers Garden area development. There is a need to identify key people and hold an invitational evening for six groups/individuals at a time and record their information so that there is a full recorded programme of ongoing works.	**AR** **SM** **TC**
9.	**Moray Forum:** Martin Robertson is new in post. Awaiting a reply from Councillor McBain regarding more information on this item. Looking at Community Planning Partnerships to be strengthened although not many Area Forums left.	**PM**
10.	**Transport Forum:** No updates received despite emailing Secretary of the TF Group.	
11.	**Forres Leisure User Group Meeting** No update from last meeting – next meeting of this group is planned for Monday, 26th October 2026 – 6.00pm – 7.00pm FHCC Green Room Agenda items include ▪ Report back on previous group activities. ▪ Facility Action List Update ▪ Sport and Leisure Service Update If you have any questions you would like put to the group please email forresareaforum@btinternet.com	**AR** **Attending**
12.	**Active Moray Strategy and Plan (AR):** Good progress is being made, working closely with sportScotland and other major stakeholders. It has been recognised by sportScotland that Moray seems to be Leading/driving this forward across Scotland. SportScotland recognises that a huge amount of funding is required to just maintain facilities across Scotland circa £15.6 billion, not for improvement or further development. We have requested a breakdown of this for Moray and even for ASG's. LPP's and other consultations may well be able to support some of this work to build up the data base to support SportScotland. There will be another opportunity for sports clubs to apply for Summer of Sport Funding to use the remaining balance. Other streams of funding will also be coming into Moray for specific delivery and groups will be approached/invited to engage. The Lead person for this has still be selected for the position.	**AR**

13.	**Moray Healthy Weights Systems Network:** No further update, lead for this is moving onto a new job but will still be engaging in the discussion through this new position. The next meeting planned for Thursday, 1st October 10.00am – 11.30am. It will be an online meeting, focussing on the launch of the refreshed *Worrying about Money?* Leaflet and associated training. This flows into the Challenge Poverty Week which takes place the following week.	**AR**
14.	**Forres Events – Friends of Grant Park:** Paperwork went through Moray Council and supported, in the process of setting up a SCIO.	**KR**
15.	**Forres Area Forum – Support Sessions to the over 60's:** Chair has arranged for FAF to deliver a session for the Over 60's on Wednesday, 14th October 2026. 1.00pm – 4.00pm – Venue to be confirmed by the OAP Group as they are considering moving due to increase in charges. Update – Town Hall Forres – Lesser Hall, also requested overhead projector and screen for delivery of presentation. FAF will pay for the hire of the LET regardless of venue. We will also provide the refreshments for the group. These expenses will come out of the Auchernack Grant that we were awarded. It was best to ''piggy back' onto the OAP groups usual meeting time as this was the target focus group. We would also promote it to others in the Community of this age. Hopefully this will also encourage others to attend the OAP group and increase numbers to help create sustainability. David Parker the Chair of the OAP group was in agreement with this. The afternoon session fits into the usual working day of the delivers and also better suited for this age group. The focus of the afternoon will be: ▪ Benefits – information giving, help and advice along with support given ▪ Possible savings on heating, council tax etc. support and guidance given. Quarriers – (Waiting for confirmation but keen) – Explanation of what a carer is, what may be accessed to support the role. Leaflets, support and guidance given. SR and KR offered to help with the setting up and serving and clearing of refreshments.	**AR**
16.	**Round the Table:** LCr – Osberts Fundraiser – bring and buy and coffee morning at the Baptist church ▪ 24th October - Forres in Bloom Polio coffee morning ▪ 28th October - OAP tea ▪ 31st October - Forres in Bloom coffee morning ▪ 1st November at St Laurence – Tea/Cake afternoon music recital. ▪ 7th November – Bonfire night ▪ 21st November – Children in Need Rotary collection at Tesco	
17.	**Councillors:** Councillor Robertson updated those present: Paper has gone to council regarding putting in an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) barrier system to the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) in Forres, due to road safety issues of traffic backing up and as there are only 2 members of staff due to health and safety they have to take their lunch at same time and the WTS closes when a skip is being	**KR**

	moved. Waste Busters are moving their retail site to the Enterprise Park in November and hope is traffic will potentially abate a little. Council officers are expected to report back in November 2026 with a more detailed report exploring the possibilities of installing ANPR cameras alone to gather usage data without an operational entry barrier. Public Service Reforms – looking to replace councils with regional authorities and then create community authorities to site beneath the regional authorities, there will be a 3 month consultation. Maternity services are delayed and paediatrics will be up and running by December.	
18.	**AOB:** tsiMORAY held a couple of events in Elgin regarding funding applications and engagement. Developing Young Work Force – offer of someone to renew the directory of services, Lorna has been in touch with them. Aileen Park, NHS wants to engage with groups and looking for different connections, Lorna is in touch with her. Aileen has also been in touch with AR as she too attended the online NHS workshop session on Worrying about money and is part of the Healthy Weight Strategy Group. Aileen is a Public Health Coordinator within the Moray Health Team. Her role includes supporting a range of health improvement activities across Moray including work relating to healthy weight, healthy eating and maternal and infant nutrition. School Estate – framework to allow offs on how to prioritise best allocations small resources in right places and mergers. Flowpark – lease extended and environment impact assessment completed – no planning application lodged (Cromarty – data centre)	
19.	**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 7pm, venue North Room, Forres Town Hall	

Meeting dates in 2026: 2nd December

Meeting dates in 2027: 6th January, 3rd February, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 4th August, 1st September, 6th October (AGM), 3rd November and 1st December

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com