



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2024**

PRESENT

Sandra Maclennan, Chair (SM)	David Parker, Vice Chair (DP)
Lorretta Oliphant, Depute Treasurer (LO)	Ray MacDonald (RM)
Ann Rossiter (AR)	Lindsey Standing (LS)
Angela Sutherland (AS)	Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Laura Cameron (LC), Lorna Creswell (LCr) and Mike Scott (MS).	
2. Minutes from 2 nd October 2024	The minutes from 2 nd October 2024 had been circulated, there were two amendments on page 3 line 3 should read Laura and not Lorna and page 4 item 14 St Lawrence church spelt incorrectly should read St Laurence church. The minutes were proposed by Lorretta and seconded by Lindsey.	
3. Matters arising	Item 8 – LPP survey has been emailed out and is ongoing. Item 10 – Developer Contributions, Vice Chair to forward on link – carry forward to next meeting. Item 12 – resilience event on 7 th November members from the Resilience Team of the Forres Community Council will attend and Lorna will attend the Funders Forum on 21 st November and is asked to report back. Item 14 – Secretary has been in touch with the Spotlight magazine and changed the FAF meeting venue. Item 14 - Erskine – Vice Chair had received an email update about an event opening in November and veteran’s taster days in December. David gave an update on the work being	DP/TC LCr

	<p>undertaken.</p> <p>Item 16 – Secretary has checked and North Room booked for FAF on first Wednesday of each month until the end of 2026, confirmed with FACT.</p>	
4. Treasurers Report	<p>Bank account paperwork sent off special delivery, signed for at the bank. Treasurer followed up and bank are saying they have not received anything, extension has been given and new paperwork to be signed, scanned and returned. Balance in account stands at £1,780.74 (does not include ringfenced money).</p>	LO
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FABA AGM • STP Funding Finder – October 2024 • STP bulletin • Local Place Plan Survey • Volunteer Event in Forres • Moray Council Budget 25/26 Public Sessions <p>Public sessions in St Giles have been postponed as there was not enough uptake – https://newsroom.moray.gov.uk/news/moray-council-responds-to-feedback-and-extends-budget-2025-survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget priorities survey - see link above • The Leancoil Trust will be holding its Annual General Meeting on 21st November at 6pm in Forres Town Hall. At 4pm prior to the start of the formal meeting, there's an opportunity for all to find out more about the project, recent developments and the next steps. Trustees will be there to answer any questions. There will also be a display showing the latest proposals and plans for Leancoil as they prepare to submit their planning application 	
6. FACT	<p>Lorna emailed her report:</p> <p>Completed first month of job share, has been insightful. Met with staff and volunteers to introduce herself and to pick up on any issues that she could run with quickly, these included sourcing bus timetables from the Council which were distributed.</p> <p>Went to visit a Nairn project around surplus food to see if it is possible to replicate this project in Forres.</p> <p>Lots of invites to attend various meetings at the museum, Erskine, St Laurence who are all looking to the challenges of sustainability.</p> <p>Been a busy month working alongside staff and volunteers in the projects.</p> <p>The Glasgow School of Art event was well received and the</p>	

	<p>link for that was the FACT Befriending Project Worker. The Volunteer's Co-ordinator has been working for Erskine and the Activities Co-ordinator has hosted the Challenge Poverty Week Breakfast that saw 70 people attending. Forres On-line staff have been seeing more older people looking for support with IT so they can book events/buses/doctor's appointments.</p> <p>Arranged to meet with WRVS Alzheimers and connect with the Locality Plan team led locally by Iain MacDonald. Written a report for the Gazette and intending to write a monthly article that focuses more on the voluntary work that is undertaken by groups and of the opportunities to get involved.</p>	
7. Forres Culture and Heritage Scheme	<p>Two reps visited from the Lottery and met with groups in the museum. Question regarding the grant schemes for shop fronts – did architects receive any enquiries regarding the shops in the High Street regarding the possibility of 50% funding, heard nothing but it was thought this could be part of the Town Centre Improvement Scheme which the Business Association in Elgin is running. Kirsty Conti and Kirsty Shand both Moray Council (MC) worked on the application.</p>	
8. Spirit of Community (SoC) 2022 and Local Place Plan (LPP)	<p>Ann and Tina working on LPP and have undertaken research involving looking at other successful LPP's. Meeting this week with 5 members and took advice as to what to keep in as a proposal/plan and would like to include most recent survey information from this month. Laura will work on the LPP and update supportive documents and links. Once completed will identify areas identified and meet needs of wishes and tag alongside the National Framework Plan and Priorities 4. Taken a while to understand all the documents and now at a stage where Laura is able to work on it and feedback with a draft then arrange a meeting before the end of the month with Emma Gordon, MC. Submission due in January 2025 following an extension. Survey Monkey questions have brought to light some ideas that have already been put into action, looking to contact Garry at the Gazette to put out an update on what is happening in the High Street. Laura will look into allowing the ability to skip questions on the survey, so far 50 – 60 replies received.</p> <p>Link to SoC report - https://forresarea.org/the-community/projects/spirit_of_community/</p>	LC
9. Mannachie Park	<p>Laura is working on this and there have been meetings at Pilmuir Primary with pupils and staff. Currently looking at their proposals of what they would like to see included in the park and then out to designers who will submit their designs.</p>	
10. Developer	<p>To be carried forward and Laura to update.</p>	LC

Contributions		
11. Money for Moray	Just Transition Participatory Budgeting is to be launched on Monday 11 th November 2024.	
12. Moray Forum	Group has not met since the last FAF meeting.	
13. Transport Forum (TF)	<p>Angela updated all: Steve Robertson, MC gave a talk at Auchernack, he highlighted M.Connect and 314 local bus. Rail connection brought up, no transport to get there. MTF met on Tuesday 29th October in Elgin, 18 people attended including Councillors. Marion Ross discussed a poster to promote MTF and it is in the process of being produced. Roseisle has no transport, Beeline Hopeman community bus – trying to collate all community transport but so many groups in Moray and lots of different permits.</p> <p>M.Connect wheelchair access, multi-purpose vehicle discussed. Town Board - £20 million for Active Travel was discussed, thought Active Travel covers all types of travel including walking, wheeling and cycling for a purposeful journey. Ranger service speaker to be invited to talk about core paths. Stagecoach rep attended they have 6 new vehicles for the A96 service, spoke about safety at bus stations. Online survey from MC regarding transport survey. Advised Stagecoach is still running a bus from Findhorn/Kinloss along the coast both morning and evening to Elgin – MC will not put in a service until Stagecoach stops next April.</p> <p>Looking to get bus timetables in FACT for Monday to Friday, bus is run by Finnerne Development Trust – Logie Steading via Edinkillie, Half Davoch and Forres.</p>	LS
14. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LS – FACT have completed the Erskine survey and will complete a report, RAF Lossiemouth did not receive the link, received 489 responses. Sorting out community engagement and trying to link volunteering more together • DP – Film Forres showing Wicked Little Letters on 9th November and on 15th November at 6.30pm a children’s film, Forres Men’s Shed AGM takes place on 4th December at 10am • AR – warm space initiative lunches at St Laurence on 7th December includes music, 14th December St Laurence is hosting MFR cash for Kids Mission Christmas Concert at 2pm, 18th November attending Systems Based Approach to Physical Activity meeting at MC • TC – St John’s coffee morning at the Town Hall on 9th 	

For further information please email: forresareaforum@btinternet.com

	November, FCAA coffee morning on 23 rd November, 24 th November soup and sweet in St John's Church Hall at 12.00pm	
15. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
16. AOB	<p>Discussion around the first Forres Family Market which will take place on 1st December in the old Tesco Car Park on Gordon Street, featuring at least 60 stalls with music and food - https://forreslocal.com/new-forres-market-aims-to-be-best-in-scotland-say-organisers/</p> <p>The group would like to recognise the achievements of Forres in Bloom and the amount of work and hours volunteered and the amount of people who visit the area which goes towards supporting the economy and what a pleasure it is to live here. Question for FACT, when can groups book coffee mornings for 2026?</p> <p>Secretary to contact FABA regarding Scotland's Town Partnership emails.</p>	<p>LCr</p> <p>TC</p>
17. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 4 th December 2024, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	

Meeting dates in 2025: 5th February, 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December