



**MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

**PRESENT**

<b>Sandra MacLennan, Chair (SM)</b>	<b>Loretta Oliphant, Treasurer (LO)</b>
<b>Laura Cameron (LC)</b>	<b>Lorna Creswell (LCr)</b>
<b>Ann Rossiter (AR)</b>	<b>Mike Scott (MS)</b>
<b>Lindsey Standing (LS)</b>	<b>Angela Sutherland (AS)</b>
<b>Tina Coffey, Minutes (TC)</b>	

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1. Welcome from Chair	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Minutes from 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	The minutes from 6 <sup>th</sup> November had been circulated, there was one amendment, item 9 the first sentence to be deleted. The minutes were proposed by Lorna and seconded by Ann.	TC
3. Matters arising	Item 14 - active travel was too late to submit Item 14 – Connections meeting – Chair informed the date to meet was only a proposed date and no meeting was held Forres in Bloom (FiB) SCIO has come through and now running both FiB and FiB SCIO (in order for the group not to take on any personal liability the group had to apply to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and as FiB was already taken had to use the name FiB SCIO)	
4. Treasurers Report	Treasurer is continuing to transfer money from the Co-op to the RBS account, currently have £900 ringfenced money left in the Co-op account. Coffee morning took £734.30 and have cleared £600, thank you to all for the donations and to those who helped with the event. Currently have £2,237.04 in the current account, Treasurer to transfer £900 to current account which will be ringfenced.	LO

5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STP Bulletin x 3</li> <li>• STP Funding Finders for November, December 2024 and January 2025</li> <li>• Leancoil Trust Newsletter</li> <li>• FABA upcoming events</li> <li>• Coffee morning – FAF</li> <li>• FACT AGM notice</li> </ul>	
6. FACT	<p>Lorna informed those present:  AGM held in December, Chair stepped down then resigned as a Director and Michelle Gillibrand, Development Manager left on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Lorna has stepped into the Development Manager role full time to the end of March 2025.  Payback personnel have been into the main hall and painted the walls and balcony.  Currently have 3 Board members and not permitted to make decision until quorate (7) – different people have come forward and aiming to recruit more people in February.  Meetings held with Capital Consultant, Nick Cragg, who is working on a report to improve the building and will complete his work at the end of March 2025. Consultant will leave FACT with a plan, he is earmarked to draw down payment from two funds.  Couple of funding applications have been submitted, although unable to progress these or make decisions until the board is quorate due to governance.  Support received from HIE and advised to go for Crisis Intervention and they help development trusts and any other groups who are struggling, DTAS has been helpful and looking to move forward as a team.  Unable to attend Tourism Group and will try to attend the next meeting.  Projects will be coming to an end this year unless further funding is found.  Fundraising dance on 8<sup>th</sup> February and FACT to pick up the coffee morning for Logie Primary on 15<sup>th</sup> February.</p>	
7. Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme	<p>Due to report in December, heard nothing so Chair emailed for an update, hoping to hear something by the middle/end of February. There could be a launch possible at the end of February.  Forres Connections will hold a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February.  Forres Connected Culture and Heritage Pilot Project – meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, FACT and FHT applied for joint funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from April to August 2024 – meeting to be held.</p>	

8. Spirit of Community (SoC) 2022 and Local Place Plan (LPP)	LPP first draft was handed in by 16 <sup>th</sup> December and Moray Council Officer who was to give us feedback has left her post, Eily Webster said she would give feedback in January. Feedback received and there is a meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> February to look over and amend the draft before it is emailed out for public consultation which will last 28 days. The LPP is focusing on land and buildings in Forres, looking for it to be an appendix to the SoC document and once submitted it will feed into the Moray Local Development Plan when it is redrafted. Date of submission extended due to delay in giving feedback. Intention of SoC is to pull together themed groups and looking at what had been prioritised, group has been side tracked by LPP. Once the LPP has been approved would be looking for groups to adopt sections of it. Have to identify those who had similar ideas and see if they can work together. Four LPP's being completed from the Forres area.	
9. Pilmuir Park	Park designs have come back and were given to the school where children voted, there were leaflets delivered to houses in the area and the opportunity was available to vote online. Laura canvassed in the street and she handed all information. Back to Open Spaces and waiting to find out the preference of the Randolph Lane design play area.	
10. Developer Contributions	There is £3,700 available and if anyone wanted to apply for the money they would have to go through the proper process – if anyone is interested then Laura would forward the criteria of what is being looked for. Laura to forward on the Development Observation Criteria to Tina. Laura will look into the potholes and lighting in the lane beside the Town Hall.	LC LC
11. Money for Moray	All those who applied and were successful have been informed and there will be a presentation on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February in Lhanbryde Hall from 11am to 2pm. The group are inviting all successful and unsuccessful groups to the event. There will be another year of funding then unsure if funding will be available due to elections (were told the group had funding for 10 years, had 3 and money for year 4).	
12. Moray Forum	There will be a meeting tbc.	
13. Transport Forum (TF)	Angela informed all of the following: there was a meeting scheduled for 21 <sup>st</sup> January but was cancelled, no reason given and no rescheduled date. Noticed on Moray Council website Phase 2 expansion of M.Connect with drop ins (10 <sup>th</sup> February in Findhorn from 10am to 1pm, 5 <sup>th</sup> March Forres Community Centre from 10am to 1pm and 24 <sup>th</sup> March in Findhorn). Moray Transport Forum - not received a lot of information –	

	<p>Laura will check what's happening.                  Laura to check the connection between the Transport Forum and Moray Connect.                  Next date for Moray Forum is 26<sup>th</sup> February .</p>	<p>LC                  LC</p>
14. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LS – volunteer update at the start of the year resulting in a FACT newsletter and separate volunteer update, new FACT YouTube channel, hoping to add more clips to the channel. Successful in sourcing funding for Forres Online – Community Digital Hub, new equipment has been purchased and funded by Moray Pathways. Hoping to create a quarterly paper update</li> <li>• LC – working with Transition Town Forres (TTF) and mindful when working on anything to do with TTF they still have a lease. Community Centre – there is a petition and MC are aware (no formal proposals at moment – wait and see) external consultant put in a report and it has not been proposed</li> <li>• MS – ground works have been completed and work is to begin on the roof, there will be restrictions on parking when work starts. AJ Engineering will do the work</li> <li>• LCr – MFCU held their 30<sup>th</sup> AGM last week, received a letter from the MSP who has put forward a motion and this letter has been framed to be put up in the credit union office. Janice Cooper is leaving FACT on 13<sup>th</sup> February. Osprey AGM 24<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm in the Garden Room at Forres House and on 26<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm Film Forres will hold their AGM in the Tolbooth</li> <li>• AR – successful lunch held on Saturday at St Laurence Church and hope to deliver another warm space lunch on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025</li> <li>• TC – Frolics Dance in Town Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> February</li> </ul>	
15. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
16. AOB	<p>FAF meetings in April and July have been cancelled.                  MFR Cash for Kids in December was a good event, well supported and raised money for the Moray area.</p>	
17. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	

Meeting dates in 2025: 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December