



## MINUTES OF FORRES AREA FORUM MEETING WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

### PRESENT

<b>Ann Rossiter, Chair (AR)</b>	<b>Lindsey Standing, Vice Chair (LS)</b>
<b>Lorretta Oliphant, Treasurer (LO)</b>	<b>Lorna Creswell (LCr)</b>
<b>Ray MacDonald (RM)</b>	<b>Sandra MacIennan (SM)</b>
<b>Diane McGregor (DM)</b>	<b>David Parker (DP)</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, there were apologies from Laura Cameron (LC) and Mike Scott (MS).	
2. Minutes from 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	The minutes from 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025 had been circulated, there were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Lindsey and seconded by Lorretta. The minutes from the AGM held on 1 <sup>st</sup> October were proposed by David and seconded by Lindsey.	
3. Matters arising	Item 3 – FAF to request information regarding statistics of fires in the area and home visits. Item 4 – link emailed from Audrey and Laura regarding with family bub questions, emailed out to membership Item 11 – LPP – Ray submitted an amendment in the correct timeframe but unfortunately the document was not changed and the amendment was not added to the report, to be discussed with Laura Cameron going forward Item 17 – update – been in contact with Richard Russell around the possibility of other events taking place, asked for daytime slots and also received a request from FABA. We asked for more information on the talks re frauds, scams, social media and internet trends. Richard has booklets and	LC

	<p>leaflets and will also do talks on home and outbuilding security. Will get back to FABA to invite them plus other groups to the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February for a fraud and scam meeting – therefore this meeting will not be a full meeting – if those attending could have pre-prepared questions for on the night. Secretary to reply to FABA</p> <p>Item 4 on AGM minutes - agreed to add bank sheet information to the AGM minutes, Treasurer to sign and email to Secretary.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>LO/TC</p>
4. Treasurers Report	<p>Since the last meeting the following has been paid out: £50 for secretarial duties and 3 payments for room hire in August, September and October (£90 in total). This leaves available funds in the account of £1,393.05 with an additional £900 which is ringfenced.</p>	
5. Correspondence	<p>Secretary emailed out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STP Funding Finder for September and October 2025</li> <li>• Have Your Say Shaping the Next Tourism Strategy for Moray</li> <li>• Community Heat Network for Forres</li> <li>• Quarriers Unpaid Carers Update</li> <li>• STP latest news and updates</li> <li>• Changing Places Toilets – FACT</li> <li>• Scotland Towns Conference 2025</li> <li>• Highland Hospice – Volunteering</li> <li>• FABA – AGM</li> <li>• Next Steps – Join Moray Tourism Strategy Focus Groups</li> <li>• FABA Networking Empowering Event</li> <li>• STP Quarterly Update</li> <li>• Warm Space Poster – St Laurence</li> </ul>	
6. FACT	<p>No representative or report received. Survey out via a word document regarding Changing Places. On 29<sup>th</sup> November holding a coffee afternoon followed by a Ceilidh run by RSCDS, event on 13<sup>th</sup> December cancelled and looking to fill the date with an event, there are lots of volunteers and reserves.</p> <p>Forum set up FACT and worked closely together with Debbie Herron. The last FACT Development Officer intimated that there was no need for attendance at the FAF meetings. Chair agreed to make a formal approach to ask whether there will be a representative from FACT attending FAF meetings.</p> <p>Noted there is a work relationship with Highland Hospice who will pay part of a staff members wages.</p> <p>Maintenance book set up and available at reception also a comments book can be found in the kitchen.</p>	<p>AR</p>

	Agreed to request a written report from FACT if a representative is unable to attend.	TC
7. Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme	Informed meetings are held in the Community Centre with some information emailed out. There was a launch held and the next stage is to discuss lanes off the High Street. Unsure of next meeting date with Fiona Skiffington. Informed there were online meetings coming up but information not emailed to all. Agreed Chair is to contact Fiona to request a date for a meeting. Thought at the next meeting there would be the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair.	AR
8. Forres Connected Culture and Heritage	Vice Chair contacted George Alexander and asked for minutes from the last meeting, these were received by Vice Chair but they have not been circulated by the group. Suggested is this group to continue as project set up by Michelle Gillibrand as she submitted and received funding and has now stepped back from the group. At the June meeting informed happy to continue in an informal way. Vice Chair will attend on FAF's behalf and has volunteered to take the notes. No date set and meetings are usually held in the Tolbooth.	LS
9. Forres Tourism Group	Joanna Taylor is Chairing these meetings, FACT does have ownership coming out of the SoC. SCOTO being run by Moray Council. Request that either the minutes or a report is given to FAF enabling this group to feedback to the community. Vice Chair able to attend on behalf of FAF. Lorna emailed Joanna to ask when the next meeting is and will feedback to the Secretary.	LS LCr
10. Spirit of Community (SoC) 2022 and Local Place Plan (LPP)	Chair spoke to Laura Cameron and a delay in getting some information from some groups. She has made contact with some of them and will be populating the excel spreadsheet. Once updated the working group is to meet up and see best way forward and identify projects so they can be worked on together. LPP sits under the Forres Community Council (FCC) and the FCC Chair will feed back to FAF. Forres Academy would be key project FCC would be working on together with the Resilience Plan and Leisure Facilities including the Community Centre.	
11. Money for Moray	No further information received.	
12. Moray Forum (MF)	No further information received.	
13. Transport Forum (TF)	No word of the next meeting. The 32 bus now going from Forres to Findhorn, unusual route and some adverse	

	comments regarding the times are not conducive to commuters. The following buses all stop at Tesco 32, 96 and 10.	
14. Round the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP – Bogton Transition Town Forres (TTF) – possible winding up AGM on either 25<sup>th</sup> November or 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Nicola Newton on behalf of Board of TTF – SCIO for the Community Garden and allotments are separate (rental for TTF £13k). Film Forres showing a children's film on 21<sup>st</sup> November and the community film on 6<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a Christmas film shown on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Forres Men's Shed AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 10am to 12 mid-day. OAP's are meeting weekly and will be sorting out their bank account.</li> <li>• DM – coffee morning on 8<sup>th</sup> November in the Town Hall in aid of Forres in Bloom (FiB), received the CAT lease FiB for 25 years</li> <li>• SM – bonfire night was a success, 11<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm public meeting in the TH re the development in the Moray Firth and FABA AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm</li> <li>• LO – Ex Chair and Treasurer to meeting regarding an online mandate change. New Chair and Treasurer also to meet regarding updating signatories/mandate change.</li> <li>• LS – attended Forres Academy (FA) meeting with parents and carers re Roysvale and how it is to be shared post building work – there will need a more robust booking system put in place to use the area in order to minimise double booking of area for primary and secondary schools. Attended two meetings about FA in Town Hall (TH) and FA meeting not well attended (25) meeting in TH were quite tense and the one at FA well mannered, only a couple of questions to Balfour Beatty but they have only been appointed for pre-construction, no questions re flood risk and a new drain to be installed to remove rainwater from FA and Applegrove Primary and would relieve pressure on existing drains. £50k raised by Applegrove Primary parents for improving the outside space, Parent Council and Moray Council have now met with parents to discuss priorities. Moray Engage website – FA relocation consultation closes 13<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>• RM – submitted funding application to Inspiring Scotland who are the funders on behalf of the Scottish</li> </ul>	SM/LO/AR

	<p>Government on behalf of Ray's Opportunities and put up £10 million in order to achieve an additional extra 150 change places toilets in Scotland, should know by end of November – looking at the Clothmaker Fund for additional funding (£300k), no planning application in but have a pre-planning application in. Charity Bingo on 19<sup>th</sup> November in Mosset Tavern starting at 7.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AR – FAF could deliver events to OAP's and have submitted grant application to Auchernack for £750 to cover room bookings to deliver events, hospitality and warm space event with soup and sweet. There had been a meeting at the community centre to look at Community Centre and Swimming Pool usage/ Not all users had been invited or made aware of this meeting. AR will be following up on this. AR will be attending a Systems Based Approach meeting at Moray Council on 13<sup>th</sup> November.. Successful Warm Space Lunch on 4<sup>th</sup> November and next one 13<sup>th</sup> December at St Laurence Building. St Laurence Trust meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>• TC – 29<sup>th</sup> November St John's coffee morning in the TH</li> <li>• LC – Community Centre – Moray Council facilities formed a user group of library users and now created a user group for Community Centre. Steven Hamilton is being tasked to bring all users together. Some groups informed they are not able to use the Community Centre at the weekend but directed to FA. Nobody heading up Estates and about to recruit. Electric scheme for the High Street, green heating including both residential and community groups and could create a turbine, comes from Gill Bird, tsiMORAY trying to create a Community Benefit Society and potential for FAF to ensure ownership in the community. Family Hub. Osprey appointed Admin person to do bookings and more drivers have come forward. 7 ASN students from FA visited Moray Firth Credit Union (MFCU) also holding their AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm and chippie tea/pizza on 31<sup>st</sup> October for volunteers. Window of Opportunity is ongoing. Molly runs a gym in Elgin caters for those with stroke/Parkinson's/MS could do this in Forres if there was a building available and keen for Molly to pilot in Forres</li> </ul>	
15. Councillors	No Councillors present.	
16. AOB	No other business.	

For further information please email: [forresareaforum@btinternet.com](mailto:forresareaforum@btinternet.com)

17. Date of Next Meeting	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025, 7.00pm, North Room of the Town Hall.	
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Meeting dates in 2026: 7<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December