

Forres Community Council

Thursday 19th March 2026 at 7.00 pm, Green Room, Forres House Community Centre

Secretary: Fiona Dunsmuir | **Email:** info.forrescc@gmail.com

Attendees - FCC		Attendees – Other
CC Steve Ferris (SF)	Chair	Cllr Paul McBain (PM)
CC Fiona Dunsmuir (FD)	Secretary	Cllr Kathleen Robertson (KR)
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)	Vice Chair	Cllr Scott Lawrence (SL)
CC Michael Walker (MW())		
CC Christina MacFarqhar (CM)		
CC Travis Bremner (TB)	Treasurer	Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
CC Imogen Symon (IS)		
CC Gary Gunn (GG)		
		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
		David Parker
Apologies		
CC Derek Hallas (DH)	CC John Innes (JI)	
Cllr Draeyk Van Der Horn (DH)		
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome, and apologies: Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received were recorded.	
2.	Public Session <u>Lea Bridge Closure</u> – David Parker advised that the closure of the bridge means there would be no wheelchair access as the footbridge has a couple of steps up to it. He is aware of the reasoning for the closure but anyone who use a wheelchair or scooter only have the option to go round via the high street. Sf advised he will contact the relevant staff member in the Council. <u>20mph Speed Limit & illegal parking</u> -It has been brought up to us is about the 20mph an illegal parking around the town, because of a Freedom of Information request. Police Scotland has responded to it advising of the number of offences reported to them is low, they also stated about their levels of manpower available to deal with issues. the time officers could be dealing with more serious offences. SF also stated that the road markings at the end of Market Street onto the A96, he will get back to us and contact the Council and Amey about the markings.	SF SF

3.	Ratification of Minutes 19th of February 2026. The minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Gary Gunn Seconded: Michael Walker	
4.	Matters arising <u>Moray Flow Park</u> – SF advised he had attended the meeting held with the Community Councils of Burghead & Cummington, Hopeman, Heldon and Findhorn & Kinloss. The main people acting at the moment are the ‘Say No to The Flow’ group which had members from Nairn and Findhorn attended Holyrood in Edinburgh to listen to the discussion that took place. And local MSP’s have also taken part. <u>Moray Flag</u> - SF advised that after speaking to George Alexander the newly purchased flag will be flying from The Tolbooth., in time for the holiday season. <u>Resilience</u> – Steve mentioned he must contact John (JI) to organise training for the four original members and the two new ones so that everyone knows how to use the equipment currently held. SF also mentioned that he had attended the Wildfire Summit and there were Land Users and Landowners attended and as of the end of March that there will be no open BBQs allowed in the Cairngorm National Park and Moray also has a ban. <u>Active Travel Forres</u> – there is now a bike repair spot in Grant Park by the toilets and café.	SF SF/JI
5.	Planning/Licences There were no planning issues that needed any action on.	
6.	Action Plans <u>Forres Cultural & Heritage Scheme</u> – Gary attended a public consultation about the heritage shop front and a health check, this is for properties on the High Street and Tolbooth Street. SF advised that letters have gone out to the businesses on these streets advising them that the health check is free and if you go ahead with the work recommended in the health check they will have to pay 50% of the costs. These consultations are fully funded already which all concerned need to know. <u>Forres Sports & Leisure User Group</u> – SF advised he has written to Steve Hamilton as Tomasz MacDonald is no longer the Centre Manager for Forres House. He is the person setting up the working group and he will attend our April meeting with a presentation on the role of the working groups. SF asked councillors to tell those to have an interest to come along. The working groups do work as the library has made a change to their hours because of the group. <u>Local Place Plan / Spirit of the Community Event</u> – TB attend their latest meeting, and he sat on Travel & Transport and Sport & Leisure groups, one of the main things that the Travel & Transport discussed was access on the High Street for Disabled patrols. This would involve the lowering of kerbs, suitable access into shops, also a taxi service for wheelchair users. There was a mention about access to the A06 and crossings as well as the new Ember bus service needing more	Sf SF/GG

	stops adding. Gary sat on the Environmental group they discussed green spaces, there was talk about TTF, Forres in Bloom were there and their plans going forward/ and lastly discussion on green energy. <u>FCC Website</u> – Imogen advised that The Tech Army have been very help in the first steps on creating our website. Imogen was advising that we can have information uploaded to the website and it can automatically upload to our other social media platforms. Imogen is going to send out an email with questions for each Councillor as well as an up-to-date photo.	TB/GG IS
7.	Treasurers Report Christine advised the current balance in our bank account is £5,246.16, there is still the admin grant from Moray Council to be received and there are expenses to be paid out but there is a delay with the change of Treasurers.	CM
8.	Moray councillor reports Cllr Scott Lawrence – Scott advisee that he had attended a meeting with regards the Local Place Plan and how it feeds into the Council Area Development Plan. SL was asked why Forres are getting things when other is not and it has been brought up that Fatted had a thorough LPP. Cllr Robertson – KR added that the LPP is having an impact on the Area Development Plan, the Councillors advised of the impact the LPP is having within the Council and the 1- year development plan. Cllr Paul McBain – Paul advised that he had to attend a couple of hearings of appeals from planning applications that were refused. After the hearing one was refused at the appeal	
9.	Forthcoming Events Forres Cultural & Heritage Scheme – 20/03/26 Spirit of the Community – 23/03/26	
10.	AOCB There was no other business.	
11.	Date of next meeting: The date of our next Forres Community Council meeting is on Thursday 16th of April 2026. It is going to be in The Green Room, Forres House Community Centre, High Street, Forres.	