

Forres Community Council

Thursday 17th of September 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 Kathleen Robertson (KR)
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)		Cllr Scott Lawrence (SL)
CC Fiona Dunsmuir (FD)	Secretary	
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		
CC Michael Walker (ME)		
CC Derek Hallas (DH)		
CC Christina MacFarquhar (CM)	Treasurer	Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
CC Travis Bremner (TB)		
CC Imogen Symon (IS)		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
		Henrietta Peterkin-Grant
		Gisela MacFarquhar
		Lorna Cresswell
Apologies		
CC John Innes (JI)		
CC Gary Gunn (GG)		
Cllr Paul McBain (PM)		
Cllr Draeyk Van Der Horn (DVH)		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome, and apologies: Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting, including members of the public and our local Councillors. Apologies received were recorded. Steve wished that condolences are noted at the loss of Vince Lyon who used to do a lot around the town.	SF
2.	Conflict of Interest Steve asked if anyone had a conflict of interest with regards to all items on the agenda, he was advised of no conflicts.	SF
3.	Public Session <u>Active Travel Update</u> – There are things going on but they require funding, Kev said that some funding look for letters of support and asked if FCC would provide a letter. He also said he would ask Judith to come to our next meeting to give a better update. <u>Forres Community Woodlands Trust</u> – Gisela came to give us an update on plans for the woodlands in and arounds Sanquhar, they have full permission from	KS

	Scottish Forestry and Moray Council, they are looking at felling mature trees that are overhanging into properties which is causing worry for residents with the possibility of the trees falling or even the threat of wildfires. The areas are up at the back of Mannachie and over by Woodend, both areas will be replanted with broad leaf trees and ones that do not burn easily. <u>New Forres Academy Progress Report</u> – Christina has an update from the most recent Forres Academy Information Group meeting, which was held the day after the official turf cutting ceremony. CM advised that the works on Albert Street is carrying on, it was mentioned that further mail drops need to be conducted but so far, the communication for residents were gappy. Noise and dust are an ongoing issue. <u>Forres Learning Estates / Attainment</u> - Christina asked if we wanted to discuss this and what role we should have if any. SF asked for KR to respond, she advised not to believe everything in the papers, as Forres did come 32 out of 32 in one area but in others we did well, In the exams we had better than average and unfortunately only one aspect was picked out by the press. The Council has taken on a consultant to investigate all aspects of our Education and to see where areas could be improved, and the person has conducted similar work for other councils in the country. With regards to the learning estates, we were advised that the recent paper that passed is not a concrete decision to make any closures or mergers, it is purely a framework to allow officers to have a tool kit to help make the difficult decisions to spread the funds received into the best areas within education. Any decisions are to be a benefit to the council and this could be a merger or closing schools but no decisions have been made yet. Lorna Cresswell advised that over the last 18 months she has been involved in and invited to a various community group. She also stated that while volunteering at the credit union they used to be visited by a council officer and discussed about wealth building strategies and wanted to know where it was as she could not see it anywhere. The credit union has tried to involve others, contacted local businesses and the younger resident, all to no avail. Regarding the credit union, it needs to downsize their current location or have another business share the floor space.	FD/CM CM ALL
4.	Ratification of Minutes on 20th of August 2026. The minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Derek Hallas Seconded: Michael Walker	
5.	Matters arising/updates. <u>Bridge of Moy</u> – Graham attended the meeting about the bridge, and he advised it was a very productive meeting and the Group want to work with Moray Council. It is still being investigated as to who is responsible for the older part to the bridge as the	

	Council is responsible for the newer part of it which was built as part of the flood alleviation work. <u>Community Safety Report</u> – Kevin advised he is still waiting to see the Inspector who has been on annual leave. He has been off but he is planning to speak with Donna and give her the dates of the forthcoming meetings. <u>Top 3 Topics</u> – Steve asked for an update, CM stated she is still happy to receive topics that CC councillors top three topics. <u>F C AGM</u> - we shall be holding our AGM at the start of next month's meeting and there are differences in the AGM to our normal monthly meetings.	GM KS CM ALL
6.	Planning/Licences There was only one application of interest was the diminishment and rebuild of the property on Drumduan Road.	KS
7.	Correspondence Steve advised that the only correspondence received was the return of our constitution.	SF/FD
8.	Treasurers Report Christina advised that the current bank balance was £5,699.43 which is made up of admin grant, resilience, and a donation of £150.00.	CM
9.	Moray councillor reports Cllr Kathleen Robertson – KR advised there was a corporate meeting and the council is going to be working with the friends of Grant Park, there is consultation currently running on Moray Engage with regards to the holiday levy, which the council would like as many people as possible to respond to it. She also advised that the fire at Keith Grammar was caused by a tumble dryer, they believe it was caused by microfibre cloths being dried in it and they possibly had residue on them from the various cleaning products, and the Council is going to make it policy for the cloths to be air dried. Kathleen is going to be tied up with the Scottish Public Service reform, and there are unknowns with how the councils work going forward. Cllr Scott Lawrence – SL advised that there has had a lot going on, there has been meetings with regards to the Local Place Plan. He attended a meeting for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan which covers a variety of statistics about Moray, he gave an example – from 2011 – 2022 the population in Moray dropped by two.	KR SL
10.	Forthcoming Events 03/10 -Anderson Primary celebrating one hundred years	ALL

	26/10 – Sport and Leisure review @ Forres House Community Centre	
11.	AOCB Grahm queried with MC Councillors as to who is in charge at Lands and Parks, KR advised of names. Imogen has advised that the website is live, but the URL is incorrect, but she is going back to Scottish tech army for help in getting it correctly. Kevin advised that the Highland Games Committee held their first meeting with regards to the following years event with the 100th year in 2028.	GM IS KS
12	Date of next meeting: All members of the public are welcome to join the next Forres Community Council meeting that is on Thursday the 15th of October 2026. It is going to be in The Green Room, Forres House Community Centre, High Street, Forres.	