



The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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Meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 25th June 2015

Chair: S. Noble

1. Attendees: E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, M. Walker, G. Hilditch, C. Rodgers, J. Duncan, H. Shaw, J. Guthrie (until 7.30 pm)

Also Present : Cllr Alexander, G. McCartney (Forres Gazette); S. MacLennan (Minute Taker), J. Guy (Police Scotland) & 10 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.) including Mount Dora representatives.

Apologies: Apologies for absence came from S. Ferris, Cllr Creswell, Cllr McLean, Cllr Skene.

(FCC – Forres Community Council : TMC - The Moray Council FAF – Forres Area Forum)

Topic	Discussion	Action
2.	<p>Police Scotland Update: Motoring: 4 drivers charged with speeding (between 80 and 100mph) on the A96 Forres to Alves section; Male,37, charged with having a defective tyre; Male,36,charged with offences relating to maintenance and documents; 2 males,18,charged with driving without licences or insurance and male,36,arrested for failing to provide breath sample. Theft: male,22,arrested for attempted robbery. Noise complaints: Tenant charged and equipment seized and male,22,charged with causing a disturbance and obstructing police. Damage: Male,45,charged with damaging bodywork on a number of cars in the town centre and male,22,charged with vandalism after he burst a car tyre. Drugs: 2 males,20s,found in possession of Class B drug and male,30s,in possession of Diazepam, class C drug. Antisocial behaviour penalties issued to 3 individuals for urinating in the town centre and tickets issued to 3 males for fighting. S. Noble, on behalf of MOTP from last meeting, asked which types of incidents are not reported. He was informed that these include: social work types of incidents; domestic abuse; sudden deaths and ongoing enquiries. E. Hayward said that Forres is a safe area and was assured that this so.</p>	
3.	<p>Public Session: No issues raised.</p>	
4.	<p>Presentation by Exchange Students from Mt Dora Hannah and Katie expressed their pleasure to be visiting Forres on the 25th Anniversary of the twinning of Mt Dora and Forres. They have enjoyed their time and gave special mention to heritage, cultural depth and beauty, Nelson Tower and Piping @ Forres. Their welcome to Forres Academy has been much appreciated. A personalised tartan flag was presented by the girls. J. Guthrie thanked them and said it is a pleasure to be associated with the twinning initiative. The Mt Dora booklet which was presented last year was given to H. Shaw for the Falconer Museum. J Duncan offered on behalf of Forres Heritage Trust to fly the flag from the new flagpole at The Tolbooth within the next few weeks.</p>	
5.	<p>Ratification of Minutes of 21st May 2015 The Minutes were proposed by E. Hayward, seconded by C. Rodgers and</p>	

	ratified by the Chair, S. Noble.	
6.	Matters Arising:	EH
3b	Playpark Equipment: E. Hayward reported that Ken Kennedy is all in favour of fund raising to upgrade equipment. Replacement at Bogton should take place by Mid August . He will take forward the agreement by NHS to replace Randolph Lane equipment.	
3c	Accident on A96, Market Street Junction: E. Hayward reported that she had contacted Steven Davies of Transport Scotland to express serious concerns. He responded that accident statistics are reviewed on a regular rota and the limited funding available is targeted at the most needy. BEAR Scotland and Police Scotland review had identified one injury since 2005 and this did not justify improvements. Accidents which involve damage to vehicles are not always reported. The situation will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis and appropriate action will be taken. S. Noble asked how many accidents have to occur before action is taken. A MOTP reported that the lines at the junction have been repainted. Cllr Alexander mentioned the survey cameras which are in place near the junction. These have been installed by Transport Police to monitor the level crossing.	
3d	Clovenside Road and other traffic issues: Kevin Price has responded that no action is able to be taken about the wall. North Road: The site manager has been contacted and there is no perceived problem. E. Hayward said that vehicles continue to reverse on the one way street. Redcraig: Monitoring equipment will be put in place as soon as it becomes available. St Catherine's Road: Cllr Alexander is hopeful that the completion of the next phase of houses will trigger the improvements. E. Hayward reported that there is road congestion near the Health Centre especially at school opening and closing times. C. Rodger feels that speed has been reduced by installation of the traffic lights.	
4	Presentation on Planning for Real: The first meeting of the Working Group was facilitated by Sylvia Jamieson. Names of those proposed to be part of group are: S. Noble, G. Murdoch, C. Rodgers, S. Hogg, L. Creswell, Sandra Maclennan, Representatives from TMC Planning and Sports Hub and 2 Forres residents (tbc). The event will be promoted as ' Forres 2020 Vision'. The timescale is 6 months: Forres members of the public will be invited to create a 3D model of Forres as they would like to see it in 5 years time and comment on proposals to take forward. The model will be completed by the end of October; town roadshow at various venues by end December/ January; action plan to be completed by end January. Groups will then be assisted to seek funding for proposals agreed by the public.	
6.8	Creative Place Award: S. Noble, G. Murdoch and C. Rodgers attended the presentation given by Findhorn Bay Arts about the award of £100 000 which was won for gaining first place out of three finalists. S. Noble sent a letter of support as agreed at the last FCC meeting. C. Rodgers is a member of the panel and he will report back when more information is available. There will be a Culture Day in September and a week long Arts Festival in 2016. It is planned to advertise nationally to spread the image of the Festival and attract visitors to the area.	CR

	13b	Bogton Road Waste Bin: Grant Speed will ensure that the bin is located when the play equipment is being replaced.	
7.		<p>Moray Councillors' Reports:</p> <p>Cllr Alexander: Leslie Tulloch has been appointed Head Teacher of Pilmuir Primary School. Placing Requests: A successful appeal has been made for a pupil to attend New Elgin Primary School. There will be 60 pupils in one room with 2 teachers. A96 Briefing: Concerns have been expressed about the possible route. Cllr Alexander emphasised that the plans shown are indicative at this stage and do not show precisely where the road would be built. Wind Turbines at Meiklehill, Dallas: A site visit was made to the location and it was decided to propose that permission be granted. Moray Local Development Plan: Almost all of the plan has been accepted. Although India 8 was approved as employment land, Cllr Alexander does not feel that this development will go ahead. Long 2: the Reporter rejected the application by Altyre to build housing in this area. E. Hayward asked about the former bus station site which is lying empty and could be a suitable site for housing. Cllr Alexander will find out who owns the site. J. Duncan said that Planning permission had been sought and approved some time ago. Redco Milne: Cllr Alexander reported that the consultants who are advising about the feasibility of the offer made will report in August. Fochabers Institute: The Trust which has negotiated a Community Asset Transfer applied to The Moray Council for £150 000 to bring the building up to standard. Cllr Alexander is concerned that the application was approved. Other communities, for example, Forres, Cullen, Keith, Lossiemouth and Buckie have taken responsibility for similar buildings and have not received funding from the council.</p>	
8.		<p>Planning Issues:</p> <p>E. Hayward reported that there are no current issues.</p>	
8.		<p>Chair's Report:</p> <p>a) Forres will host a meeting of the Scottish Rural Parliament on Monday 29th June in the Community Centre. The Chair will attend because there are issues about Community Councils to be addressed.</p> <p>b) Training: E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, S. Noble and J. Guthrie attended the first training session which covered a broad range of topics. It was felt that Forres is performing better than some councils. M. Walker feels that FCC is evolving as members get to know each other better. E. Hayward has written to thank Tracey and JCC. The next training is about Conflict Resolution in Elgin Academy on 2nd July. S. Noble will contact members before then to organise shared transport.</p> <p>c) Forres Organisations: Stewart Noble, Samantha Fraser of FACT, Marc Hindley and Jack McAllister of Forresweb are working on a database of all groups. Groups will be able to update any changes of contacts online. S. Noble issued copies of a pro forma for members to take to the groups in their own area of responsibility and to bring completed forms to the next meeting. The site is forresweb.net. More contact sheets will be distributed at the July meeting.</p>	<p>SN</p> <p>ALL</p>
9.		<p>Secretary's Report:</p> <p>a) Tall trees at Mannachie have been topped to eliminate danger. E. Hayward asked if the trees are the responsibility of TMC. S. Noble replied that TMC is having the work done for Health and Safety reasons. E. Hayward will contact Ken Kennedy.</p> <p>b) The Development Trust Association Annual Conference will be held in Inverness . Anyone who wishes to attend should contact Tracey Rae.</p>	EH

	<p>c) Community Health and Learning is holding a Consultation event in The Inkwel, Elgin from 10am to 3pm.</p> <p>d) E. Hayward has liaised with G. Murdoch and made contact about the Lochyhill water issues and hopes to receive a reply for the July meeting.</p> <p>e) Stacey Lynch of Network Rail has asked to make a presentation about the plans for the upgrading of Forres Station. It was agreed to invite her to the August Meeting.</p>	<p>EH/GM</p> <p>EH</p>
10	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <p>a) The account stands at £ 1887.35. £624 has been received from TMC. The Bank of Scotland continues to send statements to the wrong address. S. Noble will ask to meet with Colin Chapman the Area Manager.</p>	SN
11	<p>Group and Representatives' Reports:</p> <p>a) E. Hayward has contacted J. McDowell about Health meetings and awaits a reply. She has sent photographs about the traffic problems on North Street.</p> <p>b) G. Murdoch: The Forres Area Business Group met to discuss the proposed dualling of the A96 and its possible effects on local businesses. Concerns were expressed that it had been stated that local businesses had been consulted but there is no information about who has been approached. Glasgow School of Art: Ian Reid gave a presentation and a summary is available online. TMC organised a meeting in The Inkwel about Town Centres, play areas, housing schemes which was very informative. The council is keen to hear from grass roots. Cluny Hill: Ken Kennedy, Tilhill, Sandy Hogg and G. Hilditch will identify which trees are most at risk. The contractor will be asked if timber could be sold to offset costs.</p> <p>c) J. Duncan reported that a new flagpole has been installed at the Tolbooth. Different flags will be flown for different events. The new pole removes the need to go on the roof. He thanked Forres in Bloom for the many hours spent in ensuring that the floral displays are maintained. E. Hayward reported that the toilets in Grant Park are being closed at 5pm or earlier. The response from TMC informed that council employees are now locking the toilets on a voluntary basis on the way home from work. Ian Bruce will be contacted for information.</p> <p>d) M. Walker reported that residents are concerned about the forthcoming World Orienteering event and that the routes may be past their homes. At present the routes are secret. Seagulls: Plans to deter birds next year should be made as soon as possible. It was suggested that Bird Control at Lossiemouth be contacted. C. Rodgers will take this forward. Cllr Alexander advised that the rules are available on TMC website. Herring Gulls are not protected and property owners are able to obtain a general licence. E. Hayward will put on the January Agenda.</p> <p>e) C. Rodgers thanked Cllr Alexander and Conrad Fraser for their attendance at the Riding of the Marches during Scottish Week. A walking route around the town may be planned for the next Scottish Week.</p>	EH
12	<p>Any other Competent Business:</p> <p>a) Dualling of A96: It was agreed that it is too early to give an opinion until detailed plans are available. E.Hayward will submit the following comments: No information has been given about the possible</p>	

	<p>economic impact on the Forres area; which businesses have been consulted? ; will the road inhibit new business development? and will FCC have a say when the final route is chosen?</p> <p>b) Swings for Kids: E. Hayward will arrange a meeting as a member of the public to form a community group for Forres Kids. She will ask the Forres Gazette to promote the initiative and encourage parents to become involved in fund raising. H. Shaw will help to set up a bank account. Sylvia Jamieson will be asked to help constitute a group.</p> <p>c) Future Meetings Venue: After some discussion it was agreed to continue to use the Tolbooth for meetings and uphold the long tradition of its use. Thanks to a grant of £7,500 from the Auchernack Trust, Forres Heritage Trust will soon install a stairlift which will enable disabled users to access upstairs accommodation.</p> <p>d) The Hub: Now that the Secretary is using her home address for correspondence there is not the same need to use The Hub. E. Hayward will contact the Library to find out if a box with a folder for each FCC member may be stored there.</p> <p>e) Community Cafe: E. Hayward recommended the new cafe in the Library and urged support of the facility.</p>	
13	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>a) Scottish Rural Parliament: 29th June</p> <p>b) JCC training: 2nd July</p> <p>c) 20 /20 group meeting: 8th July</p>	
14	<p>Date of next Meeting: Thursday 16th July in The Tolbooth at 7.15pm</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.