



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 19th November 2015

Chair: S. Ferris

1. Attendees: E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, M. Walker, G. Hilditch, S. Rodger

Also Present : Cllrs G. Alexander and L. Creswell, S. MacIennan (Minute Taker), Sgt Scott Brander, Police Scotland & 3 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

Apologies: Apologies for absence came from S. Noble, J. Duncan , J. Guthrie, H. Shaw; Cllrs A. Skene and A. McLean and Forres Gazette.

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

Topic	Discussion	Action
2.	<p>Police Scotland Update: Sgt Scott Brander was in attendance for the first time. He welcomes contact from the public and will be pleased to hear of any items. The approach will be to educate and prevent. Officers will be used in a smart fashion to make best use of stretched resources. During the period from 13th October to 17th November 20th there have been 20 detected crimes. Theft: Male, 15, charged with theft of mountain bike and three males from outwith the area put to court and granted bail having been found on premises on Waterford Road where it was inferred they were there to commit theft. Motoring: Female, 24, charged with careless driving; Male, 69, charged with failing to provide a drink test; Three males, 20, 21 and 28, were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for driving in excess of speed limit (over 80 and 93mph); Male, 22, charged and reported to the PF with failing to obey requirements of a School Crossing Patrol Officer and Male, 18, charged and reported for driving whilst over the prescribed limit for alcohol. Other: Male, 44, arrested, charged and reported to PF for threatened assault on officers with a baseball bat. Male, 46, charged and reported to PF for defecating at Thomson Monument. Male, 56, charged and put to court for threatening and abusive behaviour towards Army Cadets collecting for the Poppy Appeal on Forres High Street. Operation Regard: 11 acts of Vandalism in the Pilmuir area have been detected with 2 males, 14 and 16, charged and a referral sent to the Youth Justice Management Unit. S. Ferris asked if there has been a reduction and Sgt Brander replied that it will take time. Ring leaders are known to police and intervention is being sought. M. Walker said that customers at Tesco are being intimidated and was informed that different ways of dealing with problems are being tried. The main culprits are not old enough to be given ASBOs. Right to Ask: Action to prevent Domestic Abuse took a major step forward with the launch of DSDAS. Anyone who is concerned that their partner may have a history of domestic abuse can now contact the police and request information. Festive Period Policing: Week end policing has been reviewed and Moray will have 10 officers on patrol in town centres to prevent crime by being</p>	

	<p>visible. Drink Driving will also be a focus. Street Pastors, Taxi Marshalls and NHS triage staff will be present in Elgin. E. Hayward asked if last night buses will run and was informed that this will not happen. Speeding: Macdonald Drive, Rafford, A96 and Kinloss/Findhorn are being targeted and speed guns in operation. There have been very few instances recorded. E.Hayward has asked that MacDonald Crescent and the Mundole/A 96 junction be monitored but this has not been done.</p>																
3.	<p>Public Session:</p> <p>a) S. Ferris reported that the Forres Gazette had informed him there would not be a reporter present at the meeting. The Northern Scot and the Press and Journal had printed a report about the Forres 20/20 - Planning For Real exercise. The Forres Gazette had not received the report in time to print in the same week as the other newspapers. S. Ferris reminded FCC members that The Forres Gazette gives FCC excellent coverage which enables the public to be kept aware of its work and asked that they be mindful to keep the Forres Gazette informed in good time. E.Hayward said that a lot of time had gone in to the article being prepared by the Gazette over a couple of months and this had resulted in a waste of the reporter's time.</p> <p>b) E. Hayward reported that a resident had contacted her to complain that Forres Christmas lights had drilled in to her house, which is a B listed building, to install a display. She had not been asked in advance. She wished the display to be removed and the damage rectified and if not done she will seek legal advice. S. Ferris replied that this issue does not come within the remit of FCC. Cllr Alexander said that the issue is not a matter for TMC. There has been a breakdown in communication because the Christmas Lights Committee had asked the person whom they thought was the owner and he had given permission.</p>																
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes of 25th June 2015</p> <p>The Minutes were proposed by G. Hilditch, seconded by M. Walker and ratified by the Vice Chair, S. Ferris.</p>																
5.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td> <p>Playpark Equipment: E. Hayward reported that the assessor has visited the playpark sites and it is proposed to carry out work when manpower becomes available.</p> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> <p>Lochyhill Water Issues: E. Hayward has not had a response from Joanna Peebles. She will contact her again and report to the December meeting.</p> </td> <td>EH</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> <p>Cobbles behind Co-op Disabled Parking: E. Hayward thanked Mr Barron of TMC for his efforts to respond in time for the meeting. He explained that funding will be given to improvements which are deemed of highest priority. If priority is agreed then design will be considered.</p> </td> <td>EH</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> <p>Traffic Issues: E. Hayward reported that High Street speeding signs and Heavy Vehicle signs cannot be installed. It was considered that speed is not an issue because of parking.</p> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> <p>Raised Kerb at Cumming Street: Cllr Alexander explained that the kerb has been reinforced to enhance access for White's lorries. Bill Ross of TMC will arrange for the vertical edge of the pavement to be painted white.</p> </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<p>Playpark Equipment: E. Hayward reported that the assessor has visited the playpark sites and it is proposed to carry out work when manpower becomes available.</p>			<p>Lochyhill Water Issues: E. Hayward has not had a response from Joanna Peebles. She will contact her again and report to the December meeting.</p>	EH		<p>Cobbles behind Co-op Disabled Parking: E. Hayward thanked Mr Barron of TMC for his efforts to respond in time for the meeting. He explained that funding will be given to improvements which are deemed of highest priority. If priority is agreed then design will be considered.</p>	EH		<p>Traffic Issues: E. Hayward reported that High Street speeding signs and Heavy Vehicle signs cannot be installed. It was considered that speed is not an issue because of parking.</p>			<p>Raised Kerb at Cumming Street: Cllr Alexander explained that the kerb has been reinforced to enhance access for White's lorries. Bill Ross of TMC will arrange for the vertical edge of the pavement to be painted white.</p>		
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	<p>Freedom of Information Request: Police Scotland apologised to E. Hayward for the time taken to respond to the request for information about accidents on the A96. <i>Waterford / Invererne Road from level crossing: During Period 01.01.11 to 07.10.15 – One fatal collision has been recorded. Market Street: During the same period – one fatal collision. Please note that information has been provided for the locations specified. There may have been collisions at other locations close to these which have not been included as they do not meet the exact terms set out.</i> This concurs with the Transport Scotland document received previously.</p>	EH
6.	<p>Moray Councillors' Reports:</p> <p>Cllr Alexander has been appointed Chair of the Communities Committee which will involve more work but more pay. He is supporting improvements to the path from Clovenside to Cluny Hill. It is not the responsibility of TMC and Developer Contribution will be used for new core paths not the upkeep of existing paths. Future Schools Policy: The pilot consultation about future sustainability in Forres ASG is going well. S. Ferris asked if the planned increase in house building in the area will be considered. Cllr Alexander assured him that this will be done. Castlehill Church: The owner did not meet the deadlines for clearing work to be completed but it has now been done.</p> <p>Cllr Creswell: The Health discussion group at The Community Engagement meeting in Forres Academy was the best attended in Moray. The Health and Social Work plan is almost complete. Consultation will take place in January and the launch will be in April. Criteria for the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) are being agreed and the assistance of Andrew Wright has been invaluable. Cllr Creswell attended a conference on Domestic Violence. Cllrs and Planning Department Staff attended a presentation on Developers' Contributions with Robertson's and Springfield representatives. TMC raised 16 points to trigger action which may be reduced to 3. Cllr Alexander said that more details will be coming about the planned housing at the former Health Centre site which may provide 18 to 24 units to let. S. Ferris asked about plans for Orchard Road / Thornhill developments. Cllr Alexander replied that the next phase of 120 houses will trigger the plans. E.Hayward reminded that there will be a presentation by Springfield at the January meeting.</p> <p>G. Murdoch referred to the rising costs of the new Elgin High School which was discussed at the JCC meeting. Cllr Alexander confirmed that TMC is paying £100 000 per month in interest. The delay has been caused by an unexpected issue surrounding Financial Closure ESA 10 European legislation. The Scottish Government cannot release the required money. G Murdoch asked if the government will help with these costs and Cllr Alexander answered that it will not. Contractors are in place but they may wish to renegotiate when approval is received. H. Shaw had put forward a question about Skillforce clearing the old Skatepark area at Forres Academy. Cllr Alexander responded that there is a meeting next week. FACT has issued a consultation online to ascertain the views of residents. Cllr Creswell urged the public to go to the 20/20 PFR meetings when they are convened.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning Issues:</p> <p>a) The request for a large plan for R3 was declined. There will be 12 houses and the issues about impact on the skyline have been resolved.</p>	

8.	Chair's Report: a) No report	
9.	Secretary's Report: a) Mannachie Trees: Ken Kennedy has informed the Secretary that a contractor will visit the property on 20 th November. b) The new Community Council Support Officer is Jane Martin . She will visit all Community Councils as soon as possible. c) The Secretary issued flyers with details of Christmas Waste Collection information. d) The Secretary will send a copy of JCC Minutes to each FCC member.	EH
10.	Treasurer's Report: a) The present balance is £1291. The account for the Remembrance wreath has to be paid and the membership for Falconer Museum. b) S. Ferris urged members to submit any expenses.	
11.	Group and Representatives' Reports: a) S. Ferris: The Transition Town Forres EGM will be on Saturday 28 th November at 1pm. There are 2 vacant pods in the Community Garden . b) G. Hilditch: The Woodland Trust programme to eradicate rhododendrons is progressing well and will be continued next year. New signage will be installed in the near future. A big cycling event was held on Saturday 14 th November. Work continues on the next 5 year plan and it should be finished early next year. The next disbursement of Berry Burn Community Trust funds will be decided on Monday 23 rd November. c) G. Murdoch: Forres 20 / 20: The model making is progressing well and young people are to be involved. Forres CARS (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) group has met and it is expected that developments will start in 2017. JCC: Councils are urged to use funds allocated to prevent there coming a time when there may not be enough to meet running expenses. E. Hayward suggested asking Jane Martin when she takes up her appointment. Invasive Species Petition: FCC members are encouraged to respond to the petition which proposes making land owners responsible for eradication. Forres Lights: A committee has been formed and work is in hand to set up a Community Interest Company. It is hoped to launch the display in November / December 2016. d) E. Hayward: An old photograph of Nelson Tower has been found which shows large cannons at the door. Their present location is not known. e) M. Walker: A new gym has opened on the Greshop Estate. It is good to see the new football park at the Health Centre in use. G. Murdoch asked about the consultation about a Skatepark for Forres. It is being led by FACT to find out local views. G. Hilditch said it was good news that Forres Swimming Pool is to be upgraded. The Pool will be closed for a few weeks. Cllr Creswell advised that Fit Life Cards may be used at any centre in Moray.	I
	Any other Competent Business: a) M. Walker advised that work will start on upgrading Tesco Car Park in the next few weeks and will result in a one way system. 50 000 mono bricks may be available for community use. b) E. Hayward suggested that thanks be sent to the Chief Executive	MW

	<p>for the tolerance and co operation shown by TMC officers who have all done their best to help with any queries. S.Ferris proposed that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive and this was approved.</p> <p>c) L. Creswell reported that a new Church of Scotland Youth Worker has been appointed for a three year term.</p> <p>d) Tesco excess food is being distributed and M. Walker asked for suggestions for recipients.</p> <p>e) L. Cresweel intimated that after the publication of the Health and Social Work Plan she hopes to start a locality group to support lifestyle and wellbeing.</p>	EH
13.	<p>Forthcoming Events:</p> <p>a) FCC Christmas Event: E. Hayward has sent invitations to Kinloss and Findhorn and Dyke Landward Community Councils to attend the December meeting which will be followed by refreshments.</p> <p>b) Krysana Aiger, Findhorn Bay Arts has asked to speak at the February or March meeting.</p> <p>c) Forres Christmas Lights Switch On will be on Saturday 28th November at 5pm. There will be Craft Stalls in the Tolbooth in the afternoon.</p>	EH
14.	Date of next Meeting: Thursday 17 th December 2015 in The Tolbooth at 7.15pm.	

Meeting ended:9.00 pm