



# 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 16th February 2017, 19:15

**Chair:** J. Guthrie

**Attendees:** E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, G. Hilditch, M. Walker, S. Fraser (minutes)

**Also Present:** Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr G. Alexander, G. McCartney (Forres Gazette), 2 members of public

**Apologies:** K. Hardie, S. Moat, C. Rodger, K. Shand, Cllr A. McLean, Cllr A. Skene

FCC - Forres Community Council

JCC – Joint Community Council

TMC - The Moray Council

FAF - Forres Area Forum

Topic	Discussion	Action																		
1.	<b>Welcome:</b> J. Guthrie opened the meeting. Apologies were noted and those present were welcomed																			
2.	<b>Presentation:</b> Alison Smart Service Manager and Roddy Huggan Commissioning & Performance Manager gave a presentation about the Varis Court Housing Development on Leask Road. The partnership project between Moray Council, NHS and Hanover Scotland aims to support older people and people with complex health conditions by providing 33 housed units with onsite care. Varis Court is a pilot model that includes 7 units for dementia care, 21 units of sheltered housing and 5 augmented care units. Based on a Community Nursing Model, the units are homely and self-contained and aim to keep Forres people living in Forres whilst also providing nursing care. It is hoped that the model will be rolled out in Forres and across Moray																			
3.	<b>Election of Chair:</b> J. Guthrie proposed G. Hilditch as Chair, this proposal was seconded by E. Hayward and was unanimously agreed by all other Community Councillors in attendance. J. Guthrie will revert to position of Vice Chair. E. Hayward will notify Jane Martin of this appointment	E.Hayward																		
4.	<p><b>Police &amp; Community Warden Report:</b> During the reporting period for the February 2017 Moray Community Safety Partnership Report, 16 incidents were investigated by the Community Warden in the Forres area including:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="194 1406 1321 1496"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Abandoned Vehicles</th> <th>Neighbours</th> <th>Dog Fouling</th> <th>Noise</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Police Report highlighted the following incidents in the Forres burgh area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Road Traffic Offences:</b> In the Mundole area a 60 year old local man was caught drunk driving and without a license. A 49 year old local man was found to be driving a vehicle without having paid vehicle excise duty. On the A96 in the Forres area, a 25 year old local man was caught driving well in excess of the 60mph limit. A 37 year old Elgin man was caught driving on the A940 Forres to Grantown road whilst under the influence of alcohol</li> <li>- <b>Anti-Social Behaviour:</b> A 17 year old local man was observed via CCTV urinating in Tollbooth Street. The man resisted arrest and assaulted an officer</li> <li>- <b>Possession:</b> Four men aged between 18 to 22 years old were found in possession of personal amounts of class B drugs in separate areas of Forres. A 27 year old local man was found in possession of 2 air weapons without holding appropriate licences</li> <li>- <b>Other:</b> A 56 year old man visiting Forres was charged with misuse of the 999 system</li> </ul>	Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents						Abandoned Vehicles	Neighbours	Dog Fouling	Noise	Other	Total	4	3	5	2	2	16	
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	M. Walker raised concerns that instances of anti-social behaviour reported to the police by staff at Tesco are not being recorded in the Community Safety Report. E. Hayward echoed this same concern in relation to instances of domestic abuse	
5.	<p><b>Public Session:</b> Gareth Edwards was in the public gallery, invited by G. Murdoch as a prospective Community Councillor. Updates were received from Sandra MacLennan which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Money4Moray:</b> 58 applications requesting £172k were received for the £40k available through the Money4Moray participatory budgeting fund for projects working to reduce social isolation. Applications are currently being assessed against fund criteria</li> <li>- <b>Planning for Real:</b> Data collation from the Forres 2020 Vision events is almost complete. The group meets on Wed 8<sup>th</sup> March to plan for the prioritisation events</li> <li>- <b>Keep Moray Beautiful:</b> A new forum has been established working with people across Moray and Keep Scotland Beautiful to help improve litter and fly tipping</li> <li>- <b>Forres in Bloom &amp; BAM Nuttall:</b> BAM Nuttall will be working with Forres in Bloom to help with planting and to construct cold frames</li> </ul>	
6.	<b>Ratification of Minutes:</b> The minute from the FCC meeting held on Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 was proposed by G. Hilditch, seconded by M. Walker and ratified by Chair J. Guthrie	
7.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mosset Burn Silting:</b> A meeting attended by G. Hilditch, G. Murdoch, E. Hayward, Mike Macdonald and Brian McDonald from the Sanquhar Loch working group, Lucy Summers and Graeme Henderson from SEPA, Ken Kennedy and Debbie Halliday from Moray Council, and Robert Laughton from Findhorn, Nairn &amp; Lossie Fisheries Trust. It was highlighted at the meeting that there was an ongoing silting of Mosset Burn and Sanquhar Loch. SEPA confirmed that the waterways were inspected every 6 months and they have found that there is no immediate risk of flooding because of the silting. The water flow down the burn is controlled by the flood alleviation works at Chapelton and this flow could be increased to wash the burn out. There was a general consensus at the meeting that it would be worthwhile to contract a consultant to carry out an investigation into the condition of the waterways, future funding would need to be sought. Regular meetings will continue to be held to keep momentum and conversation about the issue going</li> <li>- <b>A96 Safe Crossing Update: Petition –</b> Signatures for the petition have been gathered by E. Hayward, J. Guthrie and K. Hardie at Co-op and by E. Hayward, J. Guthrie and S. Fraser at Tesco. Further signature collection days and locations will be arranged by E. Hayward. No response has yet been received from Ken Aitken, it is hoped that the most recent accident on the A96 bypass is recorded in Mr Aitken’s investigation.</li> <li>- <b>Land Ownership near Tytler Street –</b> G. Murdoch had meet with a member of public who noted that Network Rail own the land by Tytler Street and a section on the south side of the road. G. Murdoch passed this information to E. Hayward who followed up with Network Rail and acquired maps showing the land ownership boundaries. G. Murdoch noted that from seeing the land boundaries, it would appear that there may be enough land to build a bridge over the A96 to the new train station. E. Hayward will send out a copy of the map and land ownership boundary for all FCC’s to see</li> <li>- <b>Flooding at Property on Califer Road:</b> Cllr L. Creswell has been in touch with the residents of the property effected by the flooding and Debbie Halliday of</li> </ul>	<p>E.Hayward</p> <p>E.Hayward</p>

	<p>Moray Council is aware of the situation and working towards a solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ship to Ship Oil Transfers:</b> C. Rodger is leading on this and due to his absence this matter will be carried forward</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Moray Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr G. Alexander: Council Tax</b> – Confirmed that the Council agreed a Council Tax increase. Properties in Bands A-D will see an increase of 3%, Band E will increase by approx. 10.2%, Band F by 15-16%, Band G 20-21%, and Band H by 26%.</p> <p><b>Council Finances</b> – Highlighted the need for Moray Council to find £10million by September 2018 to avoid bankruptcy. <b>Education</b> – Met MSP John Swinney Cabinet Secretary for Education to put across local issue of teacher shortages in Moray. Cllr G. Alexander also highlighted that education absorbs 44% of the Moray Council revenue budget and feels that the only sustainable educational route is to close some rural schools. The vacant buildings could then be sold off and teaching resources and staff could be more efficiently utilised. M. Walker asked how the future schools capacity would fair with the increase in housing in Forres. Cllr G. Alexander confirmed that schools in Forres had capacity for many years to come even with an influx of new pupils to the area</p> <p><b>Cllr L. Creswell:</b> Reported having a busy month being involved with many aspects of community and council work including; attending dementia funding meeting, continued involvement in Integrated Joint Board, supporting the Mortuary for Moray campaign, attending TSI Moray Forum, visited Mull &amp; Iona Development Trust on a learning visit, was part of the access and equalities group working with Glasgow School of Art in designing an app to assist with everyday living, dealing with a complaint received about the structure and decay of Castlehill Church, and sitting on the panel with Forres Area Community Trust to appoint a part time worker for the Older Person's Project</p> <p>Cllr L. Creswell noted the earlier concerns of M. Walker and E. Hayward regarding anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse reporting and assured that such matters are raised at the weekly Hub Meeting which is attended by representatives from the housing department, social work, and police</p>	
9.	<p><b>Chair's Report:</b> J. Guthrie has continued to support E. Hayward as acting Chair in general FCC business and assisted in collecting signatures in support of a safe A96 crossing</p>	
10.	<p><b>Secretary's Report:</b> E. Hayward discussed key correspondence and matters including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Receiving the second page of the Forres Common Good Accounts from Deborah Brands which had previously not been included when the accounts were released last year</li> <li>- E. Hayward confirmed that the organisation erecting a mast at Forres Golf Club would pay a rental contribution for use of the land and as yet the amount and detail regarding this rental remains confidential</li> <li>- Receiving confirmation that the electronic Tourist Information Points located across Moray will be removed, including the kiosk located outside The Tolbooth in Forres as they are now no longer cost effective to keep running</li> <li>- Notice of consultations for Dallas Dhu and West Pilmuir developments which are open for public feedback</li> <li>- Correspondence from Pam Gowans' Personal Assistant was received on February 14<sup>th</sup> requesting for Ms Gowans to attend tonight's meeting along with Alison Smart and Roddy Huggan, seeking to discuss Leancoil Hospital. Cllr A. Skene had advised by email to accept the offer of Ms Gowans' attendance so as</li> </ul>	

	<p>to find out about the current status of Leancoil. E. Hayward in discussion with Acting Chair J. Guthrie declined this request feeling that the general public should be given notice and included in discussions regarding the local hospital. Cllr L. Creswell felt that a discussion with the general public that included a budget of costs needed to happen and that the public should be involved in the decision making process. Cllr L. Creswell also highlighted that with Purdah soon to be in operation that this will not happen until after the May 2017 elections. S. Fraser proposed that a response be sent to Ms Gowans from FCC requesting clarity with the public of Forres regarding Leancoil and that FCC would like to see a public meeting take place in the near future. This proposal was seconded by J. Guthrie. E. Hayward will action the response</p>	E.Hayward
11.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> Treasurer S. Moat was not in attendance and so a financial update was not presented. <b>Appointment of Signatories:</b> J. Guthrie proposed that the Chair G. Hilditch, Vice Chair J. Guthrie, and Treasurer S. Moat be added as bank signatories. This proposal was seconded by E. Hayward and unanimously agreed</p>	
12.	<p><b>Group and Representative Reports:</b>  <b>Health, Veterans &amp; Disability, K. Shand</b> – K. Shand submitted concerns about the path leading from the pier at Sanquhar Loch down to the falls being inaccessible to people using wheeled chairs. This matter will be referred to the Sanquhar Loch Working Group. K. Shand submitted concerns about the No. 11 &amp; 36 Stagecoach buses not always having level access, making it difficult for disabled and elderly travellers to use the service. E. Hayward will contact Stagecoach regarding this  <b>Business, G. Murdoch</b> – G. Murdoch attended the Joint Community Council at which feedback was being sought about the new Moray Community Safety Partnership Report and encouraged FCC to respond with comments. G. Murdoch praised the Money4Moray process in assisting applicants with presentation skills  <b>Sports, G. Hilditch</b> – Forres Harriers contacted G. Hilditch with news that the group has been chosen to host the UK Veteran Cross Country Championships in 2018  <b>Social Enterprise &amp; Environment, K. Hardie</b> – K. Hardie submitted a written updated of activity including haven attended a meeting with Castlehill Veg Getting Incredible, BAM Nuttall, and Waste Busters AGM  <b>Culture &amp; Social Enterprise, S. Fraser</b> – S. Fraser provided a written update including details of supporting Forres Heritage Trust undertake a public consultation exercise and working to develop the possibility of WiFi being installed in Forres Town Hall</p>	E.Hayward / K.Shand  E.Hayward
13.	<p><b>AOCB:</b> G. Murdoch raised the matter of hearing complaints about cyclists of all ages using pavements. It was advised that such matters could be reported to the local Community Warden</p>	
14.	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting regarding Hill Glaschyle, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 7pm, Edinkillie Hall</li> <li>- You Choose Public Vote, Wednesday 1st March 4-7pm, Forres Town Hall</li> <li>- Youth Entertain Concert, Tuesday 7th March 7pm, Forres Town Hall</li> <li>- Forres 2020 Vision, Wednesday 8th March 7pm, Blue Room Forres Community Centre</li> <li>- Local Hero Joseph Mitchell Lecture, Wednesday 15th March 7pm, The Tolbooth</li> <li>- Forres: a Hotbed of Witches? Lecture, Wednesday 29th March 7pm, The Tolbooth</li> </ul>	
15.	<p><b>Date of next Meeting:</b> Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 7:15pm</p>	

**Meeting ended: 21:10**