



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 (Rent Room), Forres, on Thursday 21st September 2017, 19:15

Chair: G. Hilditch

Attendees: E. Hayward, J. Guthrie, S. Fraser (minutes), M. Walker, G. Murdoch, K. Shand, C. Rodger

Also Present: Cllr C. Feaver, Cllr G. Alexander (later 7:50pm), G. McCartney (Forres Gazette), Ken Major (Moray Council), 4 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr A. McLean

FCC – Forres Community Council JCC – Joint Community Council MC – Moray Council FAF – Forres Area Forum

	Discussion	Action																								
1.	Welcome: G. Hilditch opened the meeting, welcoming those present and noted apologies.																									
2.	<p>Discussion with Ken Major, Senior Engineer for Traffic at Moray Council</p> <p>20 mph High Street Speed Limit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E. Hayward gave an overview about FCC leading on an application to Living Streets to trial a 20mph speed limit along the length of Forres High Street. Forres was not selected for the trail as the project was oversubscribed, though plans to submit a letter for consideration at the next funding round with support from Forres Business Association, Forres Area Forum and Forres Area Community Trust is currently in progress. G. Murdoch highlighted the negative impact of speed, especially that of HGVs, and parking upon the shopping experience in Forres - Mr Major described two possible options that could be implemented on the High Street: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating a <i>20mph Zone</i> and putting in place traffic calming measures and signs to reduce the speed in that zone 2. Putting in place a <i>20mph Speed Limit</i> with signs at either end of the area. This option is only appropriate if the average speed in the area is already around 24mph or less - Mr Major confirmed that he would try to arrange the placement of equipment on the High Street to gather current speed information. The speed survey would take place for 24 hours a day for a one week period. The results of the survey would help to inform whether or not the above options could be investigated further - Following the collection of data the next steps would be to hold a workshop with stakeholders to develop a proposed scheme; the proposed scheme would then be put forward for public consultation. Using feedback from the public consultation, a final plan would be drawn up and a traffic regulation order submitted and approved before construction could place <p>Tolbooth Street</p> <p>G. Murdoch raised concerns on behalf of businesses on Tolbooth Street about possible future changes to parking at the bottom of the street and the inclusion of cycle lane. Mr Major confirmed that any future plans would not be progressed without consultation.</p>																									
3.	<p>Community Warden Report: During the reporting period for the September 2017 Moray Community Safety Partnership Report, incidents were investigated by the Community Warden in the Forres area as follows;</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="8">Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Abandoned Vehicles</th> <th>Dog Fouling</th> <th>Fly Tipping/Litter</th> <th>Neighbours</th> <th>Noise</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Rowdy Behaviour</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Community Warden for the Forres area David Haytack noted in the report his attendance at the Youth Drop-In session at Costa and attending a summer fete at Dyke Primary School. Mr</p>	Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents								Abandoned Vehicles	Dog Fouling	Fly Tipping/Litter	Neighbours	Noise	Other	Rowdy Behaviour	Total	0	1	0	7	3	1	2	14	
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	<p>Haytack had recently dealt with a neighbour noise complaint in relation to bagpipes and an instance of dog fouling.</p> <p>Police Report: The Police Report noted the following incidents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A man in crisis resulted in neighbouring properties being evacuated and the gas supply being cut to the area. The incident was resolved without harm being caused to any person - Road Safety patrols have resulted in offences being detected in relation to carrying passengers in a dangerous manner, drink driving, driving without a licence, no MOT, vehicle excise offences, dangerous driving and tachograph offences - A number of instances of vandalism during the month have been recorded - Shoplifting of alcohol and break in's to property in Dunphail and Kinloss - Catching people in possession of small amounts of cannabis - A small number of assaults across the area were investigated <p>Garry McCartney asked how FCC felt about the Police Report. M. Walker and C. Rodger felt the information was lacking and didn't give a feel for what was going on in the area. G. Murdoch felt that Police time was better spent fighting crime and suggested that a FCC representative met with the Police once a month instead of expecting an Officer to come to a meeting. J. Guthrie proposed that a Police Liaison post be created, this was seconded by E. Hayward. M. Walker offered to fulfil this role when the new FCC forms in October.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A member of the public noted recent flooding on Councillors Walk and enquired if this was due to a fatberg blocking a drain. Cllr C. Feaver did not know if that is what caused the problem, though did confirm Scottish Water has dealt with a blockage - A member of the public enquired about the School Bus parking situation. Cllr G. Alexander confirmed that a complaint had been received about buses parking at Blaven Court and this is being dealt with 	
5.	<p>Ratification of Minutes: The minute from the FCC meeting held on Thursday 17th August was proposed by J. Guthrie, seconded by E. Hayward and ratified the Chair G. Hilditch.</p>	
6.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>a. Community Council Elections: G. Hilditch, E. Hayward and M. Walker attended a canvassing event at Tesco Forres to inform people of the upcoming Community Council Elections. G. Hilditch had election forms present and encouraged people to submit completed forms by Thursday 28th September at 4pm.</p> <p>b. A96 Safe Pedestrian Crossing: E. Hayward had previously sent an invitation to Hamza Yusef to meet with FCC regarding to this subject, no reply had been received. E. Hayward proceeded to write to the Frist Minster to inform her of this matter. J. Guthrie asked if authority from the Chair had been sought to write to the First Minister, E. Hayward confirmed it had not been authorised to which J. Guthrie expressed disapproval. G. Hilditch praised the time and work E. Hayward had given to this matter.</p> <p>c. Local Development Plan, Cancellation: The meeting about the Local Development Plan that was due to take place in Elgin Town Hall on September 14th was cancelled and will be rescheduled.</p> <p>d. Developer Contributions: It has been proposed for several years that traffic lights are installed at the Orchard Road/St Catherine's Road junction. Moray Council has postponed this piece of work owing to the need to receive developer contributions to pay for the work. G. Hilditch enquired about the current situation. Cllr G. Alexander confirmed he had been in touch with Elaine Penny at Moray Council about this subject and was waiting to hear back. Cllr C. Feaver confirmed that there was a hold up due to acquiring land and access to a property in that area.</p>	

7.	<p>Moray Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr G. Alexander's update report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dealt with parking complaints at Blaven Court and at Mannachie - Informed the meeting that the railway line between Inverness and Huntly will be closed from October 6th to 16th as works to complete the line are carried out. This includes the closure of the railway crossing. Drivers will be diverted via Kinloss - Consultations are being carried out by Moray Council with Community Councils about The Local Development Plan. The Main Issues Report will be published in 2018. Cllr G. Alexander urged all to contribute and provide feedback about these plans - Cllr G. Alexander congratulated Tesco Forres in winning the Best Dementia Friendly Community Initiative at Scotland's Dementia Awards for Relaxed Checkouts <p>Cllr C. Feaver's update report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr C. Feaver stressed the importance of members of the public contributing to the Local Development Plan. She also welcomed Councillor's support of the planning team and reported the department was <i>feeling rejuvenated</i> - Attended Health & Social Care meetings looking at how to progress health and social care, including discussions about Leancoil and how to move forward with that facility - Reported positive feedback from Varis Court which has so far prevented 32 people from being admitted to Dr Gray's Hospital - Attended a meeting with Highlands & Islands Enterprise for new Moray Councillors and learnt more about the organisation, the Forres Enterprise Park and Moray Growth Bid - Cllr C. Feaver noted that a third of the Forres Enterprise Park is vacant which is owing to the specific criteria businesses must meet before they can take tenancy. Discussion ensued that it was felt that Forres was lacking in the number of industrial units available 	
9.	<p>Chair's Report:</p> <p>Opening of Hill of Glaschyle Windfarm: G. Hilditch attended the opening of the Hill of Glaschyle Windfarm which has 12 turbines that will generate £138k in community benefit funds. G. Hilditch expressed desire for the funds to be dispersed as widely as possible and will put this case forward when he meets with Alex Laing from the windfarm in due course.</p> <p>Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund: The committee is looking at larger sums of money being put into larger longer term legacy projects. A new Chair is due to be elected in the coming months with the proposal to support larger projects moving forward to be voted on.</p> <p>Mosset Burn: FCC has ring fenced £1,000 to be put towards a survey of the Mosset Burn. There is a possibility of another party contributing the remaining balance that would be needed to pay for the survey and a student may be involved with data collection. G. Murdoch confirmed that Forres Angling Association had submitted a letter of support for the survey to be conducted.</p> <p>Vote of Thanks: G. Hilditch thanked all fellow Community Councillors for the work and support they have given FCC over the years and in particular to J. Guthrie and S. Fraser who were not seeking re-election.</p> <p>October Meeting: G. Hilditch proposed that at the October meeting the newly formed FCC partake in a workshop session to start off the new term with each FCC member contributing their ideas for projects and issues to consider over the coming year.</p>	
10.	<p>Secretary's Report:</p> <p>Noise Complaint: A noise complaint from the works on the railway line had been received through Jane Martin from a resident of Logie Court. Network Rail responded promptly to the complaint. A96 Road Options: David Edgar will attend the October FCC meeting to discuss the A96 dualling options in the Forres area. Regarding this topic, Cllr C. Feaver noted that the full report to Council about the A96 options would be presented on Wednesday 27th September. Moray Waste Busters Survey: An electronic survey has been circulated to FCC members to complete individually. Consultation for Common Good Property: The</p>	

	<p>draft consultation guidelines for common good property have been distributed, responses are required by Friday 29th September. Nelson Tower Planning Application: A planning application for a viewing platform at Nelson Tower had been received by FCC. E. Hayward enquired as to the nature of the proposed changes. Cllr G. Alexander confirmed the planning application was for the permanent placement of a set of binoculars atop the roof of the spiral staircase on a platform enclosed by glass.</p>	
11.	<p>Treasurer's Report: G. Murdoch noted that the update for bank signatories is still ongoing.</p>	
12.	<p>Community Council Members Reports S. Fraser: Attended the most recent Forres 2020 Vision Planning for Real meeting and reported that a draft action plan was now being worked on. It is anticipated that the Action Plan will be finished and presented at a public event in November. S. Fraser also attended the Youth Drop-In session at Tesco Costa and reported a very successful event with over 30 young people dropping in throughout the evening. J. Guthrie: J. Guthrie reported having a busy month attending local coffee mornings and the Dementia Group that meet at the Forres Bowling Club. J. Guthrie has been assisting in relation to an instance of notes being superglued to car window screens in Meikle Crook. G. Murdoch: In relation to the licenses process, G. Murdoch noted that the application form for a public entertainment licence was not clear and had been causing confusion in relation to applying for a one year licence and a three year licence, Cllr G. Alexander confirmed he was looking into this issue. G. Murdoch commented that holding the meeting in the downstairs space was warmer, more comfortable and the space had better acoustics.</p>	
13.	<p>AOCB Cllr G. Alexander gave a vote of thanks for the work and progress made by Forres Community Council over the past 5 years.</p>	
14.	<p>Upcoming Events: Doors Open Day at The Tolbooth & Nelson Tower, Saturday 23rd September 10-4pm Taxi Licences Information Session, Monday 25th September 1pm, Forres Town Hall Rocket Post, Saturday 30th September 3pm & 6:30pm, Forres Town Hall Flu Injections, Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th October, Forres Town Hall Remembrance Parade, Church Service and Wreath Laying, Sunday 5th November Colours of Cluny, Wednesday 8th to Sunday 19th November Wreath Laying Service, Saturday 11th November, Forres War Memorial Forres 2020 Vision Action Plan, Wednesday 15th November, Forres Town Hall (provisional)</p>	
15.	<p>Date of next Meeting: G. Hilditch proposed the next meeting take place on Thursday 5th October.</p>	

Meeting ended: 21:10