

## Forres Community Council

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.00 pm, Forres House Community Centre

**Secretary:** Peter White | **Email:** info@forrescc.co.uk

Attendees - FCC		Attendees - Other
CC Steve Ferris (SF)	Chair	Cllr Paul McBain (PM)
CC David Parker (DP)	Vice Chair	Cllr Kathleen Robertson (KR)
CC Fiona Graham (FG)	Minute Secretary	Cllr Scott Lawrence (SL)
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		Cllr Draeyk Van Der Horn (DH)
CC John Innes (JI)		Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
Peter White (PW)	Admin Secretary	
CC Kenny Shand (KS)		<b>Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance</b>
		Debra Duke (Moray Council CCLO)
Apologies		
Graeme Reid (MoP)		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome, and apologies:</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	SF
2.	<p><b>Community Safety Report:</b></p> <p>The Chair read out the Community Safety Report with the following incidents in Forres.</p> <p><u>Anti-Social Behaviour</u> –</p> <p><u>a.</u> A man was arrested and charged with a communications offense after making threats to harm his ex-landlord to medical staff who reported this to the police. A report is being sent to the procurator fiscal in due course.</p> <p><u>b.</u> A male youth has been arrested, interviewed, and charged for carrying a knife in a public place, causing fear and alarm to two females on their property. He was released on the undertaking of special conditions to protect the victims.</p> <p><u>Acquisitive Crime</u> –</p> <p>a. Within the Forres area there have been two reports of shoplifting from commercial properties. Two people have been identified and held in custody until they appear in court.</p> <p>b. Enquiries are ongoing into theft and fraud whereby a bank card was taken and £500 was withdrawn from the account before they attempted to make an online purchase amounting to almost £200. The male responsible has been identified from CCTV and he will be dealt with in due course.</p>	

	<p><u>Road Safety &amp; Crime –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A male has been reported for using his mobile phone while driving, it was deemed appropriate as the male had other road traffic offenses pending.</li> <li>b. A male has been reported for driving while being three times over the legal drink drive limit for alcohol. A member of the public reported the man’s manner of driving to the police and the driver was then traced at home.</li> <li>c. A male has been charged and has had his vehicle seized by the Police, after it was found to have no insurance, MOT and two tyres were defective.</li> </ul> <p>It was brought up that the report provided a more detailed account of incidents within the Forres area. One query was raised about the report, for the use of commercial property instead of a shop. It was advised that this was done not to target the premises.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Public Session</b></p> <p>Erskine – a representative for Erskine has sent their apologies but has advised once they have received all the necessary planning approvals that they have submitted for the Victoria Hotel, and a start date they will attend our meeting to show what their plans are.</p> <p>Debra Duke – Debra gave a brief look into what her role is, and she advised that she provides support to all seventeen community councils within Moray.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes from the March 2024 meeting.</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the previous month's meeting.  Proposer – John Innes  Seconded – Kenny Shand</p> <p>It was brought up that there was an issue with the email address for the admin secretary as the account had been hacked at the server level. This was rectified but a question has been passed to Debra Duke to query if all community council members can have a Moray.gov email address, therefore, avoiding any future problems like this one.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>Resilience</u> – SF has contacted Colin Buchan to arrange a time to sort out what radios to purchase.</p> <p><u>Scottish Water</u> – The top-up tap is now up and running in Grant Park, ready for the summer season and upcoming events.</p> <p><u>Orchard Road update</u> – One of the managers from Scottish Water has been out and spoken with JI and KR and discussed various options for householders etc, that will be affected by the drains overflowing, costings for the following will be looked at for various flood prevention such as air bricks, non-return valves for showers, etc, flood gates, or replacing front and back doors. They have advised they can go ahead with the air bricks and non-return valves, but an external company would have to be brought in to measure up for external doors and this would have to be submitted to Moray Council Planning due to the age of some of the properties and conservation rules. Also, there is flooding around the old</p>	

laundrette, and the runoff into the Mosset burn. SF questioned that if Scottish Water is not going to do work on the drains, flooding would impact the Veteran's cottages and the school playing field. JI showed him the areas where drain covers come off and are a trip hazard, photos have been taken and appear to have been taken on board by The Scottish Water representative. GMc queried with JI about how other residents near him felt about the ongoing situation, JI advised he had not spoken with the other residents yet but would be. SF mentioned that he would be worried about the effect on the drains if the new school is built there, KR advised all of this is being taken on board. It was brought up that there are also flooding issues around the Councillors Walk area. KSk asked if FCC were to get behind one of the options for the new academy, would this help in any way to get a resolution to the drainage issues? Advised that it would not as the drainage issues would be the same regardless of which site was picked.

High Street Parking – SF asked if there was an update, KSk has advised he has passed it on to Police Scotland, but he has not heard anything due to him being off, and he will find out if there is any progress on his return. SF stated that the big issue is regarding people who park on the zig-zag lines at all the traffic lights, which means pedestrians cannot see if there is traffic oncoming. KSk mentioned there were several cars parked in disabled bays as there were no other spaces available, he also said that there is a poster on the window of the old RBS building that states “CCTV is in operation and drivers will be prosecuted.”

Stagecoach – SF advised that there has been no response from the Transport Forum and is on the agenda of the JCC, he also said that he knows it looks like we are no further along, but we must follow the process. We are waiting to hear back from the Transport Forum with the question of have they heard from any of the other Community Councils of issues with Stagecoach, and the JCC meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. DP and PW advised they have had discussions about Stagecoach and bus routes, but they are still waiting for them to attend one of their meetings. Unfortunately, even if they were to attend the response would be that there are no problems as this is what has been told to the press and FCC members. SF said that we are not prepared to wait for the Transport Forum as the issues that have been brought up to FCC impact the growth within Moray. At the JCC meeting, we shall find out if any of the other community Council have received similar complaints about the service provided, and if they have SF stated he will ask for the JCC to contact our local MSP to get in touch with Stagecoach, these issues are not a local problem it is a national one. GMc mentioned that he has found buses to be running on time on Thursdays and Fridays. GM said that one day when a bus turned up in Lossiemouth it was the first bus in three hours. This sort of service does not help the local economy. Stagecoach have lost drivers to other Companies and this happens every year, but Stagecoach have a timetable of services they provide but they seem to be unable to even manage them correctly and they have increased their ticket prices which affects lots of passengers financially (why pay for a monthly ticket to not be able to get a scheduled bus service on time?). FG advised she has the email addresses for both Highland and Moray Operation Managers. KSk said should we wait to hear from other Community Councils to potentially be the only one with issues being raised, should we contact them first then the others can then join in? SF said he will wait to hear from the JCC meeting and if not, we shall move it forward. FG advised that Stagecoach use a system to upload Tweets to X and there is then a record of the number of buses delayed and cancelled. SF asked FG if she could obtain figures from the start of this year to the

	<p>present day. FG stated she would email the Operation Managers for both depots and mention that there is no comeback (like train travel) for passengers who must take alternative means of travel because of buses not turning up. PW has not had a response from Stagecoach regarding the taxi fare that had to be paid out because his bus did not turn up, he has been advised to contact them a state a date that he wants a reply.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Planning/Licences</b></p> <p><u>Planning</u> – SF advised no planning applications that the FCC needs to comment on.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Action Plan Updates</b></p> <p>a. <u>Resilience</u> – SF advised that he is looking into the radios and is aware this is still outstanding. All the equipment that FCC has procured is now covered under our insurance with Zurich and it has not cost us any additional costs. SF also mentioned that in the past where we have allowed events to be covered under our insurance however if it does not come under the standard policy that DD has with Zurich, we will incur an additional cost and we would have to pass this cost on. As an example, in the Outdoor Gym, we are there for insurance purposes, but the asset is not registered with the Company we need to register it, and this will incur a cost due to the value of the asset and the risks.</p> <p>b. <u>Forres Heritage and Conservation Scheme</u> – This has been rolling on, but Steve advised he has not been to any meetings recently. The next meeting is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. GM stated that a couple of members were supposed to attend the Green Spaces meeting but did not turn up and it feels like it is just a tick-box exercise.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>All emails have been distributed to all members. The main things are the volunteer marketplace run by Jane Munro from DWP on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May in the Town 10-12 and Debra will have a stand there so anyone available to assist would be helpful. The</p>	
9.	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>The current balance in the bank is £6,608.86. The SSEN Grant was £5,249.00 and we have used £1361.20 leaving a balance of £3887.80. From the FCC Admin element is £2,721.06 fund there is £151.93 that came from the Credit Union that we can use on whatever we want unlike the admin, which PW has been paid his part of the secretarial honorarium.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Chairpersons Report</b></p> <p>The Chair has advised that a Portrait of the King has been ordered and Forres Heritage Trust has agreed to display it in the Court Room of the Tolbooth. The</p>	

	<p>Heritage Trust does have a Moray Flag and they have given SF the address of the Company that makes the flags, the Chair is looking to see where to fly the flag. SF is wondering if groups who are holding events in Grant Park could fly the Flag. There are flag poles at Auchernack, Grant Park, Nelsons Tower, and the Tolbooth. GMc queried if the Heritage Trust have a flag why does FCC need to order one. SF advised that the Community Council does not have one and we should have one, but if we do acquire a flag where would we fly it?</p> <p>The Chair advised that a member of the public had emailed in who wanted to raise points about the traffic lights situated around Forres for the various road works that are being carried out and he said the email was directed at the moray councillors. Putting a line down under this email SF stated these meetings are Forres Community Council business and our Moray Councillors are here to support FCC and are not here to be questioned by members of the public.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Moray councillor reports</b></p> <p>All councillors have been busy with regards the consultation events in the Town Hall for the new Academy building, which has been attended not just by parents but other residents in the area. The data received from the consultations, scientific reports will be collated and published which will go to the Education committee to consider the best option to put forward to the full council for approval. The decision will be made by the end of May.</p> <p><b>Cllr Robertson</b> – KR advised of some forthcoming events (noted below).</p> <p><b>Cllr Paul McBain</b> –</p> <p><b>Cllr Scott Lawrence</b> – Had a meeting with regards to the Local Development Plan and how the local place plan feeds into the development plan.</p> <p><b>Cllr Draeyk Van der Horn</b> – DH was sorry to hear about the green heritage side of things that have not panned out as he had hoped and will be following up on this. There will be a conversation taking place with the corporate committee and Transition Town Forres regarding their terms and future. DH also mentioned there is a SEPA consultation currently going on, regarding flooding and flood adaptation (releasing ground to the sea).</p>	
12.	<p><b>Forthcoming Events</b></p> <p>19/04 – Film Forres showing Wonka in the Town Hall  20804 – Film Forres showing Mission Impossible in the Town Hall  28/04 – International Workers Memorial Day Moray council will be doing something on the 29/04 at 9 am  06/6 – D-Day celebration at Findhorn Pier  08/06 -The Royal Regiment of Scotland is getting the freedom of Moray and will be marching down Elgin High Street with Bayonets fixed.  08/06 – MacPiping in Grant Park  01/05-04/05 Photo exhibition in the Tolbooth  05/05 -Forres Theme Day</p>	

13.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><u>David Parker</u> queried an article in the P&amp;J from February about Council Tax collections KR advised the article was slightly misleading as Mory has a high collection rate against other councils.</p> <p><u>Graham Murdoch</u> queried what the cost would be if a community group put a planning application via the community council and if was reduced or not. SF advised that it is reduced by representation would have to be made in person at a Community Council meeting.</p> <p><u>Kenny Shand</u> advised he has chased by about the stop lines at the traffic light at the Mannachie Road/Grantown Road junction and that the line needs to be further back so that lorries and other larger vehicles can turn easily, he is waiting on a response after receiving an OOO. KS has been looking at potholes and uneven roads especially right outside the Fire Station, bottom of Bridge Street, potholes outside Ashers Bakery and uneven road surface opposite Co-Op on the High Street. The question is who would be responsible for the Drain covers sinking.</p> <p><u>Fiona Graham</u> advised that there are a couple of meetings producing regards the Health Centre and Locality Planning Group.</p> <p><u>Kevin Skivington</u> - advised he was tricked into going into see the Tri-shaw bike rides as they are looking for somewhere to store it in the garage that is used by the Osprey Bus. They are looking into licensing the whole ground for the Highland Games and the showies will be instead the grounds rather than outside of it. Osprey bus is potentially looking to park at Transition Town with the possibility of installing CCTV for them, but discussions are ongoing. The Gaff is on as usual with slightly lower number than before. Active Travel AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> April in the Garden Room at the Community Centre.</p> <p><u>John Innes</u> - Spoke to Tez from The Gallery about painting the Gates next to the Post Office leading to the Needle and he has spoken with Home Hardware who will donate the paint and tools.</p> <p>Steve Ferris – will be attending the JCC meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm in the Garen Room in Forres House Community Centre.</p>	