

Forres Community Council

Thursday 16th October 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
CC David Parker (DP)	Vice Chair	Cllr Kathleen Robertson
CC Fiona Graham (FG)	Minute Secretary	
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	
Peter White (PW)	Admin Secretary	
		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
		Henretta Grant Peterkin (MoP)
		Michael Walker (MoP)
Apologies		
CC John Innes (JI)	CC Ken Shand (KS)	Derek Hallis (MoP)
Cllr Van der Horn		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, and apologies:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to this month's meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Community Safety Report:</p> <p>At the time of the meeting the report had not been received, KS advised he will chase up for this report and any others going forward.</p>	SF
3.	<p>Public Session</p> <p><u>Forres Railway Station</u> – SF advised he has written to Scotrail's Director of Public Relations but has not received a response yet. GM advised he had spoken with Scotrail and they stated that the displays would be getting updated within the next couple of weeks. A member of the Explorer Scouts who advised SF that they stay on the other side of town and when they get back into town they sometimes need go to the toilet but, the toilets are in the locked up waiting area and there is no access to one from the outside, and the building is only manned for a couple of hours a day.</p>	MoP
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 19 September 2024.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the previous month's meeting.</p>	

	<p>Proposer – Kevin Skivington Seconded – David Parker</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Outdoor Gym</u> – SF spoke to the Insurance provider and was finding out about Third Party Liability Insurance. The Insurers advised that whoever conducts the safety checks of the equipment the liability lies with them, this would be Moray Council. SF wrote to the Council to let them know that as they conduct the safety checks of the equipment the third-party liability comes under their insurance policy.</p> <p><u>Town Maps</u> – It was brought up if there was any update about who owns the town maps that are situated around the Town. KR asked what maps we were talking about so SF advised where the maps were, and we are looking to update the maps and allow businesses could advertise for a fee which would make the maps self-funding which can then be used to maintain the maps. KR advised she will chase this up to find out who owns them.</p> <p><u>Resilience</u> – SF advised that he had now got the radios and is needing their distance testing.</p>	
6.	<p>Planning/Licences</p> <p><u>Planning</u> - There are no planning concerns that have come through. SF asked if anyone was aware of what is happening with the old dry cleaners on Gordon Street, but no one was able to advise.</p>	SF
7.f.	<p>Action Plan Updates</p> <p><u>Resilience</u> – SF advised himself and Paul attended a meeting to discuss what they are doing, and the Council is gong to produce seasonal posters with information on things to do and not do (e.g. going away in the winter, so turn radiators to low so pipes don't burst) posters will be put up around town.</p> <p><u>Local Place Plan</u> – This is nearing completion, and SF was at a meeting while all documents are correct and completed correctly. The place plan is due to be submitted by the end of November. SF advised that thanks to both Tina Coffey and Sandra MacLennan who have gathered and collated all the necessary documentation for the place plan.</p> <p><u>Community Council Review Scheme</u> – SF advised we need to submit a response if there are any changes that we might want to change. It was discussed about how members should we have as a minimum number to make a quorum. It was decided that our quorum should be four. KSk mentioned that the work that the Community Council and Forres Area Forum are both doing the same things, KR advised that they are 2 separate groups, and the Government stipulated that all local authorities should have a Community Council which is a mandated group, and the forum is for the Forres Area, so it takes in the other Community Councils. KSk asked that someone from FCC should attend FAF and report back to both meetings and</p>	ALL

	update both. It was advised that the Council are preparing a paper on how the Forum should be run, this is due to a lot of duplication.	
8.	<p>Correspondence4</p> <p>There have been no concerns in the correspondence received.</p>	SF
9.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The Treasurer reported that there was £6,370.33, there has been expenses and honorarium paid out since our last meeting.</p>	GM
10.	<p>Moray councillor reports</p> <p>Cllr Kathleen Robertson – KR advised that the councillors have had a meeting regarding the Common Good Fund but are having to look further into it as it would appear there has not been a consistent approach with the funds, so we will have to wait for a further update. The Roysvale football ground is being borrowed for 3 years while the new Academy building is being built in the playing field area of Apple grove Primary School and the only other land that is going to be used is a stretch of Sanquhar Road to enable the buses to have a drop off and pick up area. KR wished to acknowledge the demanding work done over the years by Hunter Duncan who sadly passed away recently. KR advised that the times for Remembrance Sunday service and wreath laying in Forres have changed to 11am wreath laying and the service will be held at 9.45am in St Leonards Church. A survey has been launched with regards to the upcoming budget and it will help the Councils better on what services residents prioritise etc, so all views and feedback appreciated, and there is a drop-in session being held in Elgin. KR told us about a trip she took to Shetland to attend an event with other councils and MSPs where ministers were lobbied on various aspects. KR stated that there is a working group set up to look at the council's policy on mobile phone usage in school, and so a consistent standard is set to go across all schools in Moray.</p> <p>Cllr Paul McBain – PM advised while on recess he was in Canada visiting family and he had the opportunity to speak to local educators and he asked about what if any changes in discipline did they face especially with mobile phone usage and he heard that they found no difference between any of the local schools out there. PM stated that the use of the Common Good Funds that it needs to be opened to more groups/people.</p> <p>Cllr Scott Lawrence – SL advised that he had attended the latest Parent Partnership which is held in the Academy and the main issue was the use of mobile phones, most schools have their own policy but with Moray only having eight secondary schools so to have policy across the area. SL mentioned that the Councillors alongside the housing department carried out a walkabout of the town and the properties that the Council hold and working to establish homes that</p>	

	require new kitchen/bathroom etc, those that are not economically viable and those properties that could be purchased back by the council and repurposed.	
11.	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>18/10 – Iron Giant – Film Club for children 19/10- Coffee Morning in the Town Hall for the Pensioners Club 19/10 -Coffee Morning in St Leonards Church for the Ex-Services Club 22/10 – Forres Academy Parent Partnership AGM 29/10 – The funders from the Forres Cultural and Heritage Scheme are coming back to the town. 01/11 – Stuart Little – Film Club for children 09/11 – Killers of the Flower Moon – Film Club for adults 07/11 – Resilience event being held in Inchberry Hall from 10am to 4pm. 26/11 – Meeting to discuss the keeping going of St Laurence Church – being held in the Community Centre</p>	ALL
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>SF stated while he was speaking at the local scouts, the local commissioner was there to give one of the scouts an award. This scout was returning from a large scouting camp was sat next to a passenger who was blind, and this boy looked after him throughout the whole flight, he helped him to eat and drink, take him the way to the toilet etc and he also helped him off the plane too. The Flight Captain spoke to the scout leader praising the scout and that they have never had anyone do anything like this before.</p> <p><u>Grass cutting</u> – We are still waiting to hear from the council with regards costings, etc.</p> <p><u>Leancoil Hospital</u> – GMc queried any updates about how things are progressing especially with the travellers currently using the site. GM advised the warrant has been issued to evict them from the site.</p> <p><u>Grass Cutting / Resilience</u> – KSk asked if there could be volunteers for the resilience group taken on grass cutting etc like what was done during Covid. GM advised this was asked before but due to insurance this could not be conducted.</p>	
14.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 21st, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room at Forres House Community Centre.</p>	