

Forres Community Council

Thursday 21st November 2024 at 7.00 pm, Forres House Community Centre

Secretary: Peter White | **Email:** info.forrescc@gmail.com

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	Cllr Scott Lawrence
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
CC John Innes (JI)		
CC Derek Hallis	Co-opted Member	Members of the Public (in attendance
CC Michael Walker	Co-opted Member	Henretta Grant Peterkin
		Judith Binney (Active Travel)
Peter White (PW)	Admin Secretary	
Apologies		
Cllr Van der Horn	CC Kenny Shand	

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, and apologies:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to this month's meeting.</p> <p><u>02/11/2024 – Bonfire Night</u> SF advised that November is a busy month for Forres starting off with the fireworks and bonfire, he was aware that there were some technical issues and unfortunately some people thought it was ok to go on social media to complain about the events of the evening which is upsetting considering the event is put on by the volunteers of the Forres Rotary Club.</p> <p><u>10/11/2024 -Remembrance Day Parade</u>, this was a fantastic turn out from the large variety of youth groups who turned up which included brownies, cubs, scouts and guides whose leaders do a marvellous job with the local youths.</p>	
2.	<p>Community Safety Report: Below is the information supplied by Police Scotland for the month of October 2024.</p> <p><u>Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Six reports were received of Assault. One person has been charged and will appear at court on a later date. Two persons has been issued a Recorded Police Warning. One youth has been charged and referred to the Youth Justice Management Unit (YJMU). 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Positive lines of enquiry are ongoing for the remaining incidents. 4. One person has been charged and kept in custody following reports of Threatening and Abusive behaviour. Enquiries are ongoing for a further two reports. 5. One person has been arrested and charged in connection with wilfully ill-treating a child. 6. One person was traced and kept in custody following reports of a Breach of Bail. 7. One person has been charged after being found in possession of a controlled substance. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal. <p><u>Acquisitive Crime:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nine reports of Theft have been made this month. Two persons have been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with these. Positive lines of enquiry are ongoing for the remaining. 2. There have been three reports of Vandalism. Enquiries remain ongoing utilising CCTV and house to house opportunities. 3. One report of Fraud was made following a local resident purchasing an item from Gumtree and not receiving the item. Enquiries are ongoing. <p><u>Road Safety & road crime:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two persons have been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal regarding Careless Driving. 2. Following reports of a vehicle being driven in a dangerous manner, one person has been charged and reported for Dangerous Driving. 3. One person was arrested, charged, and released to appear at court on a later date in connection with driving whilst over the prescribed limit of alcohol. 4. Two persons have been issued Fixed Penalty Notices in connection with driving whilst using a mobile telephone. 5. Five reports were made of vehicles failing to stop after accidents. Positive lines of enquiry are ongoing for these incidents. 	
3.	<p>Public Session</p> <p><u>Active Travel</u> – Judith Binney came to tell us about Active Travel and about the areas in Forres where cycle paths are needed, especially in our current climate with regards to the cost of living and how expensive it is to run car and so if there are more safe routes in and around Forres more people would feel safe and parents would feel happier that their child(ren) are out and about in relatively safely. Judith showed some photos of areas around Forres and of the entrances to Grant Park, some of which have been changed and some that still need to be done. One area they are wishing to go, is to join the path that currently connects Findhorn to Forres, with a continuation down the bypass all the way to the train station. They are aware that there are difficulties for any of the various areas in and around town.</p> <p><u>Future of the Libraries Consultation</u> - Sf advised about the consultation that is currently taking place about the future of some of the libraries in the Moray area. There are plans to make four area libraries and the remaining ones are under threat. SF asked for everyone to take part in the consultation to help ensure the future of the libraries as there are other things done in the libraries beside issuing of books. One such service is the NearMe NHS hospital appointment service.</p>	

4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 17th October 2024.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the previous month's meeting.</p> <p>Proposer – Kev Skivington Seconded – Steve Ferris</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Forres Railway Station</u> – SF received a holding email from Scotrail advising they will respond in a couple of weeks. <u>Community Council Co-option</u> – During the meeting 2 new Community Councillors were co-opted into the Community Council.</p>	
6.	<p>Planning/Licences</p> <p><u>Planning</u> – There was nothing that needed following up. SF asked for someone to look over the planning on behalf of FCC. KSk stated he would be happy to do this.</p>	
7.f.	<p>Action Plan Updates</p> <p><u>Resilience Planning</u> – SF attended the attended the Moray Councils planning event that was held at Inchberry Hall. He advised that it was extremely helpful and there were some clever ideas. SF also advised that they create and use a Facebook group for Resilience. With regards to radios SF is going to speak to the people at Torphins to see what they use as they have used there is quite a bit.</p> <p><u>Local Place Plan</u> - Laura Cameron has put together the Place Plan and there is a meeting being held the following week to ensure all I's are dotted and Ts crossed. Therefore, it will be able to be used by the Council in the local development plan.</p> <p><u>Forres Community Heritage and Culture Scheme</u> – A meet the funders event was held on the 29th October which hopefully they will give Forres funding of £3.4 million for the development of the High Street in a cultural and heritage mode (mainly the built heritage, ensuring roofs and walls are secure and done in a heritage manner. They were overly impressed with everything that has been done and the variety of ages.</p> <p><u>Advertising</u> – SF advised that we need to improve or visibility in the local community, he added that FG has been doing quite a bit on Facebook, on FCC page but also on other local pages. It had been discussed about getting banners, sail like shaped flags, polo shirts and shell jackets. KSk he will look around to what we could get and prices and provide us with costs. Business cards were also mentioned, and this is going to be investigated.</p>	(ALL

8.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There has been from Paul Henderson if Moray Council about the Town Centre improvement Plan for Forres and they are now looking at the museum square, and a consultation is being held on 27th of November between 2pm – 6pm in The Tolbooth. SF I trying to find out how this links in with the Scottish Heritage and Cultural Schem. SF also noted that there were now only three vacant premises on the High Street.</p>	
9.	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>GM advised there was £6,673.33 in the bank account.</p>	
10.	<p>Moray councillor reports</p> <p>Cllr Kathleen Robertson – KR advised that it has been terribly busy lately due to discussions with all cross-party members regarding the following years budget. She also advised that even if the Scottish Government increase the funds, it will not be enough, and Council Tax will have to rise. The Council are looking at Community based services rather than just cutting everything. KR advised that the information signs around the town were funded by an earlier heritage grant, and they are owned and are supposed to be maintained by the Council. SF asked if those who are doing community service would be allowed to paint the gates at the post officer and the information boards, also he stated that the information signs in Dornoch beside having a map also advertise local events that are going on in the town.</p> <p>Cllr Paul McBain – PM advised that he attended the Leancoil public session, and they had pictures up showing their next steps and they have been given permission to knock down the old maternity ward, and it was a very positive event and things are moving in the right direction for them. Luckily, the travellers have left the site even though they left a caravan. Other meetings Paul has attended are housing, he also had a site visit for a planning application for 170 new homes in Buckie of which forty-five will be social housing. The following week they have an education meeting. He has also attended a variety of different things around Moray which included the Local Place Plan at Funderne, wind farm extension.</p>	
11.	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>27/11/24 -Museum Square Consultation – Forres Town Hall. 30/11/24 – Christmas Lights switch on. 01/12/24 – Forres Christmas Market at the old Tesco site 5/12/24 – Military Wives Choir singing at St Laurence Church</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p><u>Graham</u> – mentioned about the funding for Community Councils, as some do not have access to a Moray Council owned premises and so are having to use most if not all the grant that they receive. So, a review of the funding restructure is going to be investigated. KR advised it is being reviewed by Corporate.</p> <p><u>Steve</u> – Advised about the Just Transition funding voting is open and he encourages everyone to go online and vote, although you must vote for ten</p>	

	<p>projects. Steve also mentioned the Christmas market organisers are planning to hold four markets a year and as they are being held on a Sunday it is bringing much needed visitors to the town, and we are lucky enough to only have three vacant shops on our high street.</p>	
14.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 16th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room at Forres House Community Centre.</p>	