

Forres Community Council

Thursday 16th January 2025 at 7.00 pm, Forres House Community Centre

Secretary: Fiona Dunsmuir | **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 Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	Cllr Scott Lawrence
CC Fiona Dunsmuir (FD)	Secretary	Cllr Van der Horn
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		
CC John Innes (JI)		Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
CC Michael Walker (MW)		
		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
		Henrietta Grant-Peterkin
		Lorna Cresswell
Apologies		
CC Derek Hallis (DH)		
CC Ken Shand (KS)		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, and apologies:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were recorded as above. SF told the meeting that Peter would no longer be conducting the role of Admin Secretary, but as of now this will be done by Fiona Dunsmuir. SF wanted it minuted that he wanted to thank Peter for the work he has conducted and with the help he has given Steve.</p>	
2.	<p>Community Safety Report:</p> <p>The Community Safety Report for December is as follows –</p> <p><u>Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There were three reports of vandalism in the Forres area in December 2024. One incident remains undetected, however the other two have positive lines of enquiry ongoing to identify those responsible. b. There were five incidents of threatening and abusive behaviour reported. Four have been detected, two of which resulted in persons being kept in police custody to appear at court the following day, the other two saw persons issued with recorded police warnings. The remaining report has positive lines of enquiry being followed up. 	

	<p>c. There was one incident of theft by housebreaking at one of the local businesses. It currently has positive line of enquiry ongoing and awaiting forensic analysis results.</p> <p>d. Two persons were found to be in possession of class B drugs. One person was issued with a recorded police warning and the other is linked with another case which is pending lab results.</p> <p>e. One person was traced and kept in police custody to attend court the following day for failing to comply with the conditions of their bail.</p> <p>f. Here were nine reports assaults in the month of December 2024. One was dealt with by means of a recorded police warning. Three involved a group of youths who have been referred to the youth justice management unit for suitable disposal. One person was arrested, charged, and released to appear at court later. One assault was committed by a child who is below the age of criminal responsibility. Suitable measures have been put in place for this child. Two assaults currently remain undetected and have enquiries ongoing.</p> <p><u>Acquisitive Crime:</u></p> <p>a. Three reports of theft by shoplifting. Officers are utilizing various lines of enquiry, including CCTV to try and identify persons responsible.</p> <p>b. One report of a person using another’s card to withdraw cash from various cash machine’s both locally and further afield. One person has been identified on CCTV and efforts are being made to trace this person.</p> <p>c. One report of theft of pedal cycle. Remains undetected, however positive lines of enquiry are ongoing.</p> <p>d. There was one report of fraudulent activity on a person’s credit card whereby transactions were taking place in America, while the person was at home in Scotland. This currently remains undetected; however, the complainer has received all the fraudulently spent funds back into their account.</p> <p><u>Road Safety & road crime:</u></p> <p>a. Four persons issued with £100 fine for driving with no valid MOT on their vehicles.</p> <p>b. One person failed to stop at a red light and was issued with a £100 fine and three penalty points.</p> <p>c. Five persons will be reported to the procurator fiscal for driving under the influence of drugs.</p> <p>d. One person reported to the procurator fiscal for driving with no insurance. Another person issued with a £300 fine and six penalty points.</p> <p>e. One person issued with £100 fine for driving with number plates that did not conform to the required legislation.</p> <p>f. One person issued with £100 fine and three points for stopping their vehicle on a puffin crossing.</p> <p>g. One person issued with £100 fine and three points for careless driving.</p>	
3.	<p>Public Session</p> <p><u>Forres Area Community Trust</u> – Lorna Cresswell advised the members at the meeting with an update of things at FACT. In December, the AGM was held, and Lorna is currently in a job-sharing role that has been run since October and will carry on until the end of March. At the AGM the Chair stepped down</p>	

	<p>from the Board and subsequently they have come off the Board at the weekend. Also, the lady that Lorna jobs shares with is moving back to Fife at the end of the month, therefore her job will be advertised as has the Chairs role of which they have received eight applications. Lorna has been doing the work of producing and sending off applications for funding and have so far been successful with one which will help to create a digital hub in the building. They have had some people from the Criminal Justice Community Service teams, and they have been doing some painting in the Town Hall. SF mentioned that we must work more closely with FACT and the Forum so that we do not do work on the same thing, for example a couple of the groups are both looking into signage.</p> <p><u>Transition Town Forres</u> – Steve Ferris informed meeting attendees have given notice to Moray Council of their intention to disband. The Information was in a meeting that SF read out. Steve advised he is not on the board so unfortunately, he cannot expand further but he aware that future was placed under a lot of scrutiny and there were issues in the plan, but due to the board decided to send in their notice to quaint. This will be a big loss to the town and the community as they were helping to teach people how to grow and cook food, as well as other things.</p>	
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 16th January 2025.</p> <p>These were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Proposed: John Innes Seconded: Michael Walker</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Active Travel</u> –SF advised that he had received a letter from Judith of Active Travel has advised they had received feedback from the consultation that were on Facebook, Gazette and a lot of the feedback has raised questions, positive and negative feedback, so this will be something to keep an eye on.</p> <p><u>Forres Railway Station</u> – SF advised that he and Henrietta have been reviewing various areas at the Forres Station. One area that has been discussed is the signs around the station, of which some have been changes / updated. Other areas brought to the attention of FCC was the ticket only open for a sort period (this is the same around a vast majority of the stations), the other was about not having access to a toilet when the station is closed (Scotrail are going to look into this matter) Another was that there is no bus service to and from the station. Suggestion that the local 314 bus service goes to the station intime for the incoming trains.</p>	
6.	<p>Planning/Licences <u>Planning</u></p> <p>a. No planning applications from Forres residents.</p>	
7.f.	<p>Action Plan Updates</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Resilience - Steve advised he had tried another radio, but he could only get as far as 2.5 miles range which is not enough, so it looks like the more expensive ones will have to be bought. b. Local Place Plan – This now with Moray Council and it is waiting for feedback before it goes on to a 28-day consultation, but we have been advised that the department are short staffed, so things are taking a little longer. c. Forres Cultural and Heritage Scheme – SF advised that they had hoped to have received a response by now, but we shall have to wait for their response. d. Advertising – We are looking to see how we can benefit the Community Council,FD brought in business card that she had printed previously and KSk will investigate getting large banners made so we can show where we are (e.g. Meeting nights). So KSk will look at prices using the same letterhead as like the top of our minutes. 	KSk
8.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>SF read out an email received from CEIS who are holding an event in Elgin, and they are working with Moray Council and TsiMoray and they want to get responses to discover benefits to the local communities. SF will see if anyone could attend on behalf of FCC.</p> <p>A letter was received from a small charity - The Association of Northern Trails Scotland, their development manager Kenny Macelroy is looking for legislative support in appointing new development manager who will oversee the Journey to Inverness as well as some other routes in the north of Scotland, They are looking to see if FCC would sign one of their letters of support.</p>	
9.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>GM advised that the current balance in the bank is £6,730.33. He has two emails from Peter White for his honorarium, part of the balance is from the SSEN money and there is rates and mileage. GM asked if someone could help just to check our year-end figures.</p>	

10.	<p>Moray councillor reports</p> <p>Cllr Robertson – Mentioned that Scott had said most of what has been happening. The Council have appointed their new Chief Executive who is Karen Graves, and she is coming down from Orkney.an exciting new chapter for the Council. The Councils Budget Day is 26th February. At Lossiemouth they are collecting the residents Christmas trees to be planted along the coastline to prevent coastal erosion. KR also mentioned that all holly wreaths laid down in the local cemeteries will be removed by the 10th of February. Kathleen announced that people should get the flu jab.</p> <p>Cllr Paul McBain - Mention that the M. connect Phase 2 will be in the Community Centre on the 7th of January and on the 5th of March.</p> <p>Cllr Scott Lawrence - There is a lot going on at present with meetings and the upcoming budget. SL attended a meeting in Elgin about the closure of the St Giles shopping centre, there were a lot of positive things said about Forres and how many shops the high street has. SL also advised the Council are helping the businesses where possible.</p> <p>Cllr Draeyk Van Der Horn – Advised that he did not have much more to say. He did mention about the Local Place Plan as he thought they would have been completed by the end of January, where SF mentioned the end of February. SF advised that our Local Place Plan was with the Council.</p>	
11.	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>17/01 – Film Forres screening for Adults ‘The Good Liar’ 18/01 – Quiz Night being held in Forres Town Hall. 20/01 – M. Connect Drop-In Session of phase 2 in Forres Community Centre 1-4pm 05/03 - M. Connect Drop-In Session of phase 2 in Forres Community Centre 10-1pm</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>There was no further business</p>	
14.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th February 2025, 7.00 pm. Venue: Function Room at Erskine Veterans Activity Centre.</p>	