

Forres Community Council

Thursday 20th March 2025 **Venue:** Garden Room, Forres House Community Centre

Secretary: Fiona Dunsmuir | **Email:** info.forrescc@gmail.com

| Attendees – FCC | | Attendees - Other |
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| CC Steve Ferris (SF) | Chair | Cllr Kathleen Robertson (KR) |
| CC David Parker (DP) | Vice Chair | |
| CC Graham Murdoch (GM) | Treasurer | Donna Jamieson (DJ) Community Warden |
| CC Fiona Dunsmuir (FD) | Secretary | |
| CC Kev Skivington (KSk) | | |
| CC John Innes (JI) | | Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press) |
| CC Michael Walker (MW) | | |
| CC Derek Hallis (DH) | | |
| | | Members of the Public |
| | | Henrietta Grant-Peterkin |
| | | Lorna Cresswell |
| | | Susan Boyd |
| Apologies | | |
| Cllr Van der Horn (DvdH) | CC Ken Shand (KS) | Dave Brown |
| Cllr Scott Lawrence (SL) | | Ian Jones |
| Cllr Paul McBain (PM) | | Christine MacFarquar |

| Item | Discussion | Action |
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| 1. | <p>Welcome, and apologies:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone from the public to the meeting. Apologies were recorded as above. SF advised that he has a meeting with the Chief Exec of Erskine about going back to use their room.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Community Safety Report:</p> <p>The Community Safety Report has been issued in a new format and is to be issued quarterly.</p> | |

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| 3. | <p>Public Session:</p> <p><u>Forres Railway Station</u> – Henrietta advised that the three advertising notice boards have now been updated.</p> <p><u>Road Safety</u> – Dave advised that when residents are exiting Mannachie Avenue onto Mannachie Road is difficult due to the amount of traffic on the road, cars park on one side of the road, vegetation that obscured driver visibility. DB suggested a couple of workable solutions which included reducing the vegetation, putting up speed limit signs as well as school children crossing as quite a few children cross the road when going to and from school.</p> <p><u>Road Safety</u> – Ian Jones stated he and David were on the same wavelength regarding the traffic going up and down Mannachie Road. He advised that a traffic survey was conducted by Moray Council in May 2024. He also mention that the road was in a very bad stated after having a large volume of heavy lorries going up and down the road, Ian advised he used to work in the construction industry, and they used to have to do specific surveys and he was surprised Springfield have not had to do this.</p> <p><u>Road Safety</u> – Derek Hallis – DH advised he had spoken to Colin Matheson from Moray Council Road Safety Team and Derek shared that all residential areas in Scotland will be 20mph speed limits, although there is no definite date of when this will be done. Derek advised that there is a blind spot on Falconer Avenue and there will be someone will be injured due to vehicles driving over the speed limit. KSk asked if anyone had gone to the Police to do speed checks in these areas. KR advised there are things the Council can do to help, although one change (20mph speed limit) will only be done in Moray when this Scottish Parliament mandate the change and that they also fund it. KR will go back to the Council and follow up on somethings that could be done.</p> <p><u>Forres Bypass</u> – Kathleen was asked if the A96 bypass ever goes ahead would more council put a word in in support of bypass? KR stated that there have been substantial changes to Forres they recognise that Forres needs the bypass and agrees that it should be built on the south side of the town.</p> <p>SF advised that there is not a lot we can do but by bringing it up at our meeting, some resolutions have come about and, if David and Ian join Derek as they are all working for similar problems in different areas of the town.</p> <p>Illegal parking on High Street – this Has been an issue that has been discussed regularly and one thing that does not help is that the parking restriction that have not changed for decades and this is a police issue, but we have a warden, but she can only advise drivers. GMC advised that he has been attending FCC meetings, and this has always been an. Due to not having Traffic Wardens or Police presence so there is no deterrent for those who park illegally. KSk asked if there Is something that FCC could do before our next meeting. SF advised that any suggests contacting Forres Business Association, so KSk advised he would be happy to do that.</p> <p><u>Forres Area Community Trust</u> – Lorna advised that they now have a full board (12 members), and they met for the first time on Monday (16th March). They have managed to get the Mechanics, and she would like to see it used to get people who do not use the hall, like people with disabilities and their unpaid carers to come in and try something they have not done before and to socialise with others. The Ops</p> | |
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| | <p>Manager leaves at the end of the month, and Lorna in her current role also finishes at the end of the month. The hall has now completed phase one of the upgrade and will be moving the phase two once the snagging list from phase one (the roof) is completed. FACT is planning a volunteer job opportunity, a board showing any vacancies for any of the groups in Forres example a secretary or treasurer.</p> <p><u>Forres Area Forum</u> – DP advised that they had received a complaint about the intercom at the Police Forres Station not working, SF advised that it was not faulty it was no longer connected as the station had gone digital and the intercom used an analogue system. David also advised that there £3.5 left in the Developers contribution funds, funds are out to those who apply and meet a certain criterion.</p> <p>KSk advised that he and other FACT board members wanted to thank Lorna for her hard work over the past six months as if it were not for her the believe it would have folded. SF also wanted to pass on the thanks from FCC.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Ratification of Minutes 20th February 2025.</p> <p>These were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Proposed: Michael Walker Seconded: John Innes</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Co-option</p> <p>Christine MacFarquar wanted to join FCC, she told us a bit about herself, and that she has worked on social and environmental issues and would like to do this with the community council. SF advised that we needed to vote on it, Michael and Derek cannot vote on this, but they can do when they have been in for 6 months.</p> <p>Proposer – Steve Ferris Secunder – Fiona Dunsmuir</p> <p>All attending members voted in favour.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Planning/Licences <u>Planning</u> There were no applications that required additional attention.</p> | |
| 7.f. | <p>Action Plan Updates</p> <p><u>Resilience</u> – SF advised that there is an underspend within the Council and FCC had £600 to spend, so after discussions we acquired lanterns, six rucksacks, six individual first aid kits, hard hats, gloves, head torches. Hi viz jackets.</p> <p><u>Forres Cultural and Heritage Scheme</u> – There has still been no update on whether we have successful in getting the funds.</p> <p><u>Local Place Plan</u> – SF advised that Laura is now going to do the mapping, and it will go through council then it will go to consultation before it is finally approved.</p> | KS/SF |

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| | <p>Notice Boards – FAF advised that FCC were too responsible for the upkeep. Someone within the Council heard this and due to an underspend, they advised the will resolve the issues with the notice boards.</p> | SF |
| 8. | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>No additional correspondence received out with the usual monthly emails received.</p> | FG |
| 9. | <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>GM advised there is £7,664.60 this is made up the admin grant received from Moray Council, resilience funds for equipment, the funds that were received from SSEN which is also for resilience spending, and lastly our own funds. GM asked about the email from Debra regarding the equipment on the asset register and if the outdoor gym would be added. SF advised the resilience equipment will be added but with regards the gym, Moray Council do the safety checks and therefore if anything happens it comes from the Councils third party liability insurance.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Moray councillor reports</p> <p>Cllr Robertson – The budget has been approved from all parties. The mobile phone consultation has gone live, this is to decide on mobile phone possession and use in school both in primary and secondary schools. Moray Councils new Chief Executive started (Karen Graves). There has been a call out for volunteers for the Falconer Museum. There is talk from Andy Wightman that has been organised by Forres Academy.</p> <p>Cllr Paul McBain – was not in attendance.</p> <p>Cllr Scott Lawrence - was not in attendance.</p> <p>Cllr Draeyk van der Horn - was not in attendance.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p><u>24/03</u> - Forres Osprey Bus are having their AGM 6m in the Garden Room, Forres House Community Centre</p> <p><u>25/03</u> – Speaker Andy Wightman, Evening to hear about the Common Good Fund, Forres Town Hall, 7pm (advised Forres Area Forum have funded this event so to make it free to the public)</p> <p><u>26/03</u> - Film Forres are holding their AGM in the Tolbooth.</p> <p><u>30/03</u> - Mother's Day, Forres Market.</p> <p><u>17/05</u> - The Forres Market.</p> | |

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| 12. | <p>AOCB</p> <p><u>Scottish Week</u> – Lorna asked if the Community Council would be interested in running / help with running this and other events that take place? Lorna will speak to George Alexander for what any help would entail.</p> <p><u>Community Warden</u> – SF asked Donna how she is getting on and if there is anything that FCC can do to assist her in anyway, DJ said just get the word out and get people to say hello if they see her.</p> <p><u>VE Day</u> – KR advised of what is happening in Elgin on the day. SF asked if FCC wish to buy a flag and fly from the Tolbooth.</p> | |
| 13. | <p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th March 2025, 7.00 pm. Venue: Garden Room, Forres House Community Centre.</p> | |