

Forres Community Council

Thursday 17th April 2025 **Venue:** The Garden Room, Forres Hose 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 Scott Lawrence
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	
CC Fiona Dunsmuir (FD)	Secretary	
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		
CC John Innes (JI)		Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
CC Ken Shand (KS)		
CC Michael Walker (MW)		
CC Christina MacFarquhar (CM)		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
		Sue Llyod
Apologies		
Cllr Van der Horn	CC Derek Hallas	
CVllr Robrtydon		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, and apologies:</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone from the public to the meeting. SF explained what the Community Council is and what we do. Apologies were recorded as above.</p>	
2.	<p>Community Safety Report:</p> <p>We received a new Community Safety Report and SF read out the opening report from the local Police Inspector.</p> <p>SF advised that the outdoor gym (at a cost of £86,270.96) and it has now had three instances of property damage as well as a piece of equipment stolen.</p> <p>SF said he had spoken to police about the latest instance, and he was advised there were no lines of enquiry. KS asked if the CCTV at the school that covers the gym, but no one is sure if it does. SF stated that people in the community worked hard to raise the funds to get the gym, which the community wanted and now that it is being vandalised is disappointing.</p> <p>There was a bit about Electric Bikes and Scooters are under Scots Law they are illegal. They can be ridden on private land with the owners permissions as stated by KSk that after all the time we have been asking for more information we are now getting less. It is not town specific, mainly Moray wide.</p>	

	<p>Click Here to view the report.</p>	
3.	<p>Public Session</p> <p>There were no members of the public in attendance to give an update.</p> <p><u>Forres House Community Centre</u> – No update given</p> <p><u>Forres Area Forum</u> -No update given</p> <p><u>Forres Area Community Trust (FACT)</u> – KSk advise that Lorna Cresswell was now a volunteer, and a new chair should be in post next week, and everything was running smoothly.</p>	
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 20th March 2025.</p> <p>These were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Proposed: David Parker Seconded: Kenny Shand</p> <p>It has been brought up about the minutes of the previous meeting, should a copy go on display at the community centre before it has been ratified, if it's wrong should we display it. However, something needs to be displayed for the members of the public to see as they do not get it emailed out to them.</p> <p>It was suggested that the minutes get generated in the first two weeks since the meeting and is sent to all Community Councillors to check, once all are happy, they get displayed for the week before the next meeting. SF asked FD if it was possibly to complete this in the timescales, FG advised this can be done.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Resilience</u> – SF advised that they have now received all the kit from Moray Council, which includes Lanterns, first aid kit, Hi viz vests, torches and gloves.</p> <p><u>Local Place Plan</u> - The consultation period has begun, and the document has been sent out to all</p> <p><u>High Street Parking</u>- KSk attended FBA to discuss issues and possible solutions, he also wanted to speak to our Police Inspector about changing parking spaces on the High Street, but he has been off during this time</p>	
SF 6.	<p>Planning/Licenses</p> <p><u>Planning</u> – there was applications did not warrant comments.</p>	
7.f.	<p>Action Plan Updates</p>	

	<p><u>Resilience</u> – SF advised we now have all the kit in apart from radio. SF also advised that after talking to several people good long-range walkie-talkies do not work inside, SF has spoken to someone who can build an aerial to plug-in to a handheld radio enabling all users to speak to one another. SF asked if current member to set up for an interview and pictures to get publicity to get more volunteers.</p> <p><u>Forres Cultural and Heritage Scheme</u> – SF advised that this is now live and the Forres Cultural and Heritage Scheme Management Team are having their first meeting on 29th April, and they will be looking to get clearance to place an advert for a Project Manager/Officer for the Scheme. The whole funding pot is £3.4 million and this can be used for upskilling of local companies who are doing various jobs such as slate roofing, etc.</p> <p><u>Clovenside</u> – CM advised that there is a consultation on the Comon Good Land at Clovenside and CM stated only a couple of weeks prior KR committed on behalf of the council to publish maps of all the Common Good Land. CM asked what the process is before, during and after the public consultation. GMc stated he had been in touch with the Baptist Church who advised they had been given a price, so why is there a consultation taking place if a price has been agreed? SL responded by saying when someone makes an application to purchase land it starts the statutory process which means a consultation has to take place, it will then go in front of all the councillors who will see all documentation regarding the application and the councillors have to decide on whether they collect the full amount and pass the fund into the common good or to continue collecting the rent. SL advised he will take a list of questions all to do with the full process is to do with the common good, and he has stated that he will speak with an officer in the council and see if they would agree to meet with community councillors and the costs meeting would not come out of Forres Common Good.</p>	
	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>SF read out a letter from Forres in Bloom asking for letter of support for them as they want to do a Community Asset Lease for the grounds where the Greenhouses and ground are, that they have been maintaining for a decade. SF asked if we were happy for him to send a letter of support and all agreed.</p> <p>The second letter received from Christina who is part of the Friends of Falconer Museum, who stated that a discussions with The Moray Council that are at a point on the future opening of the museum and they wanted to know if two reports recently release by the Council would be appearing on the next FCC meeting Agenda and if any of the Friends of Falconer Museum could help in any way. SF asked if we could help the Friends of the Falconer Museum? SL advised to FCC a bit more clarification about the opening of the Museum and the artifacts. SF advised that he would send them a letter.</p> <p>SF announced that he had received a letter of complaint from Yvonne about his handling of the Andy Wightman talk as well as herself, she was very dismayed of how he handled it. SF advised he was quite stressed at that meeting but gives his apology in front of all Councillors.</p>	

9.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Treasurers report. As of today, we have £7,660.35 in the bank and we have also received from Debra Duke the admin grant for £636.13, GM advises he has received a claim form for the VE Day Flag.</p>	
10.	<p>Moray councillor reports</p> <p>Cllr Paul McBain – Advised he attended most of the meetings Scott did apart from the Leancoil one as he is on the Planning Committee and he must be impartial. One thing that is out is a consultation on mobile phones in classrooms. Housing issues is that there are a lot of smaller properties but there is also a need for larger houses to help keep families together. The Council new Chief Executive (Karen Graves) started this month, and she comes from Orkney and brings a lot of knowledge with her as she has worked in a lot of areas within Local Council.</p> <p>Cllr Scott Lawrence - Advised they had an event with Councillors and officers on how we see the Council going forward. He attended an event to discuss local housing strategy and this was councillors, officers, housing associations and charities looking at Moray and what is needed for the future. He also attends the Leancoil event and what is going into the building etc. The latest Health and Social Care meeting was held, and He stated there is a lot of strain NHS Grampian are facing and as normal more people are requiring their services.</p> <p>SF asked if the new Chief Executive would like to come along to one of our meetings and both councillors agree they were sure she would like to.</p>	
11.	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>The Forres Market will be on the 17/05/2025. Film Forres are holding their AGM on 26/03/2025 in the Tolbooth.</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB</p>	
14.	<p>Date of Next Meeting -</p> <p>The next Forres Community Council meeting will be held on Thursday 15th of May 2025 in The Garden Room, Forres House Community Centre, High Street, Forres.</p>	