

Forres Community Council

Thursday 19th June 2025 **Venue:** The Cafe, Forres Hose Community Centre

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

Attendees – FCC		Attendees - Other
CC Steve Ferris (SF)	Chair	Cllr KathIn Robertson (KR)
CC David Parker (DP0)	Vice Chair	Cllr Paul McBain (PM)
CC Fiona Dunsmuir (FD)	Secretary	
CC Kenny Shand (KS)		
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		
CC John Innes (JI)		Garry McCartney (GMc) (Press)
CC Michael Walker (MW)		
CC Derek Hallas (DH)		
CC Christina MacFarquhar (CM)		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
		Henrietta Grant-Parker
		Yvonne Findlay (New Forres Academy Forum)
Apologies		George Alexander
Cllr Van der Horn		Christiane Friauf - (Friends of the Falconer Museum)
Cllr Scott Lawrence		
CC Graham Murdoch		David & Pastor Dr John Mackenzie from Forres Baptist Church
		Simeon (Veteran)

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome, and apologies: 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.	SF
2.	Community Safety Report: The Community Safety Report which covered the months of April and May. SF went through the report, it was discussed that the report did start to show some more information, but it could be improved. To see the report click here	SF/FD
3.	Public Session <u>Clovenside Common Good Land Sale</u> - Pastor Moore and David from Forres Baptist Church attended the meeting to give us an update on their plans to acquire the building and part of the car park at Clovenside Cemetery They advised why they were trying to buy the building;	

they also advised of the process they are going through with the Council. David stated that they are looking to secure the Churches future. The lease for the land was signed by William Purves Funeral Directors who are based in Edinburgh. David advised about their negotiations with the Council and that the process has gone out for public consultation and this has been what has brought about the public attention. KR advised a bit more on the possible timeline of the proposal going to the Councillors who will be reviewing all the collated information before deciding on the sale. KR also stated how funds received from rentals/leasing/sale of Common Good Land and how it is dispersed.

Forres House Community Centre – Emma gave us a quick update, and she stated they need to have a User Group set up. SF stated that Emma is correct about getting a user group is needed and they need to have the council involved, and hopefully momentum will build to help the User Group going forward. SF advised that once the review comes out it will, hopefully, give us 3-5 years to work to keep doors open. KR advised that the Council has been working with user groups in the library and after their summer recess they are looking to further increase the number of various user groups. She advised that the Council does not want to close facilities, but hard drastic decisions need to be made as she stated the Government does not give them enough funding to keep buildings open and services running. In the short term the Community Centre is not closing but this does not mean that it won't close in 2029/2030, but the design of the new Academy will be a contributing factor going forward.

New Forres Academy Forum - Yvonne Findlay advised that she understands the sensitivity of the Common Good Fund, but until recently there has been no mention of the size of the new Academy building. She confirmed that the local councillors were probably being bombarded with various emails regarding the school as well as other issues, it was suggested that the Forum, collate queries etc for passing onto the Councillors. YF then read out the 9 questions that they were waiting on answers for, these were forwarded to FCC Secretary for passing onto the Councillors ([click here](#) to review the questions)

Veterans Cottages - Simeon reiterated some of the issues that he brought up at the previous meeting and the lack of communication from the Councillors or the Developers. The veterans met with members of Veterans Housing Scotland in Erskine's Activity Centre. Apparently due to lack of communication from Moray Council there is a lot of anxiety amongst the veterans, he stated that he had heard from other veterans that they were told if you didn't like it, they could move (unverified). The meeting was told that if the school is built where it is suggested this will affect the Veterans emotionally and mentally. DH queried the height of the proposed build and SF mentioned that the flats on Cumming Street are 5 floors high.

	<p><u>Auchernack Trust</u> – SF advised that the Community Council Chair and the 4 Forres Councillors recently met to disperse some of the funds held under the Auchernack Trust to local groups that benefit elderly residents of Forres. The amount of £6,500 were allocated to 3 groups.</p> <p><u>Friends of the Falconer Museum</u> – CF gave an update of the latest news regarding the museum. She advised they have met their first objective and have had an outstanding response to their request for Trustees and Volunteers. They have a prospective Board who will be meeting shortly to start moving things forward.</p>	
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 15th May 2025.</p> <p>These were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Proposed: Derek Hallas Seconded: Michael Walker</p>	
5.	<p>Planning/Licenses</p> <p><u>Planning</u>- There were no applications that required following up on.</p>	KSK
6.	<p>Action Plan Updates</p> <p><u>Resilience</u> – SF confirmed that they have finally purchased 7 radios. For use of the resilience team.</p> <p><u>Forres Cultural and Heritage Scheme</u> – SF advised that they are having their first meeting with the new Project Officer on the 15th of July and there is a meeting with a development group on the following Tuesday. The development group are doing work on the interpretation side of the FCHS. This group are the ones who can engage with the public.</p> <p><u>Local Place Plan</u> – SF asked all Community Councillors to get back to him by the 29th of June, if they had any queries, if none were received then the LPP would go live on the 30th of June, this could only be used after it was live on the Moray Council Website. Steve also advised that other communities created their LPP with the help of external funded sources, Forres LPP was created from the work that was carried out by Tina Coffey, Sandra McLennan and Ann, this did not cost us anything.</p> <p><u>Community Health Check & Action Planning</u> - SF advised when at the last JCC meeting a discussion was brought up about the Community Health Check and Action Plan. The document is too long to go through during our meetings, so he passed a copy each to Derek and Christine as they are the newest members of the Community Council. Steve asked them to go through it to see that we are doing in</p>	SF

	our role as a Community Councillor or are there gaps of information. SF stated that we need to ensure that the passing of information is carried out so that we can correctly pass this info to any new members of the CC after the elections in October. At the JCC it was mentioned that positive responses were received and so a stand will be covered at the Forres Highland Games.	
7.	Correspondence FD queried about the sending out of emails to the community councillors and was advised that emails from Crowdfunder and Public Sector Enterprise can be deleted and unsubscribed.	FD
8.	Treasurer's Report We were advised that the current balance in the bank is £5,412.64. There is also the £50 cost for the stall at the Forres Highland Games to come off.	GM
9.	Moray councillor reports Cllr Kathleen Robertson – KR advised that there is a full council meeting on Wednesday the 25 th of June with 28 items on the agenda, it was advised there is nothing on it relating to Forres. The Council has summer recess coming up returning at the beginning of August and a full council meeting at the end of August. Cllr Paul McBain - PM mentioned about a planning application that came through for somewhere in the countryside that did not go through, although he did think it should go through. Although it was agreed in the Local Development Plan that any houses being built in the countryside should only be 6.75m (one and a half storey) high.	

10.	Forthcoming Events 05/07 – Forres Highland Games in Grant Park.	
11.	AOCB Community Council Elections coming up	
12.	Date of Next Meeting - The next Forres Community Council meeting will be held on Thursday the 21 st of August 2025 in The Garden Room, Forres House Community Centre, High Street, Forres.	