

Forres Community Council

Thursday 18th May 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 Kathleen Robertson
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	Cllr Scott Lawrence
CC Fiona Dunsmuir (FD)	Secretary	
CC Michael Walker (MW)		
CC Derek Hallas (DH)		
CC Christina MacFarquhar (CM)		Garry McCartney (GMC) (Press)
		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
		Henrietta Grant-Parker
		Yvonne Findlay (New Forres Academy Forum)
Apologies		
Cllr Van der Horn	CC David Parker	George Alexander
Cllr Paul McBain	CC John Innes	Christiano Freeon - (Friends of the Falconer Museum)
CC Kenny Shand		Simeon Crawford

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>There has been no safety report received, and SF has a meeting with our local Inspector at the beginning of June. Steve asked what questions we would like him to ask at their meeting. A Question we would like raised is for the CSR to go back to the similar report we had last year, with more information if possible.</p>	
3.	<p>Public Session</p> <p>There were no members of the public in attendance to give an update.</p> <p><u>Falconer Museum</u>- Christiano came to discuss the future of the Falconer Museum, she gave a brief information about herself and when she got involved with museum committee and took over as chair last year. Two reports were commissioned by Moray Council with regards to the future of the Museum and they found that the museum could be open in a viable way but Moray</p>	

	<p>Council do not have the funds to do this, so it falls to the Friends of the Falconer Museum to do so. There are 5 options open to FotFM and the Council, that need to be realistic for the reopening, funding, advertising, visitor numbers. The option that is looking most favourable, is for the museum to be open and run by volunteers with the look of a new Organization to handle the running of the museum, so this is the most important thing to get up and running. Both DH and CM mentioned about other bits of information about the museum.</p> <p><u>Veterans Cottages</u> Simeon Crawford came to talk about the Veterans Cottages and the issues to the people who reside there could have with the New School being built next the Applegrove Primary School.. He stated that no one has been to any of the residents about how things are progressing. It was also mentioned that when building starts it could and probably would set off the veterans PTSD or other mental health problems could be impacted. Some veterans have made it known that they will have to move home because of this.. CM re-iterated what Si mentioned about lack of communication. CM also mentioned she has heard a lot of things regarding issues that have possibly been raised and is happy to facilitate a meeting to help in any way that she can. SL stated that as it is a major build there are more steps that must be followed and it would be too early to hold any meeting as there would be no new information. There will be information coming out to advise of potential timelines of information and when submissions by residents can be made to the planning process.</p> <p><u>Clovenside Common Good Land Sale</u> - CM and SF brought up the potential sale of common good land at Clovenside cemetery. SF stated that looking at the Asset Register and the sale paperwork that it was not clear if it was the building or just the land? Questions were given to the Councillors and SL stated that FCC are helping them as they can go to the council officers and they are waiting to hear back with answers. KR advised that no answer will be given until September which would be the next full council meeting. KR also suggested for SF to contact MC Chief Executive to avoid delays and be able to get some answers to any questions that have been raised so far.</p>	
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes 17th April 2025.</p> <p>These were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Proposed: Michael Walker Seconded: Derek Hallas</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Resilience –</u> <u>Local Place Plan -</u> <u>High Street Parking-</u></p>	

6.	Planning/Licenses <u>Planning</u> - There was applications did not warrant comments. There was a change of use for Moray Waste Busters who are taking over the old call centre at the Enterprise Park.	
7.f.	Action Plan Updates <u>Resilience</u> – Scottish Water have been out to the residents in Bank Lane and Tolbooth to advise when they would be getting their flood gates, which will be done around July. SF advised he has spoken to Radio Solutions who are going to send him some radios to try and see if they meet our requirements. <u>Forres Cultural and Heritage Scheme</u> – GM advised that funding has come through and now the position of a Development Officer has been advertised. SL advised that certain buildings have been identified that money should be spent on. There will be an opportunity for businesses to have a survey done. Showing them this is what you do and this is what you could do, then they could apply to have a percentage of the costs covered by the Schemes fund. <u>Local Place Plan</u> – SF advised that the consultation is now complete, there were 2 complaints received. So, a meeting will be held then it will go live on the website.	
8.	Correspondence Email received from Allan Grave seeking an update on the Community Centre, the reports are not due until later in the year. We received an email regarding the advertising of the event with Andy Whitman, where it was wrongly noted who was hosting it. We will arrange to have this error corrected. There is a survey monkey consultation that closes on Friday 16 th May on the proposed overnight parking for people visiting the area in a campervans and motorhome, for Forres the area identified is Califer Viewpoint. Email received from MC Deputy Chief Executive about an upcoming meeting that the MC Councillors are having on how to create a new community engagement that the public would be happy to participate. Email received from the Moray Council Chief Executive Karen Graves, introducing herself and a brief on things she would like the Council to do.	
9.	Treasurer's Report GM advised there are some items to be paid out.	

10.	<p>Moray councillor reports</p> <p>Cllr Kathleen Robertson – Mobile phone policy was announced today and there has been a lot of media attention.</p> <p>There is a big boom coming down the Northwest of the county like the boost of the 70s and 80s seen in the Northeast.</p> <p>The Radio Tele Switch (RTS) is happening soon and so anyone who has one needs to contact their energy supplier to get it changed to a smart meter.</p> <p>BT PSD switch over is happening (fall pendants / bracelets) are moving from analogue to digital.</p> <p>Cllr Scott Lawrence - No Comment Given</p>	
11.	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>The next meeting of the JCC is on Thursday 22nd May</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
14.	<p>Date of Next Meeting -</p> <p>The nest Forres Community Council meeting will be held on Thursday 19th of June 2025 in The Garden Room, Forres House Community Centre, High Street, Forres.</p>	