



The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 21st Mar 2013.

Present :

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, R Duncan, S Ferris, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, C Lipscomb, J F Mackenzie.

Also Present :-

Moray Cllrs A Skene, L Creswell, T McLaren (Forres Gazette) & 5 MOP's.

1. Apologies:-

Apologies for absence came from Moray Cllr G Alexander, A McLean, Comm Cllrs S Kennedy, J McDowell, D Maclean, Mrs C Pitstra & Youth Rep K McGrath.

2. Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 21st Feb 2013

The minutes of the above meeting were proposed, seconded & ratified.

3. Public Session:

- The Chair welcomed Police Sgt Sean Jones asking him to update the members with the latest Police Report. The Sgt told us that since the last meeting local and Roads policing Officers dealt with 29 motorists for speeding, 3 for driving without road tax, 2 for driving carelessly and one with driving with defective brakes. Fixed penalties were issued to two persons for disorderly behaviour, one for being drunk and disorderly, one for failing to leave a licensed premises when asked to do so and one for drinking in public.
Three persons were found to be in possession of controlled substances in the town centre and Drug searches were carried out in two areas of the town, recovering Class A and B drugs. Three people were reported for drugs supply charges.
The Sgt continued to brief the members on the ongoing change from Grampian Police to the new Police Scotland force which comes into existence on April 1st. He said that apart from the new non emergency number **101** no change would be apparent.
- Comm Cllr Ferris told the meeting that he had received an email from a member of the public offering their services to be responsible for cleaning the public toilets in Forres, following the decision to close the toilets in Grant Park. The Secretary said that they had requested a breakdown of costs, and received a spreadsheet which showed a total savings of £4,700 annually for the block, this did not take into account the value to the local economy that the tourists visiting the town because of the award winning floral displays. He suggested that tourists would cease to visit if facilities were shut. Cllr Hellyer said the better closure, if one was necessary and he was doubtful it was, would be the one in town because public toilet facilities were also available in the Community Centre.
- A member of the public, Mr Jeronim, asked the Moray Cllrs if any answers had come back to his questions on the cycle path to Brodie. Moray Cllr Skene said that she had been told that usage would have to be shown, as the Findhorn / Forres path had, but members pointed out that that was funded under a home to work requirement and not for social use. Cllr Creswell said that it would help to raise a petition, showing support for the path. Mr Jeronim said that cycle path funding was available for distances under 5 miles but it had to be applied for.

- Mr B Macdonald asked the Community Council if they would support the drive to re-juvenate the Sanquhar Pond by supporting the campaign and the public meeting to garner public involvement. He asked the Community Council if they would cover the cost of hiring the Tolbooth from the Forres Heritage Trust. After discussion the members voted to support the request unanimously.

4. Secretary's Report:-

- The Secretary said that he had received mail from Mark Cross, Development Plans with a consultation on current planning rules in the case of Gypsy Traveller Sites to be completed by May 10th.
- A letter, requesting our tacit support for a funding application to replace the flat roof area of the Forres Squash & Fitness Club. The meeting agreed to endorse their application and instructed the Secretary to respond.
- The Secretary said that he had a request by Cllr McDowell to draw attention to letters between residents of Doune Park & Transport Scotland on damage to the A96 adjacent to the cycle bridge.
- In conclusion the Secretary drew members attention to the completed Forres tourist leaflets.

5. Chair's Report:-

- The Chair told members that he had received a letter from Ian Douglas reference the Moray Walking Festival. A variety of events will be held in June and details are available on www.moraywalkingfestival.co.uk

6. External Groups Report:-

- Cllr Mackenzie said that the Heritage Trust were seeking volunteers for opening Nelsons Tower again this summer.
- Cllr Duncan said that though Mount Dora pupils had been selected he wanted to point out that as part of the Moray Council economy cuts the funds allocated to Twinning had been taken away.
- Cllr Hayward said there had been an application to demolish the old mart in Tytler Street.
- M Cllr Skene told the meeting that she had asked about the lack of radios for the Community Wardens and had been told by Andy Jamieson that they were not required because the wardens all had "state of the art" mobile phones. Cllr Ferris said that he understood that Cllr Alexander had to declare an interest at the planning meeting to discuss the application for the new Mechanics Football ground but was not impressed at the lack of presence of any other Forres Cllrs, if only to give local knowledge to the committee.

7. Treasurer's Report:-

- The Secretary, in the absence of the Treasurer said that the account now stood at £1713.45 This was broken down into CC Operating Account £487.22 and Special Projects £1226.23

8. A.O.C.B:-

- Cllr Ferris asked if a Welcome to Forres banner could be purchased for crossing the High Street as a welcoming entrance to visitors, attending the Orienteering or the Pipe Band Championships. Initial enquiries estimate about £1200 cost for the sign which could be used by any group.
- Cllr Hellyer proposed that £500 be given to Forres Events Ltd to support the Pipe Band Championships in return for encouragement to sponsor further copies of the Forres visitors leaflet.

9. Date of Next Meeting:-

- Thursday 18th Apr 2013 at 7 30 pm

Colin T Lipscomb
Secretary.

Ratified by
Comm. Council 18/4/13

John S Bremner
Chair.