



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 20th June 2013.

Present :

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, R Duncan, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, C Lipscomb, J McDowell,

Also Present :-

Moray Cllrs G Alexander, A Skene, A McLean, L Creswell, C Tuke, G McCartney (Forres Gazette) & 46 MOP's.

1. Apologies:-

Apologies for absence came from Comm Cllrs S Ferris, D Maclean, J F Mackenzie, Mrs C Pitstra and David Haytack (Community Warden)

2. Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 16th May 2013

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

3. Public Session:

The Chair welcomed Police Constable Laura Begg and asked her to update the members with the latest Police Report. During the last month there had been ten motorists dealt with for speeding at various locations around the town and surrounding area, one was charged with dangerous driving, another for careless driving. A male was arrested for vehicle theft & driving without a licence or insurance, two drivers were arrested for driving while disqualified and another was dealt with for dangerous carriage of passengers, using a mobile phone while driving and having defective tyres. Four persons were reported for being found in possession of cannabis, a drugs warrant was executed in the Ferry Road area and a male was arrested for production of drugs and associated offences. Two persons were dealt with for assault and breach of bail, two antisocial behaviour fixed penalty notices for minor street disorder, a woman was arrested for Police assault and a male for theft by shoplifting. A male was arrested for theft by housebreaking at the Royal Mail sorting office, and a bicycle stolen from the town centre, and the person responsible, was caught by the police a short time later. The Chair thanked PC Begg for her report after noting that there were no questions for her from the members of the community council.

- The Secretary notified the meeting of apologies from The Community Warden, Dave Haytack, and told the meeting that he had submitted a report of his actions during the last month. He said that there had been 2 antisocial behaviour incidents in the last month, both have been dealt with, and one neighbour dispute which is ongoing but will be concluded in the next week. There have been no new incidents of dog fouling but regular patrols are carried out in the parks and the new posters are now ready for distribution. A few incidents of litter from school children at lunchtimes remain as an ongoing issue but the wardens are working together to target this with various initiatives.
- A member of the public, Mrs Jacky Barrere, addressed the Moray Cllrs and members of the Community Council, as a spokesperson for the residents of Bogton Road who feel threatened by the granting of outline planning permission to Redco Milne for a development which would convert the green space at Bogton into a tarmac car park for a shopping complex. In calling on the Cllrs to call a public meeting to allow members of the public to raise issues and ask questions of all those concerned with the development. Raising a number of points, which she acknowledged were not planning

reasons but had a large bearing on the decision of the residents who were qualified to vote on the sale of common good land, should they choose to ignore the previous vote, taken by an independent body. Cllr McLean said that the result of the previous vote would stand unless a further one was carried out. Cllr Chris Tuke, who attended, as a member of the Planning Committee, explained to the members of the public why, under planning laws the outline planning permission was granted and how they now have to give detailed information of their plans if they wish to proceed with the development. Cllr Alexander said, in response to Mrs Barrere that they would organise a public meeting, as requested, and suggested that he could get someone from Glasgow University to chair the meeting as an independent arbiter. Members of the public suggested that the meeting should be held the sooner the better.

4. Secretary's Report:-

- The Secretary said that he had received mail from Mark Cross (Development Plans) accepting Community Council objection to the extension of the town centre to include the football pitch in the Local Development Plan.
- The Secretary told members that he and Cllr Hellyer had attended a meeting to brief locals about the Berry Burn wind farm by the developers. In a discussion about the Community Benefit Fund, generating some £166,000 per year we tried to encourage the local residents to support a Community Council for the Finderne ward to represent their needs.

5. Chair's Report:-

- The Chair reported the opening of a new cancer support centre at 227 High Street Elgin, and the 5 open days, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th June to meet the team.

6. External Groups Report:- .

- Cllr Duncan said that 2 students from Mount Dora Twinning were here until July 10th.
- Cllr Hayward said there were no planning concerns
- Moray Cllr Skene drew our attention to the Armed Forces Day on Sunday, in Lossiemouth, she also said that she was attending the turf cutting ceremony for the new health centre at Thornhill and supporting the Pipe Band Championships in Grant Park.

7. Treasurer's Report:-

- The Secretary confirmed that the account remained at £1309.37 This was broken down into CC Operating Account £421.92 and Special Projects £887.45 . He told the meeting that following Mr Kennedy's resignation from the C C Cllr Ferris had agreed to take up the post of Treasurer until the elections in October.

8. A.O.C.B:-

- Cllr Alexander asked the Secretary why Comm Cllr Hayward had had her comments reported in the minutes in respect of a Code of Conduct action against him and was told that she had notified the Council as a member of the public, emphasising that she was not acting as a member of the Council and that the complaint was raised by her as a member of the public and not as a community councillor. Cllr Alexander then requested the right of reply and proceeded to read from a confidential letter from the Public Standards Commissioner exonerating him from the complaint raised by Cllr Hayward.

9. Date of Next Meeting:-

- Thursday 18th July 2013 at 7 30 pm

Colin T Lipscomb
Secretary.

Ratified by
Comm. Council 18/7/13

John S Bremner
Chair.