



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

**Present :** Community Cllrs J. Bremner, S. Ferris, J. Guthrie, E. Hayward, S. Noble, H. Shaw and M. Walker.

**Also Present :** Moray Cllrs G Alexander, L Creswell, A McLean; D. Haytack, Community Warden, and 7 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence came from Cllrs J. Duncan; J. Guthrie, G. Murdoch and Moray Cllr Anne Skene.

#### Community Warden Report:

- The Chair welcomed Community Warden, David Haytack who gave his report for the period 21<sup>st</sup> November to 19<sup>th</sup> December. There have been several **anti-social incidents** including youth annoyance. Those involved have been spoken to in front of parents. Three reports concerning **Noise** have been dealt with. One **abandoned vehicle** was removed from Waterford Circle under the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978. Several **neighbourhood disputes** have been resolved to the satisfaction of the ASB Coordinator. There have been no complaints of youth annoyance at the Community Centre and regular checks are carried out. **Dog Fouling**. There have been no new incidents of dog fouling reported. There have been no further complaints made from the organisers of FASDA. Hotspot areas targeted by patrols are: Clovenside Cemetery; Anderson's School Field; Grant Park; Pilmuir and Mannachie Park. Northern Scot posters have been distributed and more are available from the Community Warden. **Litter/Fly Tipping**. There have been no reports of littering by school pupils at lunchtimes. There has been a marked improvement and the Head Teacher of Forres Academy has been contacted to recognise the improvement. One report of fly tipping at the west end of the Post Office was resolved in ten minutes.

#### Public Session:

- MOTP enquired about The Moray Council decision to advertise the **lease of the cafe in the Community Centre**. Applications to lease were to be submitted by 19<sup>th</sup> December. He asked if the Community Council had been made aware of the proposal. Moray Councillor Creswell replied that there had been two advertisements in The Northern Scot. The lessee would be required to retain the staff with the same contractual conditions. There has been no interest shown to date. Cllr Ferris stated that there should have been an advert in the Forres Gazette. Cllr Noble asked if FACT (Forres Area Community Trust) had been informed. The Chair of FACT replied that he is aware of the proposal. Moray Cllr Creswell had mentioned the proposal in two articles in Councillors' Corner in the Forres Gazette. Cllr Ferris asked if the cafe will close if there is no interest. Moray Cllr Creswell confirmed that this will be the outcome but staff will have the opportunity to transfer to other posts. Cllr Bremner will find seek further information.

**Action:** Cllr Bremner

#### Moray Councillors:

- Moray Cllr Creswell reported that the recent **Film Forres** showing had attracted 146 people. The next showing is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. She has been consulting with parents of those with **additional support needs** to find out their thoughts for the future. In January she will make another visit to the social enterprise initiative at Boyndie. **Forres Community**

**Centre will close in June /July** for refurbishment and installation of a new heating system. Cllr Shaw said that this is the wrong time of year when the community and visitors have most need of the facilities. Cllr Hayward suggested that if a contractor is unable to carry out work at a more suitable time, then another should be employed. Moray Cllr McLean mentioned that reduced facilities may be available in Anderson's Primary School. Cllr Ferris asked if this proposal was included in the plan and if the Library facilities would be available. He also pointed out that Piping Hot Forres and Forres Highland Games fall within the period at a time when toilet facilities are essential. Moray Cllr Creswell suggested writing to Ken Brown for clarification.

**Action: Cllr Bremner.**

- Moray Cllr Alexander reported that he had attended a **COSLA Meeting** in Edinburgh. These meetings are held three times per annum and a different Moray Councillor attends each time. The meeting lasted  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour and the costs are huge. He had used Megabus and stayed with family to minimise costs. There had been a sizeable representation from Forres residents at the meeting to decide the **Community Asset Transfer of the Tolbooth** to Forres Heritage Trust. Moray Councillors are in favour of the transfer but there are legal considerations to be clarified. The outcome may be announced in February / March. The **School Estates Review** continues. Head Teachers have been consulted and, at the request of the Professional Associations, staff workshops have been held which has extended the process by one month. The outcome may be announced in April.
- Moray Cllr McLean reported that the **Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation Provision** pre-briefing meetings had been held and there had been a fairly good attendance. The online survey will be available to the public on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014. He asked that those present try to publicise the survey. All suggestions are welcome. Leisure Staff will also be consulted. The **Planning Committee** had made a tour of sites in Moray under consideration. The **Windfarm** application for Dunphail has been rejected.

#### **Minutes of Meetings of 17<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November:**

- Amendments were received from Moray Cllr Alexander and Cllr Bremner. It was proposed that it is helpful to have amendments sent to the Chair / Minute Taker prior to the meeting. The Minutes were ratified as follows: October - proposed by Cllr Noble and seconded by Cllr Walker. November – proposed by Cllr Ferris and seconded by Cllr Walker.

#### **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

- Cllr Hayward raised the issue of the Redco Milne plans. She had contacted Sybil Mackie and had been informed that a Demolition Warrant had been approved on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Concern was expressed that Community Councillors had not been informed. Moray Cllr Alexander pointed out that this decision is made by Building Control not Planning and the Moray Council has no obligation to inform the Community Council. Moray Cllr McLean suggested writing to the JCC to ask that this be changed. **Action: Cllr Bremner**
- A question was posed about the **future of the Tolbooth** should Forres Heritage Trust be successful in achieving a CAT (Community Asset Transfer) and the enterprise fail. It was queried if The Moray Council will resume responsibility for the building. It was agreed that the issue requires more detailed consideration and that it should be a Special Item on the next Agenda which would be publicised in the Forres Gazette. **Action: Cllr Bremner**
- Moray Cllr Alexander reported that the **Cycle Path** on the new A96 section of road at Greshop will be on the left side of the road up and cross over to the right just before the new roundabout when travelling towards Nairn.
- A new account has been opened on Gmail *commcllrs* which will be available to each Cllr. Cllr Noble will provide training on Tues mornings at the Hub. **Action: Cllr Noble**
- **Representation on Local Bodies:** Cllrs have agreed that representation will be as follows: Osprey Trust – Cllr Bremner; Mt Dora Association – Cllr Guthrie; Falconer Museum – Cllr Shaw, Forres Area Forum – Cllr Hayward and Golf Club – Cllr McDowell . It was agreed that a separate informal meeting be held to share representation. Cllr Noble asked about the list of Groups compiled by FAF (Forres Area Forum). The Chair of FAF said it had been a long and arduous task. The compiler had phoned to check contacts. Details change and some are reluctant to give information.

- **Sunken Garden:** Forres in Bloom has made contact with Ken Kennedy and confirmation of projected costs is awaited.
- **Mercat Cross:** Moray Cllr Alexander reported that the cost of the work done to date is more than £600. Costs for further work are being estimated at present.
- **Current Community Planning System:** It was agreed that Cllr Bremner will write to the Convener to enquire about Community Council representation on the group.

**Action: Cllr Bremner**

- **Forres Heritage Trust.** A letter had been sent in support of the FHT application for CAT. The letter was read out at the council meeting.
- **Redco Milne:** A public statement will be issued by the Chief Executive in January. It is likely that there will be an application to lease the land. MOTP asked if that is agreed who will pay to move Forres Mechanics and what will be the length of the lease. If a 99 year lease is granted then ownership may be claimed at a later date. Cllr Noble reported that a public debate is planned when figures and more details are released. Cllr Hayward requested that this be an item on January's agenda.

Action: Cllrs Bremner and Noble

#### **Secretary's Report / Correspondence:**

- It was agreed to have a more detailed discussion in January about the processing of correspondence. Cllr Ferris proposed that the fee paid to the Hub be increased from £150 to £200.
- A response to an amended Planning Application for building at Burdshaugh is required by 27<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Bremner is concerned that the timescale to make a response is too short.

**Action : Cllr Bremner**

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#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- The Treasurer reported that there had been no change from the figures given in November. The Bank Mandate to formalise change of signatories has not been actioned.

**Action: Cllr Ferris**

#### **Group Reports:** None

#### **AOCB:**

- **Report about Street Parking for Disabled:** Cllr Hayward will write to Kevin Price to point out that details about Forres have been assigned to Fochabers and Caroline Street has been omitted.
- **Keeping the Public Informed:** Following a complaint from a resident Cllr Noble had made posters to be displayed on the front door of the Tolbooth on FCC meeting nights. He proposed that Business Cards be printed for Cllrs. He will investigate costing and design and report to January Meeting.
- Moray Cllr McLean reported that the Lands and Parks Department have prepared a consultation paper about reductions in **frequency of grass cutting** and the cessation of the provision of hanging baskets, floral tubs and bedding. Meetings will be held in January. He will forward the Consultation papers to Cllrs.
- Cllr Shaw advised that applications for funds from *The Postie's Legacy* will be sought in July.

**Action: Cllr Hayward**

**Action : Cllr Noble**

**Action: Moray Cllr Mclean**

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.30pm in The Tolbooth.

Ratified by John S Bremner (Chair.)

Seconded by