



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 16th January 2014

Present : Community Cllrs J. Bremner, J. Duncan; S. Ferris, J. Guthrie, E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, S. Noble, H. Shaw and M. Walker.

Also Present : Moray Cllrs G Alexander (**FROM ??? came in late I did not note time**), L Creswell, A McLean; PC Thomson, Police Scotland; T. McLaren (Forres Gazette) & 21 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

Apologies: Apologies for absence came from Cllr J. McDowell

- **Police Scotland Report:** The Chair welcomed PC Thomson who briefed the meeting with the **month's statistics**. Road traffic offences: 68 year old driving while unfit; 20 year old dangerous driving; 50 year old driving carelessly; 28 year old cycling without lights and 25 year old driving with defective tyres. Anti-social behaviour: 7 fixed penalties issued, 4 for fighting, 2 for consuming alcohol in public and 1 for urinating in public. Arrests were for: 25 year old stealing pushbike; 32 year old deliberately breaking window; 25 year old in possession of Class B drug; 22 and 17 year old in possession of cannabis. 57 and 28 year old charged with petty assault. A 20 year old was reported in relation to a serious assault in licensed premises. **Domestic Abuse:** Police Scotland raised profile over festive period and six individuals were reported for a variety of instances. **Local /force wide engagement:** Operation RAC was initiated in response to an increase in housebreaking. Moray was identified as a target area. Additional resources have been dedicated to this operation and Police Scotland is working with COPFS to ensure housebreakers are dealt with and removed from communities where possible.

Public Session:

- **Redco Milne proposed development:** The Moray Council Policy and Resources Committee is due to meet on 21st January 2014. Moray Cllr Creswell informed that there are two possible outcomes: that the proposal will not be taken further or that there will be further consideration of the proposal. Jackie Barrere of Battle for Bogton opened discussion with a summary of the points residents have raised in opposition to the proposal. The papers issued for the council meeting are complex and confusing. £6.5 million pounds are being offered for the lease of the land for 35 years after which time the land will revert to Forres Common Good Fund. £1.5 million pounds of this is to be spent on moving the football pitch. Cllr Hayward asked about the detailed figures for this, for example drainage, demolition costs etc. MOTP asked who will pay the difference if the move costs more than £1.5 million. Moray Councillor McLean reported that part of the money accruing to the FGC Fund may be used for a capital project. MOTP expressed concern that the FGC Fund is taking the risk of being responsible for the lease of the retail units. If these remain empty, as some in Elgin, there will be a reduction in the money available for the community. Moray Cllr McLean reported that the papers for the meeting have been amended to identify this risk. MOTP expressed concern that there had been several meetings between Redco Milne and The Moray Council. No minutes of these meetings were taken. Cllr Hayward reported that a resident had asked through a Freedom of Information request and had been told there is no record. Moray Cllr McLean said that the SNP group will be raising this with the The Moray

Council. He said that the report should clarify details but has muddied the water. MOTP said that **Knight Frank** were commissioned by The Moray Council to value the land and reported to the council on 31.08.10. The people of Forres were not informed of the outcome. The value given now is from the developer and there should be a revised valuation by the council because over three years have elapsed. Moray Cllr McLean said that if the decision is to move forward for further investigation then The Moray Council will commission a further evaluation. He said that it is time to look for an end to the process and that The Moray Council is listening to the people. MOTP refuted this suggestion and said that it should have ended when 70% of those responding voted against the development. Cllr Bremner replied that the wrong question had been asked in the survey and a straight Yes / No option should have been given. MOTP raised the issue of the ownership of the former gasworks site. It appears that this land is now owned by the developer. There is no record of a sale or money paid. A call was made for a public meeting. Cllr Noble asked that the Forres Community Council host the debate to allow those for or against to make their views known. Cllr Noble proposed, seconded by Cllr Bremner, to host the meeting in **Forres Town Hall on Thursday 30th January at 7.30pm**. A Sub Group will be formed to make the arrangements and invitations will be sent to Forres Councillors, MP and MSP, Redco Milne and Moray Councillors. Residents were urged to write letters to members of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Action: FCC Sub Group

- MOTP asked about the **provision of salt bins** in housing estates. Cllr Bremner suggested that the Tenants' Forum used to fund this. Moray Cllr Creswell reported that the money for smaller areas was now to be held in a central fund. She has contacted John MacDonald and will take this forward. **Action: Moray Cllr Creswell**
- MOTP enquired about **dog fouling** and suggested that the legal implications be advertised. Cllr Bremner advised contacting Community Warden, David Haytack.
- **Forres House Cafe**. In reply to a question about the lease of the cafe, Moray Cllr Creswell reported that the closing date for applications to lease the cafe has been extended to the end of January. There has been an expression of interest.
- MOTP asked about the **clearing of leaves at Cluny Hill**. He is prepared to rake them up and a request was made from Transition Town Forres that the leaves be taken there to be composted.
- MOTP reported that Clovenside road verges are dangerous.

Moray Councillors : Moray Cllr Creswell reported that the Findhorn **car share project** is extending to Forres. She has continued in discussions with those who have **hidden disabilities** and how to help them improve **access**. The **Moray Council** is **reviewing the structures within** the council. She has attended the launch of the **Duke of Edinburgh** award scheme. Moray Cllr McLean reported that the Leisure and Sports review survey is still online. A steering group has been formed. He has requested information about the crossing on the A96 at the Pilmuir area.

Minutes of Meeting held on 19th December 2013

- The minutes were proposed by Cllr Noble, seconded by Cllr Ferris, and ratified by the Chair, Cllr Bremner.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- Cllr Ferris offered to be the representative for the Golf Club during Cllr McDowell's absence.
- Forres House Cafe: Cllr Murdoch expressed concern that the lessee will have to retain the present staff and their employment conditions, including pension rights. Cllr Shaw said that The Moray Council will transfer staff if the cafe closes. Moray Cllr McLean reported that staff from the Elgin Library cafe had been relocated to school catering. Cllr Shaw asked how many schools there will be after review of School Estates. Moray Cllr Creswell reminded about the recent Scottish Government pledge to provide free school meals for all Primary 1 and 2 pupils.
- Forres House temporary closure: Cllr Bremner reported that Ken Brown had replied to his query and that Football and Badminton will be relocated to Forres Academy; Other activities to Anderson's and Applegrove and the library disruption will be kept to a minimum and be closed for about one week.
- Community Planning: **The JCC represents all Community Councils in planning issues.**

- The query about Demolition Warrants will be raised at the next JCC Meeting which will be attended by 2 FCC Councillors.
- Treasurer: In answer to the Chair, Cllr Ferris reported that the bank had forwarded to Edinburgh the letter from FCC asking that Cllr Ferris replace former Cllr Kennedy and had not included the mandate. The Treasurer is now mandated to sign cheques.
- Business Cards: Cllr Noble reported that the cost for 250 for each Councillor will be £8.99 per person. Cllr Duncan offered to pay for his cards.
- Tolbooth Hire: Cllr Ferris proposed and Cllr Noble seconded that a fee of £30 per meeting be paid to Forres Heritage Trust. Cllr Noble requested that drinking water be provided.

Action: Cllr Duncan

Secretary's Report:

Correspondence:

- Requests for consultation responses are: **Review of Public Entertainment Licences** and **Review of Taxi Conditions**. Councillors agreed to send responses on gmail. The FCC response will be on the February Agenda. **Action: All**
- **Forres in Bloom** requested **representation from FCC** at Committee Meetings. Cllrs Duncan and Hayward accepted the invitation. **Action Cllrs Duncan and Hayward**

Chair's Report: Cllr Bremner asked fellow councillors to read the FCC Constitution which is included in the Handbook and to bring any suggestions for amendments to the February meeting.

Action: All

Treasurer's Report:

The balance is £612.25. The next half year payment of £432.25 from The Moray Council is due in May. There will be £342 available until then. Cllrs were asked to inform the Treasurer of any personal expenses claims prior to the monthly meeting to allow them to be ratified by the FCC. It was agreed to continue to advertise in The Bus Driver's Handbook.

Group Reports:

The **Osprey Trust** will meet on 27th January. Cllr Guthrie is the representative on **Forres Golf**

Club Committee

A.O.C.B:

- Co options: The post of Secretary and places for two councillors are vacant. Cllr McLean suggested that a senior pupil be approached to be Secretary to the FCC. Cllr Noble agreed that younger people are needed. The age for a youth representative is Over 14 and Under 18. He suggested that the Forres Gazette include an invitation for anyone interested to come along to the next meeting. MOTP suggested asking the Forres Academy News Group (FANG) through Mrs Jackie Davidson at Forres Academy. **Action : Cllr Noble**
- **HUB Correspondence:** It was agreed to pay The Hub £200 for processing FCC mail. Cllrs Bremner, Hayward and Noble volunteer at The Hub and will open mail and put on gmail or pass to the Cllr who has specific responsibility for that item.
- **Forres Heritage Trust:** Cllr Duncan reported that the group has worked on the business plan. The Community Asset Transfer Committee will review the plan on 18th February or in March. The group is hopeful about the outcome.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 20th February 2014 at 7.30pm in The Tolbooth.



Ratified by John S Bremner (Chair.)

Proposed by

Seconded by

Minuted by Sandra MacLennan Filed under FCC Draft Minutes 14.01.16.doc

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