



## 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 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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

**Also Present :** Moray Cllrs G Alexander, L Creswell; Inspector Paul McCrudden, Police Scotland; G. McCartney (Forres Gazette) & 6 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence came from Cllr E Hayward and Moray Cllrs Anne Skene and Aaron McLean

**Police Scotland Report:** Inspector McCrudden presented the monthly police report. A male and female have been charged with the theft at Brodie Country Fare and some of the property has been recovered. There was a serious assault on Forres High Street. The male, who is not a Forres resident will appear in court. From 3<sup>rd</sup> March The **Public Counter at Forres Police Station** will be open from 9am to 5pm from Wednesday to Sunday. The regular days should be Monday to Friday but the temporary arrangement which will continue for 3 to 4 months during a period of Maternity Cover. Residents are advised to ring the door bell if the office is closed. If there is no one able to respond a message may be left on the intercom and this will be forwarded to the Service Centre.

**MSP David Stewart** has written to question the opening hours. His response has come out with the consultation period which ran in September. Cllr Walker asked if the office will be open during events such as Piping Hot Forres, Theme Day and The Highland Games, for example. Insp. McCrudden answered that Police Scotland will try to maintain the best service possible and if it is prudent to do so the office will be manned. Cllr Noble asked why smaller communities such as Nairn and Buckie had more advantageous opening times. Insp. McCrudden answered that perhaps Forres had a lower crime rate. Moray Cllr Creswell asked if it would be possible during the planned **Car Share Demonstration** on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to park a car on the Tolbooth. Insp. McCrudden will inform his officers about the event.

**Public Session:** MOTP asked Moray Cllr Alexander about the location of the **cycle path on A96** after the flood alleviation work is completed. Residents have asked that the original path be reinstated. The original path has become overgrown and is blocked at one point which MOTP claimed is a breach of access law. Transport Scotland have stated that the path is too close to the A96 but paths at Lhanbryde and Fochabers are close beside the A96. Moray Cllr Alexander's opinion is that the original path is too close to the road and it is unsafe to cycle there considering the volume and speed of traffic. A MOTP said that he was listening to a Moray Councillor refusing to support a resident because of his own personal opinion.

#### **Moray Councillors :**

- Moray Cllr Creswell gave information about a **Health and Social Care** open meeting to be held in The Green Room of Forres House in March. She urged Community Councillors to attend. Cllr Creswell spoke about the way forward for Forres Community Council. She asked Cllrs if they felt supported in getting enough information; if they had a forward plan and if they had any plans to better present the town for Piping Hot Forres. She urged the Community Council to become more pro active and praised the preparation and publicity for the recent Bogton Debate as an exemplar. Concern was expressed by Councillors about a proposal to give all Moray Community Councils a single vote through TSI Moray which it

was felt is taking away the rights of Community Councils. Cllr Creswell indicated that the proposal had been rejected. Cllrs asked for clarification of the role of Community Councils. To develop better working relationships it was agreed to hold a meeting of Moray and Forres Community Cllrs on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March in The Tolbooth at 7.30pm. Cllr Creswell also asked what had been the outcome of discussion about **the i-kiosk** at the Moray Towns Partnership meeting. Those present did not feel that the machines should be upgraded because they have become outdated. There are more advanced methods of communication and information retrieval and these are to be investigated.

- Moray Cllr Alexander reported about the progress of the Review of School Estates. The report will be presented to Moray Council this week. He encouraged the public to respond to the survey which will be online from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. The consultants have been given a free hand to bring forward ideas about enhanced educational provision and have not been given direction to save money. He was asked who will make the final decision and he replied that all 26 Moray Cllrs will make the decision based on the consultants report and the responses from the public. Cllr Alexander will be visiting sites all over Moray in a 2 day fact finding visit to inform the Planning Committee about current planning applications. Moray Councillors will no longer claim subsistence expenses and teas will no longer be served for council meetings.

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

- The minutes were proposed by Cllr Guthrie, seconded by Cllr Walker, and ratified by the Chair, Cllr Bremner.

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

- **Salt Bins:** Moray Cllr Creswell has asked for funding for one bin for Macdonald Drive from the Moray Tenants' Forum. It was suggested that other locations be considered, for example, between North Road and Bogton. Cllr Bremner will prepare a list of locations.

**Action: Cllr Bremner**

- **Public Entertainments and Taxis:** Cllr Hayward will respond to the consultation. She has also responded to the Lochyhill Planning Application. **Action: Cllr Hayward**
- **Business Cards:** Cllr Noble issued the business cards.

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

- **Findhorn Post Office** will be closed for refurbishment from 10<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- MSP Richard Lochhead has sent information about **Litter Picking** events organised by the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- **Insurance:** An offer to arrange insurance through Highland Council has been received. There was uncertainty about the payment for Insurance. Cllr Bremner will contact Tracey Rae for clarification. Cllr Ferris was granted permission to pay for Insurance if it is the responsibility of the Community Council. **Action: Cllr Bremner**

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

- The balance is £513.34. for Community Council Expenses and £9.55 for special projects. A question was asked about the payment for **refurbishing the Nimrod Model** by Lossiemouth RAFA. Some damage has been discovered and structural repairs are necessary.

#### **Group Reports:**

- **Mt Dora:** Cllr Guthrie was unable to attend the most recent meeting.
- **Forres in Bloom:** Cllr Duncan reported that there will be a **public meeting in The Tolbooth** on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February to seek volunteers to help sustain the floral attractions in Forres. Cllr Duncan has offered to repair the **fountains in the Sunken Garden** and has sourced funding for materials and volunteer helpers. The plan is to have the fountains working by easter. Cllr Duncan has also volunteered to form a working party to take over the **watering of containers** during the summer. The bowser used by The Moray Council is not available. He is looking at alternative provision.

## A.O.C.B:

- **Hanover Housing:** Cllr Hayward has no further information about the demolition of the property. Cllr Ferris expressed concern about construction traffic access for the **new development** at Lochyhill. Cllr Murdoch asked about **drainage and sewage** for the new development. The engineers' report for Lochyhill states that the Sewage drain system is sufficient for the development but the Water Treatment Works is not fit to cope with the development. The surface water overflow drain crosses the A96 and runs in to a ditch in Cassieford Farm. Cllr Murdoch is concerned that land owners may be unaware of the potential problem. Cllr Bremner will ask Cllr Hayward to take the concerns forward.

Action : **Cllrs Bremner and Hayward**

Cllr Murdoch also asked about **shingle** build up on the flood alleviation works and if access will be available. Moray Cllr Alexander replied that the Dalvey to Broom of Moy road will be retained. He will make enquiries about the other side of the railway line. SEPA will monitor the shingle and The Moray Council will be responsible for upkeep. **Action: Cllr Alexander**  
Cllr Ferris asked about safety at the Cycle Bridge across the A96. There have been incidents where cars have collided with the safety barrier on the Kinloss side of the roundabout. Cllr Murdoch is concerned about safety where the Kinloss Cycle Path meets the former Kinloss to Forres Road. Cyclists free wheel down off the bridge from the Kinloss direction and emerge from behind a hedge straight across the pavement on to the road and are unable to stop should there be a car approaching. Councillor Alexander will ask Traffic to check.

**Action: Cllr Alexander**

Spice of Bengal have applied for a **drinks licence**. No objections were made. Cllr Duncan asked that the local Lands and Parks Team be congratulated for the excellent work done in clearing the leaves at Cluny Hill Cemetery.

**Action: Moray Cllrs**

Cllr Duncan is pleased to announce that the Community Asset Transfer Application by Forres Heritage trust has been successful. He thanked the Community Council for its letter of support.

- **Constitution:** There were no amendments proposed to the Constitution. Cllr Bremner will forward it to The Moray Council. **Action: Cllr Bremner**
- **Co option of Community Councillor:** Mr Chas Rodgers was proposed as a member of Forres Community Council by Cllr Noble and seconded by Cllr Guthrie.
- **Bogton Debate:** The Bogton Debate was a successful event attended by 250 residents. A minute of the meeting has been given to the four Forres Moray Councillors. It includes questions asked on the night which were unable to be answered. Cllr Noble asked that Moray Cllrs give answers to the questions at the next Community Council Meeting

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 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 14.02.20.doc