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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 March 2014

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

Also Present : Moray Cllrs G Alexander, L Creswell, A. McLean and A. Skene: PC Kevin Mcpherson, Police Scotland; G. McCartney (Forres Gazette) & 9 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

Apologies: Apologies for absence came from Cllrs. J Duncan and J.McDowell

Police Scotland Report: PC Mcpherson presented the monthly police report. **Motoring Offences:** four speeding; one driving without insurance; one driving with defective tyres and lighting offences. **Shoplifting Offences:** Two males in their 40s stealing liquor and assaulting a staff member; female 30s theft of wine; male 20s theft of alcohol and male 20s theft of foodstuffs. **Antisocial behaviour** fixed penalty notices issued to 4 males for urinating in the street and a female for causing a disturbance in the street. Stereo equipment was seized from the home of a man 40s for continued use to the annoyance of neighbours. **Arrests :** One male 31 was arrested for an unprovoked assault carried out on a public service bus on the outskirts of town; two males 30s appeared in court following thefts and resetting of property; two males mid 20s hindered Police and refused to provide details and one male for a minor Police assault. Cllr Noble asked if the Forres Office will be closed at week-ends. PC McPherson replied that there should always be cover but if the station is unattended then the intercom system may be used to contact the service centre. **Public Session:** The Chair of Forres Area Community Trust (FACT) gave details of its **Forres Solar Meadow Proposal**. Initial assessments indicate that the proposed project to generate electricity using photo-voltaic panels is viable. More detailed investigations by specialists is now required and it will be possible to access funding to take the project forward if it is suitably supported by the community. Research has shown that Forres is a suitable area. Solar panels are relatively maintenance free, create no noise pollution or reflective glare. The set-up costs are estimated to be in the region of £5 million pounds. The energy generated would be fed in to the National Grid and a feed-in tariff would be paid for the energy produced and a further export fee would be gained from supplying to an electricity company. Profits would be used to support the well being of the Forres Academy catchment area and there will be a Public Meeting for residents to give their views about the proposed project. Cllr Murdoch asked the projected size of the site and was informed it would be in the region of 18 acres. Cllr Noble asked if the business feed-in tariff will be the same as the domestic feed-in tariff and was informed that this will not be clear until a site is chosen. There are three potential sites under consideration but details cannot be released at present for business reasons. **Forres in Bloom** is seeking volunteers to help clear detritus in Grant Park on Sunday 23rd March at 2pm.

Moray Councillors : Moray Cllr Skene reported that the Flood Alleviation programme is proceeding ahead of schedule and that the **A96 and new roundabout** will be opened by the end of April. The whole project may be completed by the end of November. Interviews for **Depute Head Teachers of Moray Secondary Schools** are being held during March. The online consultation for the **Sustainable Schools Review** will close on Monday 24th March and the results which will include all comments submitted will be published on Friday 28th March 2014. The **Forres Community Centre Youth Area** has been designed by young people and £10 000 has been raised. Work is expected to start in the near future. The Equality Impact Assessment carried out for **Forres Out of School Club** has been found to be 'not robust enough'. The full council will consider on April 2nd 2014. Cllr Skene has grave doubts that the club will continue after August 2014. Cllr Noble asked if the proposed house building programmes in Forres have been taken in to account in reaching the decision. Cllr Skene replied that projected school rolls up to 2020 have been taken into consideration. The **Falconer Museum** is due to be handed to The Friends of Falconer Museum from 1st

April 2014 **but there will be a delay while systems and processes are being investigated.** The Moray Council will be responsible for keeping the building wind and water tight. Moray Cllr Mclean reported that Keep Scotland Beautiful has initiated a **Litter Picking** Campaign. Groups are asked to register with Steve Williamson of The Moray Council and arrangements will be made to collect any litter gathered. Cllr Mclean urged the public to respond to the **Sports and Leisure Review**. Paper copies are available at Forres Community Centre and online responses are welcomed. **Moray Cllr Alexander explained that largely due to the fine weather and because the concrete grout curtain behind Mackenzie and Cruickshank Garden Centre had been replaced by a steel pile driven curtain the final cost of The Flood Alleviation Scheme is expected to be £6 million pounds cheaper.** To date there have been 1500 responses to the **Sustainable Schools Review** consultation and the standard of debate has been very high. The final consultation for the Local Development Plan will be held in April. **Licences** have been granted to Spice of Bengal and Logie Steading whisky Shop. Substantial grants from Entrust, The Landfill Trust have been allocated to Forres area groups. Parents are urged to make contact about the **Out of School Club** closure. The Moray Council Funding will be ceased but there are other possibilities to keep the provision in existence. **Forres Heritage Trust** organised a meeting for Nelson Tower volunteers as did **Piping Hot Forres** whose requirement is 120 to 130 volunteers to cope with an attendance of 20 000 to 25 000 visitors. Cllr Creswell reported that no Easter Holiday activities will be organised by The Moray Council in Forres. The Church of Scotland Youth worker and a council volunteer are preparing a draft programme. **Auchernack Trust** application forms will be available from the last week in March. The **Director of Public Health** has visited Forres to discuss changes and improvements and had engaged with Forres Ball Group (Be Active, Live Longer). The **Men's Shed** initiative has organised an Open Day on Saturday 22nd March from 11 to 2pm at their premises on Moray Waste Busters site at Waterford Recycling Centre. TSI Moray(**Third Sector Interface**) has organised a Seminar at The Alexander Graham Bell Centre of Moray College on Friday 21st March. Cllr Alexander intimated that The Moray Council will not leave **COSLA** (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) despite losing £4 million because population figures for 2011 are being used to calculate funding. It is hoped that the decision will be changed. Cllr Noble asked what is the benefit of belonging to COSLA. Cllr Alexander explained that it is the negotiating body for all 32 local councils and the Scottish Government will usually accept its decisions.

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th February 2014

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

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- **Salt Bins:** Cllr Rodgers reported that he has discussed provision with Alex Irvine and more information will be received in due course. **Action: Cllr Rodgers**
- **Insurance Policy:** The Moray Council is responsible for the Insurance Policy.
- **Planning:** Cllr Hayward has taken forward concerns about the Lochyhill plans. She assured Cllr Murdoch that she has included his concerns in her response.
- **Cycle Path at Sueno's Stone:** Cllr Alexander has taken forward the safety concerns. Cllr Murdoch asked that it be emphasised that the majority of motorists using the road are tourists who are unaware of the potential hazard of cyclists emerging at speed on to the road.
- **Co-option of additional Community Councillor:** Moray Cllr Creswell asked if there is a full complement. Cllr Bremner replied that there is another possible candidate for co-option but the person is unwell and unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- **Bogton Debate:** Cllrs asked about a response from Moray Councillors. Moray Cllr Alexander replied that there is unlikely to be any further action until next year. Moray Cllr McLean said that the questions asked are exactly those that The Moray Council is asking. Cllr Noble asked about the demolition of the former supermarket and that there appears to be work in progress in the building. Moray Cllr Alexander stated that tenders are being sought at present. Cllr Bremner added that it is a secondary firm. Cllr Noble asked if the plans are included in the next Moray Development Plan. Cllr Rodgers said it will be a departure from the plan.

Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

- Cllr Bremner had received an invitation to the **Sustainable Schools Review** meeting to be held in Forres Academy on Tuesday 22nd April. **Cllrs Shaw and Rodgers will attend.**
- **Constitution:** Cllr Bremner received a reply from Moira Patrick which included a proposed addition to the Constitution: Section 13: When special meetings of the are to be held ... Council Liaison Officer should be advised.....**at least 10 days in advance of the meeting date.** It was unanimously agreed to add the words highlighted above.

- Cllr Bremner has received a copy of the **Draft Local Development Plan**. It was agreed to lodge the copy in The Hub. There is also a copy in Forres Library and it may be accessed online at www.moray.gov.uk/proposedplan. A response is requested from Forres Community Council by 5pm on 2nd May 2014. There will be an Open Day in Forres Town Hall on 23rd April from 4pm to 8pm. Given the importance of careful reading and consideration of the document, Cllrs agreed to have a one item meeting to discuss their response in Forres Community Centre on 3rd April at 7.30pm. This will not be a public meeting. The proposals agreed at this meeting will be made public. Cllr Noble will ask for a laptop and screen to be provided. **Action: Cllr Noble**
- **Treasurer's Report:**
Two donations of £10 have been received. The balance is £513.34 for Community Council expenses and £9.55 for special projects.
- **Group Reports:**
Planning: Cllr Hayward reported about progress with the demolition of Hanover Housinbg. The building in the centre has to be retained. Asbestos has been found in the roof and the public are to be informed about safety issues. Cllr Alexander reported that following a suggestion from Brian McDonald the windows have been reclaimed for Forres in Bloom for repair to greenhouses. Cllr Hayward has submitted a final document. The Forestry Commission will supply an upgraded disc to enable a response to be made about local woodlands.
Mount Dora: Cllr Guthrie reported that two students from Mt Dora will be in Forres from 12th June and a busy programme has been planned. The 20th Anniversary will be celebrated on 10th July, when all former exchange students and their families are invited to attend. The AGM will be on 14th April in Forres Academy.

A.O.C.B:

- Cllr Noble asked if the date of the Council Meeting on **18th September** should be changed to avoid Referendum Day. A decision was deferred.
- Cllr Murdoch has had contact from Colin Matheson about **The World Orienteering Championships** to be held in the area from 1st to 8th August 2015. Cllr Murdoch will contact Mike Rodgers for further details. Cllrs agreed that efforts should be made to provide local events and entertainment during the week.
- **FACT** has organised two meetings in The Tolbooth: Monday 24th March – Cameron Taylor will speak about Macbeth, Shakespeare and Forres and Wednesday 25th March - Tourism in Forres Area. Fact is also involved in the 2015 "Tracks" event which will welcome 300 visitor members of The Canadian Pacific Railway who are coming to Forres and Dufftown, birthplaces of Lord Strathcona and
Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 17th April 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 14.03.20.doc