



Draft - first amendment

The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

20 Tolbooth Street, Forres, Moray. IV36 1PB

Tel: 01309 672244 email: Forrescc@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on **Thursday 17th April 2014**

Present : Community Cllrs J. Bremner, J Duncan, J. Guthrie, E. Hayward, J McDowell, 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 John Guy Police Scotland; G. McCartney (Forres Gazette) & 13 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

Apologies: Apologies for absence came from Cllr Ferris

Police Scotland Report: PC Guy presented the monthly police report. **Motoring Offences:** 67 year old male charged for riding a quad bike on Findhorn Beach; 34 year old woman charged for driving at 51mph in 30mph limit in Rafford; several fixed penalties issued in Rafford; 41 year old charged for driving without a licence; 25 year old man arrested for driving while over twice the legal limit and will appear in court at a later date. **Antisocial behaviour:** A man was arrested and charged after he became threatening and abusive towards Police Officers when they were called to investigate the playing of loud music at a local flat. **Thefts :** Owners are urged to check and secure property following opportunist thefts of tools and plant in the area. **Speed Limit:** Moray Cllr Skene reported that a resident requested that a speed limit of 40mph be established for the A96 from the Pilmuir Roundabout to the west side of the Mundole Bridge. The present restriction to 30mph during the Flood Alleviation works has resulted in a decrease in road accidents on that stretch. PC Guy advised that The Moray Council should apply and if agreed and signs are put in place, Police Scotland will enforce the limit.

Public Session:

James McKessack - Leitch of Forres Area Community Trust gave a power point presentation about the **Forres Solar Meadow Proposal**. Support from the community is essential for the proposal to be progressed. Public meetings are planned and a feasibility study will be conducted. Cllr Rodgers proposed that Forres Community Council give the proposal its backing. It was decided to defer a decision until further information is available. A former Secretary of Forres Community Council paid tribute to the late **Donnie Williamson**, a Forres Burgess, former Community Councillor and tireless supporter of the town of Forres. He proposed sending a letter of condolence to Mrs Margaret Williamson. **Action: Cllr Bremner** Several MOTPs were in attendance to raise awareness of the proposal within the **Local Development Plan** to develop an industrial site at **block 18** Springfield Area. The proposal is detrimental to tourism and will destroy the gateway vista to Findhorn Bay. Cllr Bremner replied that Forres Community Council is unanimous in rejecting the plan as is Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council. Some landowners had been unaware of the plans and a question was asked about possible compulsory purchase. It was suggested that the Waterford industrial area would more appropriate for development. **Cycle Path:** MOTP asked why the petition signed by 150 residents was not addressed by The Moray Council. The petition had been given to the local MSP. Cllr Creswell replied that it is council policy to consider all petitions. She advised that the petition be reclaimed and sent to The Moray Council. Cllr Noble asked that it be brought to Forres Community Council and it will be forwarded with a letter of support. **Action: Cllr Noble**

Moray Councillors :

Moray Cllr Creswell reported that the lead post for the Health and Social Care partnership will be decided in the week ahead. She has been visiting different agencies which support those with additional needs. There will be a meeting in Forres Community Centre to explain the new Self Directed Support packages. She mentioned the ongoing reviews of Leisure and Education. Cllr Noble asked if the proposed expansion

of Forres is being considered as part of the future planning and was assured that this will be taken in to consideration in any plans for the future. Council Committee places are being re allocated following the election of a new councillor. **Moray Cllr Skene** reported that 2000 online responses have been received and hundreds of letters to inform the Sustainable Education Review. There will be a meeting in Forres Academy on 22nd April for community representatives to give their views about the proposals made for Forres.

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th February 2014

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

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- **Salt Bins:** Cllr Rodgers reported that he has canvassed residents and there are no objections to the provision intended. Moray Cllr Creswell asked if the Cameron Court area is under consideration and was informed that there are no plans at present but consideration will be given.
- **Bogton Development:** Cllr Noble asked if any progress has been made with the Redco Milne proposals. Moray Cllr Skene replied that all four Forres ward councillors will attend a meeting in the coming week to be appraised of developments. Cllr Noble requested that it be minuted Moray Cllr Alexander be invited to give a response at the next Forres Community Council meeting.

Action: Cllr Bremner

Secretary's Report and Correspondence:

- Cllr Bremner summarised a report from **Community Warden David Haytack. Antisocial behaviour:** Several neighbourhood disputes have been resolved and an incident of youth annoyance was dealt with by speaking to youths and parents receiving letters. **Dog Fouling:** three incidents have been reported but no offenders identified; no new incidents have been reported by Forres Area Soccer Development Association but the area is a monitoring priority and posters and a newspaper article have highlighted hotspot areas. **Litter/ Fly Tipping.** The fines for these are now Fly Tipping - £200 and Litter - £80. **Abandoned Vehicles.** 2 reports are currently under investigation.
- **Local Development Plan:** Cllrs received posters about the public meeting on 23rd April in Forres Town Hall from 4pm to 8pm. A letter has been sent from Forres Community Council to The Moray Council expressing concerns about the plan.
- Forres Community Council has been asked to publicise the availability of **free insulation** for all homes.
- Applications are invited from anyone who is interested in becoming a **Justice of the Peace.**
- Moray Cllr Creswell enquired if any progress has been made to find a Secretary. Cllr Noble asked about the appointment of Forres Academy pupils and was advised that there are 2 spaces available. He will contact Forres Academy.

Action: Cllr Noble

Chair's Report:

- **The Forres Community Council Constitution** has been accepted by The Moray Council
- **Forres Area Forum** has suggested that FAF and Forres Community Council host an event to give local groups the opportunity to share information and discuss priorities for the future. It was agreed to organise a day in Forres Town Hall in September.

Action: Cllr Bremner

Treasurer's Report:

- Cllr Bremner reported in the absence of the Treasurer that there is no change to the balance reported in April.
- Cllr Duncan enquired if costs for repair and painting of the Nimrod Sculpture at War Veterans' Cottages have been met and was assured that this is so. He asked if an update on progress can be made at next meeting.

Action: Cllr Bremner

Group Reports:

Mount Dora:

- Cllr Guthrie reported that there is a change of date for The 20th Anniversary Celebration which will now be held on 30th June, when all former exchange students and their families are invited to attend.
- Cllr Guthrie reported that the group is required to pay for use of a room in Forres Academy and enquired why a group that has council backing is expected to do so. Cllr Skene explained that it is not a Moray Council group and she will ask Cllr Alexander to find out more. **Action Moray Cllr Alexander.**

Forres in Bloom:

- Cllr Duncan reported that all is moving ahead quickly and all plants have been sourced. Everything will be in place as in previous years.
- The Budge Trust has generously donated funding to purchase a bowser for watering the floral features in the town Cllr Duncan has organised a group of volunteers to undertake watering.
- Work has begun on repairing and improving the fountains in the Sunken Garden and they will be operating in time for Armed Forces Day, Piping Hot Forres and Forres Highland Games.
- Cllr Duncan asked Forres Community Council to consider making a donation to support the work of Forres in Bloom. Decision deferred to next meeting. **Action: Cllr Bremner**

Town Centre Planning Group:

- Cllr Murdoch reported that a presentation was made by Joanne Taylor of Piping Hot Forres. She commented that Visit Scotland did not have Moray as a region and that it is included with Grampian and Highland. She hoped that Visit Scotland could be persuaded to identify Moray as a region within its own right.

A.O.C.B:

- **3G:** Concerns were raised about the lack of 3G signal for some providers. Superfast Broadband is expected next year although there may be a delay in provision.
- Cllr Noble reported that a resident has received a reply to a Freedom of Information request that there is a list of empty shops in Forres which did not pay rates. **There is a rate relief system for premises within certain rateable value brackets ranging through 100%, 75%, 50% and 25%. In Forres the decrease in money collected is £400 000 per annum. It was highlighted that Redco Milne pay no rates for the empty Tesco store which surprised Cllrs.** Moray Cllr Creswell replied that there has been a change in policy. Moray Cllr Skene offered to report to next meeting.

Action: Moray Cllr Skene.

- Cllr Murdoch reported that a resident has reported **human fouling** at the Enterprise Park. A letter has been handed to Police Scotland.
- Cllr Noble reported that a steering group has been formed, **The Bogton Development Group**. The group is working with Planning for Real to organise public consultations some of which will be based around a 15 foot model and suggestions by residents for the use of the land.
- Cllr Noble proposed that a meeting of Cllrs be held to **agree specialisms and areas of responsibility** for dealing with mail and issues as they arise. It was agreed to meet in Forres Community Centre on Thursday 1st May at 7.30pm, Cllr Shaw to book a quieter room if possible.

Action: Cllr Shaw

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 15th May 2014 at 7.30pm in The Tolbooth.



Ratified by John S Bremner (Chair.)

Proposed by Heather Shaw

Seconded by Stewart Noble

Minuted by Sandra MacLennan

Filed under FCC Draft Amended Minutes 14.04.17doc