



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 15th May 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: Inspector Paul McCrudden, Police Scotland; G. McCartney (Forres Gazette) & 9 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

Apologies: Apologies for absence came from Cllr Ferris

Police Scotland Report: Inspector Paul McCrudden delivered the report. 46 Crime Files have been raised.

Motoring Offences: On A96 in 60mph limit a 34 year old woman driving at 96mph; a 20 year old woman 96 mph and a 25 year old woman 88 mph. On A96 a 48 year old woman was reported for drink driving and on Grantown Road a 49 year old male reported for driving without insurance. **Vandalism:** Seven cases have been reported: 3 for damage to motor cars and 3 for windows smashed. One case has been detected and police are optimistic that others will follow. **Theft:** 11 cases have been reported two of which have been detected. In the wider area there are concerns about thefts of tools and plant from building sites and sheds. Any suspicious vehicles or persons should be reported as soon as possible. The police are urging members of the public to secure property effectively and routinely to avoid opportunistic thefts. **Domestic Incidents:** 4 incidents were reported and detected involving Assault and Breaches of the Peace. **Assaults:** 3 minor incidents have been reported, two of which have been detected. **Action in response to matters raised at previous meeting:** An anonymous letter had been received by Forres Community Council that human faeces had been found at the **Enterprise Park**. There was a Traveller site nearby with a number of associated dogs. Moray Council maintains contact and monitors unauthorised encampments and frequent visits are made by Police Officers. The Travellers have moved on and it is planned to use the site as an overflow car park for Piping Hot Forres. Trading Standards have been investigating work carried out in the area to ensure that legal requirements, for example, administration, guarantees and customer rights, are being followed. Moray Councillor Alexander advised that if residents did not provide work for casual traders then they may be discouraged from staying in the area. He asked about the encampment at a lay by on the **Grantown Road**. Residents have complained that access to the lay by is restricted. Inspector McCrudden responded that this is a well established site and that police have engaged with the Travellers and informed them of concerns.

MOTP reported that that a young man had called advertising for work at his house that day.

Cllr McDowell reported that motorbikers have been off road at Findhorn Bay and also at Roseisle. Inspector McCrudden replied that police are aware and will respond. Any caught in breach of the law will be charged.

Public Session:

Findhorn Bay Arts Festival: Kresanna Aiger reported on the success of Culture Day in 2013 and gave a preview of Findhorn Bay Arts Festival to be held from Wed 24th to Sun 28th Sept 2014 in various venues including Forres, Findhorn, Kinloss, Logie and Brodie. Events will include: live music; walk about theatre, tours and talks. The major event will be Macbeth, the Remix to be staged at Brodie Castle. It is anticipated that the events will attract 7 000 people to attend. The economic impact of Culture Day was estimated to be over £200 000. A survey will be conducted to find out how to engage more businesses this year. More information is available on the website or at the Festival Office, 3 Bank Lane, Forres.

Moray Development Plan: Cllr Bremner reported that Forres Community Council has submitted a response. MOTP asked if The Moray Council had put in a bid for Areas **17** and **18** and, if so, was it proper for the council to do so. Moray Cllr Alexander replied that the council has to find 10 hectares of Development Land and Officers had put in the bid accordingly.

Forres CC Groups Allocation Plan: 6 Cllrs met on 1st May 2014 to discuss the allocation of areas of responsibility. Cllr Noble presented a collated list of all clubs and groups in Forres, clustered as follows: Relations; Business; Sports; Heritage; Health; Planning; Music, Arts and Crafts; Youth; Common Good; Education and Social. Cllrs were asked to bring ideas to the next meeting when it will be decided if Cllrs are willing to accept responsibility for different sections of the plan. Moray Cllr Creswell asked where the plan will sit with The Moray Council structure. For example, Health and Education are now in partnership.

Action: All

Moray Councillors :

Moray Cllr Skene gave a detailed response to the item from the previous minute concerning the **rates** to be paid by Redco Milne for the empty former Tesco building. The rateable value of the property is £200 000 but the amount payable is calculated on a poundage rate of £0.471. When rate relief is taken in to account, the net amount due is £86 760. This will change following demolition work on the building. **Sustainable School**

Review: ASG Briefings are now complete although responses from the public are still welcome. **Pre**

School Education: New legislation has been introduced to extend free pre school provision for 3 to 5 year olds to 500 hours per annum. **Speed Limit on A96:** Transport Scotland responded that the 40mph limit will be extended to the new roundabout and return to 60mph beyond there when the work is finished. Moray Cllr Alexander advised that the present 30mph limit will be taken back to the Bervie Chipper very soon because the work will be completed beyond the Findhorn Bridge.

Moray Cllr Creswell reminded those present of the **Self Directed Support** public meeting to be held in Forres Community Centre from 10am to 12 noon on Thurs 22nd May. Two senior Moray Council posts will be re advertised for a **Corporate Director** and for **Health and Social Care**. The closing date for Applications for funding from **The Auchernack Trust** which is for older people within the specified geographical area is 28th May 2014. Moray Cllr Creswell had suggested to Forres Area Forum that a joint event be organised with Forres CC. Local groups would be invited to set up displays to share their activities and there would be the opportunity to share ideas for the future. The date proposed is 2nd October 2014. She asked if the proposal from The Bogton Development Group to work with Planning For Real was restricted to the Bogton area. It was suggested that Forres Community Cllrs needed time to consider the suggestion. It was agreed to defer a decision to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Bremner

Forres Community Centre: Moray Cllr Creswell reported that when the centre re opens the former Playgroup Room will be more functional and asked for ideas for future use of the centre. Cllr Murdoch asked if there has been any progress with the lease of the Coffee Bar.

Action: Moray Cllr Creswell

Moray Cllr Mclean reported that there has been a positive response to the **Leisure Review**. The findings will be put to the staff and user groups and then published in the local press. **Flood Alleviation:** A site visit has been made and work is progressing well. Trees have been planted and the pumping station and drainage system to West Pilmuir are near completion. The works have also come in under budget. **COSLA** has reviewed its allocation to local councils and Moray will receive an increase. The previous savings made by The Moray Council will continue, however. Cllr Noble asked if any progress has been made to find **youth coaches for summer activities**. Cllr McLean is still working with St Leonard's Youth Leader to try to put something in place. There will be a **Referendum Cafe** in The Tolbooth on Sat 17th May from 10am to 1pm.

Moray Cllr Alexander offered to organise a tour of the Flood Alleviation works for Forres Community Cllrs.

Action: Moray Cllr Alexander

He has been making many visits to constituents for a range of reasons: planning issues; housing; neighbour disputes and tax questions. **Trees on Cluny Hill:** the trees have grown to such a height that Nelson Tower is no longer visible from the A96 and Grant Park cannot be seen from the top of the tower. MOTP suggested that a questionnaire be prepared and placed in the tower. The wood needs to be managed and money raised from the sale of timber would accrue to Forres Common Good Fund. There will be a meeting in September to consider the **Moray Development Plan** and Cllr Alexander advised that the best way forward would be by application to the Reporter. There is a problem in that SEPA will not allow Industrial development in the Greshop area. Cllr Murdoch asked about progress with improving safety on the cycle path at Sueno's Stone. Cllr Alexander reported that the concern has been taken forward and that the Traffic Department has a long list of work to be completed. He will continue to monitor progress. MOTP asked about the **A96 Cycle Path Petition**. He was advised that there is a set procedure now in place. The petition should be forwarded to the Chair of Petitions, via Moira Patrick, and it will then be considered by the petitions committee. There is the opportunity to address the committee or to ask someone to speak on his behalf. Forres CC has not discussed if they are recommending the petition or noting the contents. Cllrs agreed to discuss their response outwith the public session. Cllr Guthrie asked that Cllrs be given time to discuss issues without interruption from the public. Cllr Murdoch expressed concern about the conduct of the meetings. Moray Cllr Creswell suggested that it be made clear when the **Public Session** begins and ends.

Minutes of Meeting held on 17th April 2014

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

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- **Amendments:** It had not been agreed to send a letter of support with the **Cycle Path Petition**. It was decided to discuss the item under AOCB.
- Moray Cllr Creswell asked who has taken responsibility to carry forward **Home Insulation** and **Sherrif / Justice of the Peace. Mt Dora Association:** Moray Cllr Alexander reported that there is no charge for use of Forres Academy because it is classed as a school activity.
- **Youth Representative:** Cllr Noble reported that there is a volunteer willing to attend meetings. It was suggested that he be invited to the next meeting and asked to bring a friend.
Action: Cllr Rodgers
- **Nimrod Sculpture:** The Nimrod has been repaired and returned to War Veterans' Gardens. The flower bed requires attention. Forres in Bloom will carry this forward.
Action: Forres in Bloom

Chair's and Secretary's Reports and Correspondence:

- Cllr Bremner summarised a report from **Community Warden David Haytack. Dog Fouling:** Four new incidents have been reported. Hotspots have been identified and posters are on display. **Litter/ Fly Tipping:** No reports have been made about pupil littering in the last month. **Abandoned Vehicles:** 2 more vehicles are being investigated. **Surgeries:** these will be in Auchernack on Tues 20th May and Wed 9th June from 10am to 12 and from 1.30 to 3pm. Community Wardens will attend **Bikeability Training** to enable them to hold Bikeability Events across Moray. The Moray Council has sent a letter confirming the **co-option of Cllr Chas Rodgers**. He is ineligible to vote for the co-option of other councillors for 12 months after which he becomes a full voting member of Forres CC.
Forres Area Forum: Cllr Haywood has resigned on health grounds. Cllr Rodgers will attend the next meeting.
Action: Cllr Rodgers.

Chair's Report:

- **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 May.
- **£624.42** has been received from **The Moray Council** for the next six month period. Cllr Noble asked if organisations are permitted to belong to Forres Credit Union. Moray Cllr Creswell confirmed that this is so.

Group Reports:

- **Osprey Trust:** Cllr Bremner reported that the group is **seeking a new Secretary/ Treasurer** the previous post holder having re-located.
- **Friends of Falconer Museum:** Cllr Shaw asked if the group has requested the attendance of a Community Council representative. She has not received notification of meetings and has not attended so far but is hoping to have the opportunity to do so.
- **Mount Dora:** The next meeting is on 2nd June 2014. Cllr Guthrie is unable to attend.
- **Planning:** Cllr Hayward Kevin Price of Moray Council Roads Department had provided a list of continuing Forres **Disabled Parking spaces** and those to be removed. He said that there is a lack of powers to remove anyone parking in a disabled bay who has no right to do so. Cllr Noble reported that specified numbered spaces outside residential properties had the numbers removed and are now all designated as '*Disabled*'. Cllr Hayward asked Cllr Creswell to find out if legislation is now in hand to prevent abuse.
Action: Moray Cllr Creswell.

- **Forres in Bloom:** Cllr Duncan reported that many volunteers have helped to prepare the **sculpture frames** for planting and clear the **flower beds** of weeds. The **Sunken Garden** is almost complete. 2 new pumps have been purchased. Donations have been received from residents Piping Hot Forres and The Moray Council has provided some materials. The **fountains** will be **switched on** at 2pm on Saturday 31st May and all are invited to attend.
- **Forres Heritage Trust:** Disabled Toilets have been installed to a very high standard and all the work has been done by volunteers.
- **Berryburn Trust:** Cllrs Duncan and Murdoch have been appointed Trustees. The Constitution is almost complete and an Administrator is about to be appointed. The area follows Community Council Wards and stretches to Grantown, Auldearn and Knockando. The total annual funds to be disbursed is £166 000 and disbursements will be made four times per annum. There are no set criteria for applications.
- **Joint Community Council:** Cllr Murdoch reported that there had been presentations about: Living it Up (tele Health Care); The Scottish Rural Parliament and Strengthening Local Democracy in Scotland - The Community Council's Perspective. Cllr Murdoch is embarrassed that he had spoken about Redco Milne not paying rates for the former Tesco site following information given at the previous Forres CC meeting and that the information was incorrect.

A.O.C.B:

Common Good Land: Moray Cllr Creswell responded to questions about a definitive list of CGL properties that Forres CC may wish to invite a representative from the Legal Department to give a presentation and that she has asked for the accounts for CGF land. There are also concerns about the Bogton situation. It is not clear which residents are in favour or against. Is it perceived that everyone is against the plans so those in favour do speak out? Do Councillors have to speak for what the public say?

Councillors expressed their concerns about **conduct of meetings**. Some were unaware that the Cycle Path Petition was to be brought to the meeting. Cllr Guthrie felt Cllrs are being steamrollered. There is shouting from the MsOTP and it is difficult for everyone to have their say. The Cycle Petition can be forwarded without the council expressing 'for' or 'against'. It was agreed to pass the petition to The Moray Council without a letter.

Suggestions were made to improve the conduct of meetings.

- Time to be made available for Forres Cllrs to discuss items.
- Cllrs to meet at 7pm to prepare for the meeting.
- More controlled and organised meetings which adhere to the Agenda.
- The start and finish of Public Sessions to be indicated. MsOTP should not intervene after that.
- FCC to meet every 2 weeks.
- Items from the Public Session to be on the Agenda for three months and then removed.
- A time limit set for MOTP to speak – eg 3 minutes.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 19th June 2014 at 7.30pm in The Tolbooth.