



## The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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### Meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**Chair: S. Noble**

**Attendees:** S. Ferris, J. Duncan, J. Guthrie, E. Hayward, J McDowell, G. Murdoch, C. Rodger, H. Shaw and M. Walker.

**Also Present :** Moray Cllrs G Alexander, L Creswell, A. McLean; A.Skene: G. McCartney (Forres Gazette), PC Dormand (Police Scotland), S. Maclennan (Minute Taker) & 2 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence came from Cllr A. Mclean, C. Kleintges and D Haytack (Community Warden)

(FCC – Forres Community Council : TMC - The Moray Council)

Topic	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014</b></p> <p>a) <b>Amendments:</b> Mr Bob Hellyer has opened and closed the toilets for four years.</p> <p>b) The minutes were proposed by Heather Shaw, seconded by M. Walker and <b>Ratified</b> by the Chair, S. Noble.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>a) Cycle Path on A96: No further information. Item for next Agenda.</p> <p>b) E.Hayward will has found all the past minutes and will transfer to the FCC laptop.</p> <p>c) Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council: G. Murdoch and J.Duncan attended the August meeting and reported that the meeting was very well run. S. Noble will attend the September meeting.</p> <p>d) Lamp post signs : Cllr Creswell has passed to TMC legal Department.</p> <p>e) The Secretary has written to thank Mr Nevin.</p> <p>f) Photographs of Community Councillors were taken for the Forres Gazette.</p>	<p><b>EH / SN</b></p> <p><b>EH</b></p> <p><b>SN</b></p>
3.	<p><b>Police Scotland Update:</b></p> <p>a) PC Ian Dormand presented the monthly report. The <b>toilets at Grant Park</b> were vandalised on the morning of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September. M. Walker asked if any information has come forward. PC Dormand replied that investigations are continuing and that anyone with information is asked to report to Police Scotland. <b>Motoring:</b> 29 year old male driving at 90 miles per hour on A96; 39 year old male drink driving and no insurance; 19 year old male careless driving – struck another vehicle at junction. <b>Trespass:</b> 27 year old in possession of a firearm without the express permission of the land owner. Resisting Arrest: 25 year old man hindered and resisted arrest when officers attended a residence to follow up complaints of a noisy house party. <b>Wasting Police Time:</b> 50 year old male admitted he made a false complaint about being violently robbed. Alcohol: <b>Fixed penalty notices</b> issued to 22 year old male for drinking on High Street and 41 year old male arrested for threatening and abusive behaviour and later released when sober.</p> <p>b) <b>Parking:</b> A lengthy discussion about parking problems which were</p>	

	<p>raised at last month's meeting followed. C.Rodger said that The Town Centre Planning Group is about to report and has discussed parking issues. S. Ferris proposed and was seconded by H.Shaw that a letter be sent to The Town Centre Planning Group to express support that Town Centre Parking has not been reviewed since 1996 and that a request be made to TMC Roads Department to review the situation.</p> <p>c) PC Dormand handed out six copies of <b>Police Scotland Community Consultation</b> which FCC members completed and returned.</p>	<p><b>CR</b> (in the absence on leave of EH)</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Session:</b></p> <p>a) None</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Moray Councillors' Reports:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Cllr Skene:</b> The <b>Community Centre Cafe</b> will be remarketed with vacant possession. <b>Applegrove Primary School</b> will be upgraded from funds allocated by the Scottish Government and matched by TMC. The timing is not ideal because the <b>review of School Estate</b> will be presented to the strategy group next week. It will be debated at a full TMC Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014. It is hoped to finalise plans by January and this will be followed by a Statutory Review which will take some time. A new <b>3G Pitch</b> will be installed in Forres possibly at Roysvale. Sport Scotland has given £600 000 and TMC will add £300 000. <b>Two new Directors</b> will be appointed in mid October for Education and Social Care and for Planning.</p> <p>b) <b>Cllr Alexander:</b> 22 teaching vacancies have been advertised and there were no applicants. The <b>Supply Teaching</b> situation is desperate across the country. Those present were asked to make people aware of the situation. <b>Landshut Bridge</b> in Elgin, part of the Flood Alleviation Scheme, has been opened. <b>Forres Health Centre</b> has opened. 500 residents attended the Open Day and the centre appears to be working well. <b>Moray Local Draft Development Plan</b> details of the next stages have been passed to the Secretary who has circulated details to FCC members. The item will be discussed later on the Agenda. <b>Scottish Water</b> is creating severe hold ups to development. Units at Waterford Circle are ready for occupation but SW will not connect the system. Richard Lochhead will attend a meeting in Edinburgh with TMC representatives and SW to discuss the problem.</p> <p>c) <b>Cllr Creswell</b> reported that she had attended an informative <b>Social Enterprise Seminar</b> in Edinburgh. <b>Moray Waste Busters</b> have had a Strategic Planning day organised by HIE to plan future direction. A further meeting for discussion about self-directed support was very well attended. The Forres meeting about the <b>Leisure and Sports Review</b> was better supported in Forres than at other Moray locations. Those attending expressed dissatisfaction that relevant information had not been circulated in advance. A youngster who was knocked over outside Anderson's Primary School had his leg strapped up. Moray Councillors have received training about <b>Interviewing Techniques</b>. J. McDowell attended the six monthly Age Concern meeting with Cllr Creswell. He has been invited to be a member of the <b>Health and Wellbeing Group</b>.</p> <p>Cllrs responded to questions. <b>Transport to Forres Health Centre:</b> Donald McRae, TMC Transport Manager has negotiated extra funding and Stagecoach will provide a service once every hour. Dial-a Bus is also available but must be booked in advance on the previous day. Cllr Alexander said no one has contacted him about transport and he</p>	

	would be keen to hear any comments. J. Guthrie asked if <b>additional signage</b> could be installed to identify more clearly the one way system. S. Noble asked about progress with the report about <b>Bogton</b> . Cllr Alexander replied that it will be presented in October.	
6.	<p><b>Chair's Report:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Community Warden Report: Local Interest:</b> 4 neighbourhood disputes; two noisy dog issues and two Operation Avon venues. <b>Dog Fouling:</b> Numerous complaints about fouling in Mannachie Park, Balnageith and Plasmon Mill and a leaflet drop will be done in these areas. Patrols continue to operate in hotspot areas. <b>Litter/ Fly Tipping:</b> 3 instances reported – one resolved, one ongoing and one fixed penalty of £200 issued. Litter <b>Initiative:</b> All wardens will be involved from 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The first week is education week and thereafter enforcement week. The focus is on cigarette butts especially at pubs and retail outlets.</p> <p>b) A <b>bequest</b> of £200 has been received from the estate of John Roger Carr. The Secretary will write a letter of thanks.</p> <p>c) <b>Co-options:</b> Three residents have expressed an interest in serving on the FCC. The Chair will speak to them and invite them to attend the next meeting to give a short personal profile.</p> <p>d) <b>Administration and Communication:</b> General emails have been circulated to all. Specific emails have been forwarded to appropriate member.</p> <p>e) <b>Local Groups contact update:</b> Cllr Creswell reported that over 400 invitations have been sent out for the Spirit of Community Event. The lists held are out of date and there is duplication. Some groups have responded with up to date contact details. FACT is issuing the invitations and holds a list.</p>	EH SN
7.	<p><b>Secretary's Report:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Local Directory:</b> A sample copy of the Lossie Local has been received with a request to assess support for a similar Forres Version. It was decided that it covers the same information as the Spotlight Publication and that the Secretary will write expressing regret.</p> <p>b) Tracey Rae has sent information about a proposed <b>training</b> for new Community Councillors.</p> <p>c) <b>Polling places:</b> The Secretary asked that members look at the maps which have been sent and forward comments to her.</p> <p>d) The Joint Community Council has sent information about the proposed <b>community recognition awards</b>. A nomination form will be printed in the Northern Scot on 26<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October. An award ceremony will be held in the Alexander Graham Bell Centre in Elgin. Community Councils are asked to contribute to the costs of the event. J. Guthrie proposed a contribution of £35.00 be made as a promotion for FCC and was seconded by C.Rodger. The proposal was agreed.</p> <p>e) <b>Forres Burgess Award:</b> Information about nominations will be published in The Forres Gazette in February or March. Members of the Forres Community Activities Association then decide who shall be honoured.</p> <p>f) A <b>letter</b> had been received addressed to Forres Community Councillors. The content was not within the remit of the FCC and the writer was asked to contact the relevant body. It was not passed to all Forres Community Councillors. Dissatisfaction that it had not been</p>	EH EH ALL SF

	<p>circulated was expressed. S. Ferris had taken the decision in the absence of the Chair. He apologised for not circulating the letter and will now do so.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b></p> <p>b) S. Ferris handed over to H.Shaw who is now Treasurer. There is no change from last month's figures. The account stands at £397.30 and there is £5 cash in hand.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Moray Local Draft Plan:</b></p> <p>a) The plan has been approved by The Moray Council and will now be passed to the Reporter. There were 719 responses and 269 objections which will also be sent to the Reporter whose decision will be published in June 2015. Cllrs Alexander and McLean had tried to have additional statements included but had been unable to have this suggestion approved. SEPA has now deemed that Waterford is suitable for development and Transportation reports are awaited.</p>	
10	<p><b>Common Good Accounts 2013 / 2014</b></p> <p>a) Deborah Brands of The Moray Council had responded that no representative would be sent to this meeting but that she is willing to answer any questions. SN asked why administration costs are so high (£6 000). Cllr Alexander responded that the costs include legal, estate and audit services and that the more questions asked by the community then the higher the costs to the Common Good Fund. SN suggested that FCC needs to be careful about the number of questions asked of Officers and that it would be advisable to ask the Trustees who are our four elected members. J.McDowell asked why the Bowling / Soccer Sevens building is not included on the Assets list when St Catherine's Bowling Club and the Squash Club are. Cllr Alexander replied that these were owned prior to 1975 when the act came in to force. He also asked why Forres Mechanics Ground is valued at £5 million pounds and was told that this is because of the outline planning permission request. Should the land not be used for development within five years then the ground will be revalued. A question was raised about the sale of land beside the Football Ground. There is uncertainty about the previous use for the slaughterhouse or the Gas Works and if the money has gone to the Common Good Fund. The trustees will find out and report back. SN asked about the revenue calculation. The income for the year is £19 826 less administration costs of £5 000 which leaves £14 826. Two thirds of this £9 947 should be disbursed to the community but the accounts state that £7 000 has been disbursed. It was explained that costs for work done to the banks behind houses on St Leonard's Road will be deducted for 7 years. SN asked where is the money invested because the interest rate is 0.8%. It was explained that TMC is very restricted in where money may be invested although interest is pegged to the Bank of England. The Common Good money is held within TMC money but is separately audited. The Community Empowerment Bill may change the legislation about Common Good assets and money. In Argyll and Bute Common Good has been devolved to local Trusts and the interest accrued is 3 or 4%. Cllr Alexander reminded that should responsibility be devolved then the Trust would be responsible for every building and land and the funds may soon be used up.</p>	
11	<p><b>Spirit of Community Event:</b> Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 7pm Forres Town Hall</p>	

	<p>a) 400 invitations have been sent out. There will be short introductions about the role of Community Councils, FACT and Forres Area Forum. This will be followed by group discussions. Those attending may choose two options and the groups will have 2 facilitators who will undergo a prior training session in preparation for the event.</p>	
12	<p><b>Group and Representative Reports</b></p> <p>a) <b>Planning:</b> An application will be submitted for a site at Waterford by a company which makes smart metering equipment. It was agreed to wait to make a decision once the plans are available. Hanover Court: Work is now expected to start in mid November. It was agreed to support an application for a premises licence which has been submitted by Rachel's Fine Food deli.</p> <p>b) <b>Mt Dora:</b> The visit to America by Forres Academy students had gone well.</p> <p>c) <b>Berry Burn Windfarm:</b> The family day was very successful and attracted 440 people. 60 people attended a reception in Knockomie Hotel. Application Forms are now available. £166 000 will be allocated in the first disbursement with four allocations of £40 000 in following years.</p> <p>d) <b>Forres Community Activities Association:</b> Scottish Week will be from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Some new helpers have volunteered. There will be no Gala Queen and Attendants. There will be a street parade followed by a Rock Concert in Grant Park. Other events will be decided soon.</p> <p>e) <b>Town Centre Working Group:</b> The group is researching internet access. G. Murdoch will investigate if the funds held by Forres Business Association, which is in abeyance, could be used by the group.</p> <p>f) <b>Film Forres:</b> Winter Activities have been planned. The group wishes to thank FCC for the donation of £400.</p> <p>g) <b>Forres Area Forum:</b> The Forum is investigating the provision of free <b>Wi-Fi</b>. The Forum will contribute £500 towards the cost of a <b>leaflet</b> to promote days out in Forres, Lossiemouth, Keith and Buckie.</p> <p>h) <b>Age Scotland:</b> J McDowell attended a Moray meeting. The meetings will be held every six months. Moray Handypersons is now providing Chiropody Services.</p>	EH
12	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Trees on Cluny Hill:</b> It was agreed to write to Ken Kennedy of TMC to express support plans to remove and cut back trees on Cluny Hill. It will be a costly operation but any surplus money from sale of timber will accrue to the Common Good Fund.</p> <p>b) <b>River Findhorn:</b> G. Murdoch asked if shingle will be removed regularly. Cllr Alexander replied that the construction company will have responsibility for this for 2 years after the project is completed. G. Murdoch said that in the past shingle had been removed and crushed. Cllr Alexander will keep FCC informed.</p> <p>c) <b>Remembrance Sunday:</b> The FCC wreath will be laid by John Guthrie.</p>	EH  Cllr GA  JG
13	<p><b>Date of next Meeting: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October in The Tolbooth at 7.00pm. Please note earlier Start Time.</b></p>	