



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 19th March 2015

Chair: S. Noble

1. Attendees: E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, G. McRobie, M. Walker,

Also Present : Moray Cllrs: G. Alexander, L Creswell, A. McLean, A. Skene; Sgt K. McPherson, Police Scotland; G. McCartney (Forres Gazette); S. Maclennan (Minute Taker) & 4 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

Apologies: Apologies for absence came from J. McDowell, G.Hilditch; C.Rodger, J. Duncan, S. Ferris, H.Shaw, J. Guthrie; D Haytack (Community Warden).

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

Topic	Discussion	Action
2.	<p>Police Scotland Update: Sgt Kevin McPherson reported. Travellers Encampments: Landowners at Forres Enterprise Park sought an eviction order, the group was moved on and later set up at Roseisle. The Forestry Commission obtained an order and the group moved on outwith the Forres area. Where unlawful encampments are reported Police liaise with landowners and TMC in order to check and manage sites. Motoring Offences: Directed speed checks have been carried out after a complaint received about speeding and one person was reported for speeding and 14 stopped and educated about their speed or driving. Male, 38, charged with careless driving following a collision; male, 40, charged after numerous defects were noted and a female, 25, charged regarding defective tyres. Antisocial Behaviour: Male, 67, issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice after he behaved in a disorderly manner in licensed premises whilst under the influence of alcohol and a male, 25, was issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice after police observed him urinating in the car park of licensed premises. Wildlife Crime Campaign: Police Scotland launched its campaign on 23rd March. Issues likely to affect this area are: hare coursing and deer and fish poaching. Further details are available online.</p>	
3.	<p>Public Session:</p> <p>a) A96 Non Motorised Users Meeting: MOTP asked if any Community or Moray Councillor has received notification of the meeting which has been organised by Nestrans and Hi Trans. No notification has been received. MOTP will send details to SN who will circulate to members.</p>	MOTP/ SN
4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes of 19th February 2015</p> <p>The Minutes were proposed by E. Hayward, seconded by M.Walker and ratified by the Chair, S. Noble.</p>	

5.	Matters Arising:		
6 /12	<p>Common Good Queries:</p> <p>a) Breakdown of Admin Costs: 2013 / 14: Legal Services - £3456; Estates - £209; Financial Services - £1990</p> <p>b) Accounts: There is one set of accounts. TMC Cllrs, who are the Trustees, are given a budget at the beginning of the year to provide a guideline for expenditure. The final audited accounts are presented in September.</p> <p>c) Land alongside Forres Mechanics Football Ground: This area was the subject of a Freedom of Information Enquiry last year. Both parcels of land had been transferred in the 1800s for a slaughterhouse and gas works. The land was sold in 1997 for £110 000. No adjustment to Forres Common Good fund is necessary.</p> <p>d) Legal Services: Charges are for search time and include: 8 hours for legal research; 1.5 hours for Heritage research and 3.5 hours for driver's time. A question was raised asking why there are charges when council staff are already being paid. Cllr Skene answered that this is extra time in addition to normal duties. G. Murdoch asked if any errors had been found by researchers.</p> <p>e) Cost of Repair to walls on St Leonard's Road: The cost will be reflected in the Accounts for 2014 / 15.</p> <p>f) Community Empowerment Bill: John Ferguson from TMC will be asked to attend a meeting and address how the Bill will affect Forres Common Good Fund. A full report will go to TMC in August and it was agreed to wait until the Bill and Guidelines have been completed.</p>		
	<p>Lochyhills Development: Cllr Alexander reported that he has been assured that the Forres Treatment Works has adequate capacity for 17 000 residents. A report of the TMC meeting of 25.11.14 is available on the council website. A guarantee has been given that no water will encroach on fields adjacent to the development.</p>		
8A	<p>Forres Woodland Management Plan: S. Noble has asked Sylvia Jamieson to explain the process to be used at the Public Consultation Meeting. She will be invited to the next FCC meeting. Ken Kennedy's has arranged for the removal of any trees which are a danger to the public. The Rotary Club of Forres will start work on clearing Helge's Hole on Saturday 21st March.</p>		
8A	<p>Forres Lights: The title Cluny Hill by Night has been suggested. FCC Cllrs will visit Faskally on Sunday to meet Derek Allan.</p>		GM/SN/ GH/JD
8D	<p>Forres Peace Pole: A letter has been received from Forres in Bloom asking to be involved in discussions. Any plans for the Conservation area must be approved by Lands and Parks.</p>		SN/JG
8F	<p>Sea Gulls nesting on TMC property: S Noble wrote to David Munro but there has not been a resolution to the problem. Cllr Alexander referred to the articles in the press which had urged residents not to feed the birds. It is a simple procedure to obtain a licence to deal with the problem. S. Noble asked if TMC has a licence. Cllr Alexander said that there are Health and Safety issues to be considered. He proposed that he and S. Noble continue to press for action. He will contact G. McRitchie. Cllr</p>		SN/GA

		Creswell suggested contacting Pest Control, G. Allardyce.	
	9C	Training for Councillors: Tracey has this matter in hand and will contact E.Hayward when a date has been decided.	EH
7.	<p>Moray Councillors' Reports:</p> <p>Cllr Alexander: Meeting with Moray MP Richard Lochhead: A productive meeting was held to discuss how TMC and the local member can work together for the good of the people of Moray. William Anderson VC: Cllr Alexander attended the unveiling of a memorial stone to William Anderson who was born in Dallas. Elgin Charette: A consultation event was held in Elgin to provide an opportunity for resident to put forward ideas to revitalise the centre of Elgin, Cooper Park, Lossie Green and Grant Lodge. Flood Risk Management Consultation: There is an opportunity to respond to consultation on SEPA website <i>frm-Scotland.org.uk</i> until 2nd June. A 6 year plan will then be completed. In response to a question from S.Noble Cllr Alexander answered that the consultants' report about Bogton will be presented as a paper at Policy and Resources Committee in April.</p> <p>Cllr Creswell: The Learning Disability Group discussed transport issues at their recent meeting. CARS meeting: Reni Milburn chaired a meeting to discuss the way forward. It is hoped to access funding to repair buildings in the Conservation Area of the town. Spirit of Community: The draft copy of the Older Persons' Directory is ready and help to proof read would be appreciated. Young people are interested in creating a Skate Park.</p> <p>tsi Moray Join the Dots event: Lesley Riddoch was the main speaker and advocated increased funding for Community Councils. Participatory Funding: During the event attendees were asked to vote for group(s) which had applied for funding from The Change Fund by placing counters in appropriate container(s). The funds will be disbursed in accordance with the vote. Forres Flood Alleviation Opening: The Chair and Vice Chair of FCC have been invited to attend. Osprey Bus: Senior Citizen and Disability groups are eligible to apply to book the bus. Volunteer drivers are needed.</p> <p>Auchernack Trust: The next round for applications starts in May.</p> <p>Cllr Mclean: World Orienteering Championships: Volunteers are needed to assist with the event. SNP Quiz will take place on 4th April. Planning: Applications received include: Change of plans for 20 flats to 10 houses; change of use for The Old Mart and 30 beach huts at Findhorn.</p> <p>Cllr Skene: Primary 2 and 3 class sizes: A full TMC debate passed the motion that P2 and P3 classes maximum sizes be increased from 25 to 30 for the next 2 years to ease the shortage of places in some Moray Schools. Additional Classroom Assistants will be employed to support these classes.</p> <p>Management in Schools: A review of staffing will address the introduction of Faculty Principal Teachers in Secondary Schools; the reinstatement of the post of Principal Teacher in some Primary Schools and the extension of paired Head Teacher posts in smaller Primary Schools.</p>		
8.	<p>Chair's Report:</p> <p>a) Community Councillor James McDowell has tendered his resignation on health grounds. He thanked his colleagues and said that he has enjoyed his time on the council and hopes that he has been able to make a useful contribution. E. Hayward will arrange to send the thanks of FCC.</p> <p>b) Vacancy: The Chair asked members to give thought to a replacement for James.</p> <p>c) FCC Promotion: The Power Point presentation is in hand. The art work will also be used on the pop-up banners.</p>		SN

9.	<p>Secretary's Report:</p> <p>a) St Catherine's Road Crossing: Residents have expressed concerns. Cllr Alexander reported that traffic lights will be installed at the junction with Orchard Road. Cllr McLean added that Developer Contribution towards this should be coming through soon.</p> <p>b) G. Murdoch and E. Hayward will attend a JCC consultation meeting to launch consultation about Developer Contributions. Sporadic Rural Development will also be discussed.</p> <p>c) Recycling: TMC have offered a presentation on Waste Management Legislation. S. Noble suggested that a speaker be invited every second meeting. The next speaker will be Sylvia Jamieson.</p>	
10	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <p>a) No change from last month. The account stands at £1298.92. Efforts to have signatories amended are still in progress.</p>	
13	<p>Group and Representatives' Reports:</p> <p>a) Planning: There will be a road closure on North Road to allow building works at the former Hanover site. The Old Mart: Historic Scotland has identified that some of the facade, which depicts farm animals, should be retained. 24 flats will be built.</p> <p>b) G. Murdoch reported that MOTP has asked for dog waste bin to be sited at Bogton Road. He will contact Steve Williamson. Parking Survey; The Town Centre Working Group survey is now available on the FACT website. TCWG members will hand out forms to shop owners. A press release will follow soon.</p> <p>c) M. Walker reported that plans for the 3G pitch will take time to carry forward. Skate Park: TMC cannot take the lead in this initiative. S. Noble added that Kevin Riddoch is keen to be involved.</p> <p>d) Forres in Bloom: A Spring Clean of Grant Park will take place on Sunday 22nd March. Several events are planned for the celebration of the 25th anniversary including a Photo Display and party in The Tolbooth in April; a promotion event by Mackenzie and Cruickshank and a floral bed at Market Green and funding from The Berry Burn Community Trust has been received to install a professional standard greenhouse and purchase maintenance equipment.</p>	<p>GM</p> <p>MW</p>
14	<p>Any other Competent Business:</p> <p>a) Visit to Forres Health Centre: The tour was much appreciated by those who attended.</p>	
15	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>a) 26.03.15 – Opening of Forres Flood Alleviation Scheme</p> <p>b) 30.03.15 to 11th April – The Tolbooth will be open to the public and manned by volunteers.</p> <p>c) Arts Project: Findhorn Bay Arts is developing a project to be run over the summer months.</p>	
16	<p>Date of next Meeting: Thursday 16th April 2015 in The Tolbooth (Ground Floor Meeting Room) at 7.15pm.</p>	