



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 21st July 2016, 19:15

Chair: S. Noble

Attendees: E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, J. Guthrie, M. Walker, G. Hilditch, K. Hardie, S. Fraser (Minutes)

Also Present: Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr G. Alexander, S. Ferris, G. McCartney (Forres Gazette), 8 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr A. McLean, Cllr A. Skene, H. Shaw, C. Roger

FCC - Forres Community Council TMC - The Moray Council FAF - Forres Area Forum

Topic	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome: S. Noble welcomed those present. S. Noble made a note of thanks to Steve Ferris, who after 14 years serving on FCC stood down at the June meeting due to work commitments. S. Noble presented a card and gift to Steve as a mark of thanks for his service.	
2.	Police Report: Sgt Brian Milne attended the meeting and noted apologies on behalf of Sgt Steve Carmichael. Sgt Milne explained that following a local command decision, police attendance will continue at FCC meetings and that reporting will focus on items that the Police want to bring to the public attention; a crime report would not be submitted. Sgt Milne highlighted that the public can log concerns online via the Police Scotland website under 'Your Views Count' and further encouraged people to use the Crimestoppers telephone number too. Following questioning from G. McCartney about the lack of a crime report, E. Hayward read a letter from the outgoing Sgt. Brander outlining that Police attendance at FCC meetings will continue and will provide a brief overview of Policing matters and an opportunity for the community to raise concerns. K. Hardie and M. Walker expressed disappointment about the lack of a crime report and the uncertainty if this information will be fed to FCC at all. It was agreed that E. Hayward would write a letter to the Chief Superintendent expressing disappointment about no crime report being submitted and to gain clarification on crime figures and reporting. Concerns Raised: K. Hardie raised concerns about the safety of the old Bervie Chip Shop and the risk of future fires. Sgt Milne to note of the concern and recommended local people call the Forres Police Station to report such things.	EH
3.	Public Session: 1. Beautiful Scotland Judging: Member of the Public informed the meeting that Beautiful Scotland judging would take place on Tuesday August 2 nd from 12:30pm. Forres in Bloom seek more volunteers to help weed and clean the streets the weekend before judging. 2. CARS Scheme: Member of the Public expressed disappointment that Moray Council rejected the Forres Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS). Cllr G. Alexander replied explaining that two options were available; £680k council investment over 5 years including two apprenticeships; or, £390k over 5 years excluding apprenticeships. Cllr G. Alexander stated that Moray Council did not have the money to support the scheme. G. Murdoch, on behalf of Forres Business Association reported the group being disappointed with the decision, but also recognised the declining amounts of Scottish Government money being received by the council. Cllr G. Alexander highlighted this point noting that on present funding, Moray Council will be bankrupt by 2018. 3. Vacancies on FCC: With two positions available on FCC, Rowan Duczek, Shaun Moat and Kenny Shand have expressed an interest in joining. Rowan and Shaun attended the meeting to introduce themselves; Kenny was unable to attend due to accessibility to the meeting not suiting his needs. A decision and vote will take place at the next meeting to co-opt new members. S. Noble to liaise with possible delegates until the next meeting. 4. Old Auction Mart: Sandy Park spoke representing Mackintosh Highland, the company that own the old Auction Mart on Tytler Street. Mr Park confirmed that in 2008 planning permission was granted for 24 flats	SN

	under the condition from Historic Scotland to retain the façade and two chimneys. With planning permission due to run out in September and the building deteriorating, Mr Park stressed a need for progression at the site. It was agreed that E. Hayward would write a letter on behalf of FCC expressing concerns about inaction, concerns about the deterioration of the building and it becoming an eyesore on the main access route to the town from the train station, and to apply pressure to expedite action.	EH
4.	Ratification of Minutes of FCC Meeting June 16th 2016: The minutes from FCC meeting held on June 16 th 2016 were proposed by E. Hayward, seconded by M. Walker and ratified by the Chair, S. Noble.	
5.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>1. Tytler Street & Network Rail. K. Hardie noted that the broken fence at the end of the street by the bypass had been fixed following Cllr. Creswell organising a meeting with Network Rail. The work was carried out by BAM Nuttall on behalf of Network Rail.</p> <p>2. Purchase of Dictaphone. S. Fraser made the purchase totally £112.37 and item now in use. S. Fraser to submit receipt to H. Shaw to receive reimbursement.</p> <p>3. Transport Scotland Meeting. Attended by G. Hilditch, J. Guthrie, E. Hayward with representatives from the Traffic Police for Moray, BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland regarding to the junction from the A96 to Market Street. G. Hilditch thanked E. Hayward for arranging the meeting and informed the group that future action at this site would include; looking at the placement of the islands, more road markings being added, and hopefully an increase to the signage. G. Hilditch was keen for a 30mph limit to be put in place but this would not be possible.</p> <p>4. Town Hall WiFi. S. Fraser made contact with Moray Council and was informed that the inclusion of an internet provision would not be possible via council resources. S. Fraser is to research possible private suppliers, costings and gather more information for the Moray Council IT department with regards to internet safety measures that would need to be adhered to. E. Hayward suggested that money from the Common Good Fund could be used to finance the provision and is to pass on the contact details for Nicky Gosling to S. Fraser to investigate.</p> <p>5. Name Cards, Badges, Posters Updates. S. Noble is in the process of updating these items. S. Fraser supplied badge holders and badges are now in use. S. Noble to continue updating this information and will acquire new business cards too.</p> <p>6. Consultations: Community Empowerment Bill – S. Noble updated the meeting that the consultation is currently progressing through the legal system. Moray Woodland Management Plan – G. Hilditch and G. Murdoch attended the Moray Woodland Public Stakeholder Exhibition call for ideas for Moray woodlands in terms of wellbeing, tourism access etc. G. Hilditch and G. Murdoch submitted ideas following the meeting.</p> <p>Future Procedure for Consultations – S. Noble noted that for future consultations to be submitted on behalf of FCC, responses must be brought to the group and ratified. The matter of a Consultation Policy & Press Policy is to be added to the next agenda.</p> <p>7. Forres Community Council Storage in the Tolbooth. FCC banners are now stored in a room in The Tolbooth.</p> <p>8. Rifle Range & Nearby Planning. E. Hayward informed the meeting that no planning applications had been submitted in the vicinity of the rifle range.</p> <p>9. Purchase of Projector. To be carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>10. Highland Games Stand. First FCC public presence at Forres Highland Games attended by S. Noble, K. Hardie and J. Guthrie. Encouraging exercise with positive community feedback including engagement with a member of Forres Academy Pupil Council. To strengthen and engage younger people with FCC, M. Walker suggested that a FCC representative attend the Pupil Council meetings. S. Noble to follow up with Forres Academy to progress possible linkages.</p> <p>- Common Good. Through conversation about the Forres Highland Games, K. Hardie questioned if the Common Good fund received payment for the use of Grant Park for events. E. Hayward noted some information received from Moray Council stated that no</p>	<p>SF/ HS</p> <p>SF</p> <p>EH</p> <p>SN</p> <p>SN/E H</p> <p>HS</p> <p>SN</p>

	<p>further Common Good documents were available at present and that there was a report scheduled for the committee on 2nd August but this has been postponed. Cllr G. Alexander advised that the accounts for the Common Good would be available in August and suggested contacting Paul Niven for further information. It was agreed that a separate meeting be held once these accounts have been received to discuss Common Good issues in depth.</p> <p>- Common Good Grant Park Document. E. Hayward highlighted that a document of information circulated to FCC about Grant Park Common Good has not been returned and asked all to check their paperwork to help locate it</p> <p>11. Golf Course Mast. E. Hayward submitted a response about the proposal to erect a telecommunications mast on land within Forres Golf Course, asking where the rental money went to, objecting to the height of the mast, and enquiring about the nature of the mast. Margaret Wilson responded and sent a copy of the Forres Golf Course Agreement which stated that income and expenditure relating to the operations within the Golf Course are not included in the Common Good accounts for the council, so rental of the land for the mast goes to Forres Golf Course. E. Hayward also confirmed that the mast is for mobile phone telecommunications for Telephonica.</p> <p>12. Purchase of Empty Shops. G. Murdoch made the suggestion to Forres Business Association. This can be suggestion that is returned to in the future.</p>	ALL
6.	<p>Moray Councillors Reports: Cllr G. Alexander – Attended a Service Learning Visit at Forres House Community Centre and learnt that no fee applied to cancellation of room hire. Cllr Alexander stressed that council provisions must start to operate like businesses. Attended a specials appeal committee. Visited inside Castlehill Church and confirmed that there are no flies inside the church and sees no other solution for the building but demolition. Rex Mackintosh from the Nelson Society recently visited Forres and Cllr Alexander said he was very impressed with Nelson Tower and The Tolbooth. Cllr L. Creswell – Raised the point about Coffee Mornings being cancelled at short notice and this is being looked into. Kevin Stewart MSP visited the area and toured various sites which Cllr Creswell attended. Will be attending Hanover Court meeting next week. Attended the Integrated Board about Mental Health and the TSI Forum about voluntary sector agencies. Cllr Creswell confirmed that Forres Area Credit Union had collected the keys to their new premises. Questions for Councillors – G. Hilditch raised concerns to the Moray Councillors about the heavy handed approach of council tax collection. G. Hilditch expressed concern that Summary Warrants are being sent too readily and that the procedures and timescales stated on letters is not being followed. S. Noble concurred with this point feeling that fast tracking to Sheriff Officers was happening. Cllr L. Creswell noted these points to investigate.</p>	LC
7.	<p>Chair’s Report: Osprey Trust – S. Noble met with Trustees to help with next steps, promotion and recruiting volunteers. Auchernack Trust – Attended trustee meeting to help award the next round of funding. S. Noble will meet with the OAP Group to present their funds shortly. Other successful applicants are yet to be announced.</p>	
8.	<p>Secretary’s Report: Cassieford Flooding – no response from Diane Burgess. Hanover Court - completion running behind, councillors visit still to follow. Orchard Road Traffic Lights – held up by Gas works, Elaine Penny working to resolve. Town Hall Lights – ongoing issue, Elaine Penny to look into. Air Gun Permission – correspondence had been received from a member of the public seeking to gain permission to use an air gun in the vicinity of the River Findhorn. The Bailiff and Wildlife Police Officer were contacted and refused permission. E. Hayward informed member of the public and also highlighted the impending law change regarding to firearms.</p> <p>Derelict Buildings – Willie Clarke the Principle Building Standards Officer at Moray Council is investigating who owns the derelict buildings on Leask Road, North Street and North Road. E. Hayward thanked K. Hardie for helping secure one of these properties. Old Slaughter House – Paul Gee of Redco Milne boarded up this premises promptly following contact from E. Hayward.</p> <p>FCC Vacancy – Kenny Shand has shown interest in joining FCC but raised concerns that he would not be able to access the meeting space in The Tolbooth Courtroom.</p>	

	Action Point: Options for possible meeting venue change and election of new councillors to be carried forward to August meeting.	
9.	Treasurer's Report: No report as H. Shaw not in attendance.	
10.	Forres 2020 Vision: Planning for Real process of people led planning for locals to flag up issues, ideas and opportunities. A pilot session is due to take place on Friday 23 rd July with Forres Area Youth Zone group at 10am. The first full public consultation will be held on Saturday September 3 rd . G. Murdoch highlighted that an event in the Findhorn Bay Festival was called 2020 Vision and raised concerns about the name conflict.	
11.	Promotion and Publicity: It was agreed that FCC would set up a stand on Forres High Street outside The Tolbooth for promotion purposes. Booking of the rent room would also be required. S. Fraser to check availability of the Rent Room and outside area on the street and arrange a suitable date.	SF
12.	Castlehill Church: K. Hardie and S. Noble have both attempted to contact the owner but have not received a reply. S. Fraser to put S. Noble in contact with owner.	SF
13.	<p>Group and Representatives Reports:</p> <p>Planning – Redco Milne consultation about the proposal for old Tesco site due to take place in August in Forres Town Hall.</p> <p>G. Murdoch – Electric Car Charging Point: Member of public asked if there was an electric car recharging point in Forres. Although there is one at Transition Town Forres it is not always accessible. M. Walker to enquire if one could be installed in Tesco car park. Debris from Castlehill Church: Debris sitting in the grounds of Castlehill Church unacceptable. S. Noble has already spoken to Ian Finlay at Transition Town Forres regarding this. E. Hayward to write to Environmental Health raising concerns. Energy Bills: G. Murdoch raised concerns that elderly people may be in need of help to renew energy bills and asked if a worker could be funded through the Auchernack Trust. Cllr L. Creswell said that funding for an older people's worker was being sought to support older people and this would be an example of where information could be distributed once the person is appointed so that energy bills could be explored and tariff examined. Local Registrar: G. Murdoch noted that there is no Registrar in Forres, appointments for a home visit or arranging to go to Elgin is required to register a death. Cllr G. Alexander is investigating the process in place and will report back.</p> <p>Environment & Social Enterprise – K. Hardie reported that he had joined a Wellbeing Steering Group.</p> <p>Health – M. Walker raised concerns that patients discharged from Aberdeen hospital often have to find a transport provision home; this point was noted by the Health representative G. Hilditch. E. Hayward asked if G. Hilditch could investigate when the Ophthalmology Department would open again at Dr Gray's.</p> <p>Sport & Recreation – M. Walker has been in contact with the Planning Department and Development Department about a 3G Pitch. It is not currently included in the Development Plan as so progress on this matter is not likely to move quickly.</p> <p>Culture & Events – S. Fraser was a volunteer at Forres Highland Games and reported that The Findhorn Bay Festival programme had been launched, during which, Tolbooth Street would be closed to traffic on Culture Day. Other: S. Fraser has updated the FCC Forres Web pages.</p>	<p>MW</p> <p>EH</p> <p>GA</p> <p>GH</p>
14.	<p>Forthcoming Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Community Council meeting, August 11th - Forres 2020 Vision, September 3rd, Forres Town Hall - Forres Heritage Trust Photography Exhibition, Wed August 31st – Sat September 3rd 	
15.	AOCB: No other business was discussed.	
16.	Date of next Meeting: Thursday August 18 th , 7:15pm	

Meeting ended: 21.50