



# 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 18th August 2016, 19:15

**Chair:** S. Noble

**Attendees:** E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, H. Shaw, M. Walker, G. Hilditch, K. Hardie, S. Fraser (Minutes)

**Also Present:** Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr G. Alexander, G. McCartney (Forres Gazette), 4 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr A. McLean, Cllr A. Skene, J. Guthrie, C. Roger

*FCC - Forres Community Council    JCC – Joint Community Council    TMC - The Moray Council    FAF - Forres Area Forum*

| Topic | Discussion  | Action    |
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| 1.    | <b>Welcome:</b> Chair S. Noble opened the meeting and apologies were noted.   |           |
| 2.    | <b>Police Report:</b> Sgt. Shaun Wood attended. <b>Incidents;</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> July, 41 year old female arrested and charged for drink driving in Kinloss and appeared in court the following day; 13 <sup>th</sup> August, 17 year old male arrested and charged following an unprovoked assault on Stuart Street in Forres, a 27 year old male was taken to hospital; the front window of a property on Stuart Street was vandalised following a disturbance on 14 <sup>th</sup> August at 01:45, witnesses being sought; between 00:00 at 09:15 on 13 <sup>th</sup> August two parked cars on Ferry Hill had wing mirrors damaged and a parked car on Ferry Road received damaged to the rear window, witnesses being sought. <b>Questions;</b> - M. Walker asked if there had been less crime in the previous month as the report provided was short, Sgt. Wood noted no difference in the level of crime in the area. - G. McCartney asked to receive a copy of the report, Sgt. Wood informed the meeting it would be a verbal report only. Sgt. Wood is to find out what happens with the police report when an officer cannot attend the FCC meeting and provide feedback. - E. Hayward enquired about media reports of reduced drug investigations, Sgt. Wood was not able to comment on this question and assured the meeting that drug investigations were carried out robustly. <b>Police, Fire &amp; Rescue Committee;</b> Cllr. Alexander stated that the questions raised at the meeting had also been raised and answered during the Police, Fire & Rescue Committee session held during the day on 18 <sup>th</sup> August. Proceedings from the session can be viewed online via TMC website. | Sgt. Wood |
| 3.    | <b>Public Session:</b> G. McCartney asked for the views of FCC about the verbal report from the Police and the potential lack of report when an officer cannot attend the meeting. S. Noble asked for this point to be discussed under matters arising.   |           |
| 4.    | <b>Council Session: Ratification of Minutes of FCC Meeting July 21st 2016.</b> E. Hayward noted an amendment had been submitted by Cllr. Creswell which was rectified. The minutes from FCC meeting held on July 21st 2016 were proposed by E. Hayward, seconded by G. Murdoch and ratified by the Chair, S. Noble.   |           |
| 5.    | <b>Matters Arising: Police Report Letter;</b> Following the information received via Cllr. Alexander from the Police, Fires & Rescue Committee, and in the knowledge that Shadow Justice Secretary MSP Douglas Ross is aware of the matter of Police Reporting changing, and a letter being written by the JCC expressing dissatisfaction from Community Councils, it was decided to carry this item forward to the next meeting. <b>Tyler Street;</b> E. Hayward contacted Craig Wilson at TMC but has had no response. E. Hayward is to contact Mr Wilson again and also copy the correspondence to Beverly Smith to expedite action as   | EH<br>EH  |

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|    | <p>planning permission is due to expire on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2016. <b>Dictaphone Receipt;</b> Receipt submitted and cheque to repay cost signed off. <b>Town Hall WiFi;</b> S. Fraser is in contact with Moray Council to ensure all of those who would need input about the possible installation of WiFi are informed and in agreement. S. Fraser has also researched possible costs and will work to support a local group in applying for funds if they wish to make an application to funds such as Berry Burn Community Fund, ScotRail Community Fund and The Budge Trust. E. Hayward has information about ScotRail Community Fund and will circulate to all. <b>Tolbooth Storage;</b> FCC pop up banners now kept in Tolbooth storage area. <b>Name Cards, Badges &amp; Poster Update;</b> To be updated following co-option of new members by S. Noble. <b>Purchase of Projector;</b> The purchase of a projector by FCC will not be made at this stage. The projector, leads, and screen from Forres Area Community Trust will be used at future meetings. <b>Contact with Schools;</b> To be carried forward by S. Noble once school resumes. <b>Common Good Issues;</b> Waiting for Common Good Accounts to be issued before FCC discusses Common Good issues. E. Hayward to write to MC to ask when the accounts will be available and to see if Deborah Brands (Finance) and Paul Niven (Solicitor) would be available and willing to attend an EGM to discuss Common Good issues. <b>Council Tax Concerns;</b> G. Hilditch read a response from Alastair McEachan, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, following the complaint about Council Tax recovery procedures. In the letter, Mr McEachan expresses that the recovery process undertaken in the case was valid but recognises that the wording in the information provided to the public about the recovery process is unclear and will be reviewed for improvement. <b>Castlehill Church;</b> S. Fraser has been in touch with the owner but as yet has not heard back and has not chased. S. Fraser to find out the selling agent and contact the owner again. <b>Electric Car Charging Point at Tesco;</b> M. Walker informed the meeting that the planning for the car park upgrade works at Tesco is too far along to consider putting in an electric car charging point. M. Walker also confirmed that two charging points would be installed in the new railway car park. <b>Pigeon Droppings;</b> E. Hayward contacted the Environment Health Department and most of the bags of droppings had since been moved. G. Murdoch was satisfied that action had been taken and that the situation had improved. <b>Registrar Arrangements;</b> Cllr. Alexander provided an update and confirmed that an appointment and attendance in Elgin is required to register a death and that home visits are not carried out. Funeral Directors and hospital staff should be able to help with registering a death if assistance is needed. <b>Ophthalmology Department at Dr Gray's &amp; Patient Transport;</b> G. Hilditch confirmed that patient transport services were available both ways to and from hospital appointments, even to and from Aberdeen. E. Hayward raised concerns about the lack of ophthalmology services at Dr Gray's, G. Hilditch will investigate if ophthalmology services in Elgin will resume or not. <b>FCC Tolbooth Event;</b> S. Fraser will check if FCC can be part of Culture Day on Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>. Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> would be available to use the Tolbooth Rent room if participation in Culture Day is not possible.</p> | <p>SF</p> <p>EH</p> <p>SN</p> <p>SN</p> <p>EH</p> <p>SF</p> <p>GH</p> <p>SF</p> |
| 6. | <p><b>Co-Options:</b> Rowan Duczek, Shaun Moat and Kenny Shand stood for co-option to Forres Community Council. Rowan Duczek was proposed by K. Hardie, seconded by S. Fraser and received 2 votes. Shaun Moat was proposed by G. Murdoch, seconded by G. Hilditch and received 4 votes. Kenny Shand was proposed by K. Hardie, seconded by E. Hayward and received 5 votes. Shaun Moat and Kenny Shand were co-opted to Forres Community Council. <b>Next Steps;</b> K. Hardie was assigned the mentor for Kenny Shand, G. Murdoch was assigned the mentor for Shaun Moat. E. Hayward will organise handbooks for the new FCC members and paperwork to be signed for Moray Council.</p>  | <p>EH</p>   |
| 7. | <p><b>Moray Councillor Reports: Cllr. Creswell; Pillbox -</b> Interest had been expressed locally for preservation of the pillbox by the railway. BAM Nuttall, the company undertaking the works, confirmed that it was not possible for it be kept or relocated but were happy for local</p>   |   |

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|     | <p>interest groups to receive a piece of the pillbox. There was uncertainty raised about what will happen to the signal box, Cllr. Creswell will endeavour to find out. <b>Turning Point</b> - A new local group led by Turning Point has been set up to support those with learning disabilities. <b>Forres Skatepark Initiative</b> - the group are planning to hold an activity on Culture Day. Keith Builders have supplied materials and BAM Nuttall are building and storing a ramp that will be used on Culture Day in Grant Park. <b>Off Shore Windfarm</b> - Attended meeting about off shore windfarm development of the Moray coast. Forres Ward 8 may class as coastal ward entitled to the community benefit fund. Information will come to Community Councils in due course. <b>Hanover Court &amp; Maybank</b> - Cllr. Creswell visited the complex which will be ready for residents arriving in September. Cllr. Creswell also informed the meeting that the Maybank facility on St Catherine's Road is planned to close with residents able to move to a custom built facility near Lhanbryde when completed in 2017. <b>Cllr. Alexander; Webcast</b> - encouraged viewing of the webcast of the Police, Fire &amp; Rescue Committee meeting.</p>  | Cllr. Cr |
| 8.  | <p><b>Chair's Report:</b> S. Noble informed the meeting that Forres 2020 Vision consultation dates had been launched and will take place in Forres Town Hall on Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup> 10-4pm and Monday September 12<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm</p>  |          |
| 9.  | <p><b>Secretary's Report: Moray Litter Summit;</b> Correspondence had been received from MSP Richard Lochhead inviting FCC representatives to the Moray Litter Summit to be held on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> 12noon, venue TBC. Any FCC members interested in attending should contact E. Hayward. <b>Hanover Court;</b> Some Community Councillors attended a viewing of the complex and E. Hayward reported that the accommodation was light, well laid out and integrated part of the original building making a nice feature. E. Hayward wrote to Robyn Patterson, Integrated Social Care Officer for Moray, with a note of thanks for the invitation and visit. Mr Patterson is interested in attending a FCC meeting to give a presentation about the Hanover facility and future projects. E. Hayward proposed that a public presentation be held for this session and G. Hilditch seconded this proposal. <b>Speakers;</b> Through conversation it was suggested and agreed that in addition to the FCC monthly meetings, a session with speakers would be held every few months. This would allow for speakers to present for longer than would allow in the FCC meeting and would reduce the load on the already heavy FCC public meeting agendas. These sessions would be open to the public. <b>Lochyhill to Cassieford Water Overflow;</b> A response had been received from Diane Burgess but the reply does not address the concerns about the pipe in place and the flow of water from the development. E. Hayward is to write back to Diane Burgess asking for further clarification. <b>Moray Transport Seminar;</b> E. Hayward is unable to attend the seminar on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 10:30am in Lhanbryde, S. Fraser will attend instead.</p> | EH<br>SF |
| 10. | <p><b>Treasurer's Report;</b> £1,810.69 in the bank account. Cheques totalling £192.81 had been written. £294.38 in the Credit Union account. Bills from Forres Heritage Trust and The Hub are due to be received. Jane Martin has requested a copy of the audited accounts. H. Shaw to check when this is due to be submitted by.</p>   | HS       |
| 11. | <p><b>Policy on Consultations &amp; Press Contact: Consultations</b> - S. Noble explained that consultation documents are often sent to FCC. When consultations are received, the process is to refer them to the Community Council representative/s who cover that topic area. On consultation replies, it must be clear if the response is on behalf of an individual or on behalf of Forres Community Council. If the reply is to be submitted from FCC the draft response written by the representative/s must be brought back to the council at the next meeting if there is time or by email for approval before submission. <b>Press</b> - Following a long exchange of suggestions amongst Community Councillors and with G. McCartney, it was</p>   |          |

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|     | agreed to be noted that individuals will talk to the press directly, to use the term 'in my opinion' to specify their position, to respond with common sense and to wherever possible have written back up. <b>Misquote</b> - Through discussion about the press policy, it came to light that S. Noble had been misquoted in an article in the Forres Gazette published on Wednesday August 17 <sup>th</sup> . The misquoted remark in question read "The Moray Council just isn't interested". S. Noble will follow up with Tanya McLaren at the Forres Gazette regarding this matter.   | SN    |
| 12. | <b>Website &amp; Facebook Page:</b> S. Noble asked Community Councillors about the possibility of having a website and Facebook page. G. Murdoch, M. Walker, E. Hayward & S. Fraser expressed concerns about the ability and capacity for these channels to be monitored/ maintained. S. Fraser highlighted that there is a Forres Community Council page on ForresWeb.net and that minutes and other information can be updated there. It was agreed that at this moment in time Forres Community Council would not be setting up a website and Facebook page and that S. Fraser should stop updating ForresWeb.net with Community Council information until the email process and address for Forres Web were clarified. E. Hayward and S. Noble to check which email is used to contact Forres Web.   | EH/SN |
| 13. | <b>Group and Representatives Reports: Heritage</b> - H. Shaw informed the meeting that The Friends of the Falconer Museum have a new committee in place and the group was working positivity towards new developments in the near future. <b>Business</b> - G. Murdoch had no Forres Business matters to discuss. <b>Joint Community Council</b> - G. Murdoch attended the last JCC. <b>Environment &amp; Social Enterprise</b> - K. Hardie provided a written update of his activities which included news that he has: joined a steering group of a new Wellbeing service via Transition Town Forres; joined the Osprey Trust as a part time driver; attended a service for Gordon MacDonald at The British Legion; collected litter from the Victoria Hotel car park and carried out some painting on a property on Tytler Street; carried out informal street discussions about public knowledge of the Forres Common Good Fund; connected with MSP Richard Lochhead; suggested to TMC about having area of wildflowers; and, took action with regards to collapsed stone steps behind Forres Town Hall amongst other activities as well. <b>Culture &amp; Events</b> - S. Fraser provided a written update detailing continued work and support with Forres Highland Games, Forres Tolbooth, Findhorn Bay Arts and the Forres 2020 Vision project. <b>Transport</b> - E. Hayward had received a response from Transport Scotland about the possible improvements to the A96 at the Market Street turn off which stated that CCTV and changes to the road lines would not be considered. |       |
| 14. | <b>AOCB:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possible Rotary Club presentation to place at the September meeting. S. Noble to follow up with this arrangement.</li> <li>- M. Walker had been in touch with BAM Nutall and informed the meeting about the open office sessions they are holding on the first Thursday of the month for members of the public to visit and find out about the rail upgrade.</li> <li>- M. Walker asked for possible suggestions for a 'famous' local person to attend the grand opening of the revamped Tesco store. He asked for suggestions to be forwarded to him ahead of the planned opening in October.</li> <li>- S. Fraser is unable to attend the September meeting. H. Shaw will take the minutes at this meeting.</li> <li>- Yvonne Findley has asked to attend a future Forres Community Council to shoot some film footage documenting the Forres area. It was agreed she can attend to do this at the November meeting.</li> </ul>  | SN    |
| 16. | <b>Date of next Meeting:</b> Thursday September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 7:15pm  |       |

Meeting ended: 21:35