



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 15th December 2016, 19:15

Chair: J. Guthrie

Attendees: E. Hayward, S. Moat, H. Shaw, G. Hilditch, C. Rodger, K. Hardie, K. Shand, M. Walker (later at 19:25), S. Fraser (minutes)

Also Present: Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr G. Alexander, G. McCartney (Forres Gazette), D. Mackay (Press & Journal), 0 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr A. McLean, Cllr A. Skene

FCC - Forres Community Council
TMC - The Moray Council

JCC – Joint Community Council
FAF - Forres Area Forum

Topic	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome: J. Guthrie opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance	
2.	Police & Community Warden Report: A new Moray Community Safety Partnership newsletter was circulated by Jane Martin to all Community Councils in the Moray area. This newsletter will be produced and circulated to Community Councils every month and contains details of local crime. During the reporting period for the December 2016 report, 54 crimes were investigated in the Forres area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 4 persons reported for possession of controlled drugs- 1 male reported for vandalism- 2 males reported for spray painting and are currently being investigated- 1 male appeared from custody after being charged with assaulting another and a police officer- A male appeared at Elgin Sheriff Court in relation to acting in an aggressive manner at the Forres Medical Centre- A youth was found in possession of a knife and a report has been submitted to the Youth Justice Management Unit- Officers attended various incidents involving street disorder and two males were later reported for assaults	
3.	Public Session: C. Rodger raised the issue of ship to ship oil transfers in the Cromarty Firth. J. Guthrie said this matter would be raised at the January meeting.	

4.	<p>Ratification of Minutes: The minute from FCC meeting held on Thursday November 17th 2016 was proposed by C. Rodger seconded by E. Hayward and ratified by Chair J. Guthrie.</p>	
5.	<p>Matter Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submission of audited accounts: the accounts were audited by the financial administrator from the Credit Union and are ready to be sent off - Mosset burn silting: E. Hayward drafted a letter about this matter, G. Murdoch said amendments to the letter will be made at a later date. G. Murdoch spoke to Bob Laughton Director of Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust who would support the work. This matter will be picked up in January with the possibility of a joint meeting being held with FAF and Sanquhar Loch protection group - Common good letter to Mr Roddy Burns: E. Hayward informed the meeting that a response had been received from Trustee Cllr L. Creswell. Mr Burns had replied by email saying that he would be meeting with Margaret Wilson and that he will send a letter following feedback from Margaret 	<p>HS</p> <p>GM/EH</p>
6.	<p>Moray Councillor Reports:</p> <p>Cllr L. Creswell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended Nairn Community Council meeting regarding ship to ship oil transfer. Nairn have submitted an objection to the proposed plans - Attended a seminar about Lottery funding for dementia. Forres is a 'dementia friendly town' and could benefit from this funding - Visited Inverness prison where a number of Moray prisoners are held. Has been connecting with housing and drug & alcohol partnerships since the visit - At the Auchernack Trust meeting 6 grants were awarded and cheques are likely to be issued in January 2017 - The Integrated Joint Board met on Thursday 15th December and looked at community level scenario planning and discussed if a Finance Officer was needed for the group. It was recommended that a separate Finance Officer be employed - Cllr L. Creswell obtained copies of the 9 National Health Outcomes and can circulate these if anyone wants a copy - Councillors continue to review leisure facilities 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hanover Housing facility is now open and integrating with the local community over the Christmas period <p>Cllr G. Alexander</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended the North East Scotland Agricultural Advisory Group in Aberdeen on November 23rd as the elected Moray Council representative. It was highlighted that the UK has an Agricultural Policy under the EU, so there is concern that the UK will have no such policy when the UK leaves the EU - There was a public hearing about the planning application to demolish the Tennant Arms Hotel in Lhanbryde. It was concluded that there was no planning grounds to stop the application going through - Planning sites visits and meetings included the discussion of the Ferrylee development which passed the construction of 120 houses, of which 20 will be affordable housing. A developer contribution is being negotiated to tar the Balnaferry Farm Lane. Cllr G. Alexander raised concerns that more housing on the South side of Forres would put more pressure on Grantown Road and Mundole Road and would like a developer contribution now to ensure these roads can be maintained, C. Rodger agreed with this point. It was confirmed that traffic lights will be installed at the end of Orchard Road with the pathway also being restructured. This alteration will take place once match funding from the developer contribution has been secured - Attended the launch of the Confucius Classroom Hub at Elgin Academy for teaching Mandarin. S. Moat said his daughter had enjoyed learning Mandarin through Forres Academy 	
7.	<p>Chair's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A96 Crossing: J. Guthrie informed the meeting that a letter from Graham Alexander had been received regarding to the possible wording to be used on the petition for a safe crossing on the A96 bypass. In reflection of this letter, the final petition will use the wording 'controlled crossing' - A96 Upgrade: A letter was received from the Forum of Community Councils informing the group that the joint meeting to discuss the A96 upgrade won't take place until at least Summer 2017 	EH
8.	<p>Secretary's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning: Correspondence was received from Moray Council 	

	<p>Development Services Planning Officer with a call for people to suggest sites for future development. Anyone can put forward a suggestion via the TMC website. Initial suggestions should be submitted by Tuesday 28th February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morayvia: attended Morayvia with M. Walker and found it to be a very interesting and a fantastic local tourist facility 	
9.	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H. Shaw reported a bank balance of £1,859.27 and £294.39 in the Credit Union account - There are outstanding bills amounting to £96 requiring payment but cannot be paid as there is currently only one signatory. It was proposed by H. Shaw that these bills be paid from the Credit Union account and then reimbursed from the bank account once the account had two active signatories, this proposal was seconded by C. Rodger - H. Shaw informed the meeting that her circumstances had changed and she was stepping down from FCC - S. Moat was proposed as the next Treasurer by J. Guthrie and seconded by E. Hayward - It was unanimously agreed that S. Moat be added as a bank signatory. A second signatory will be added in January and following this H. Shaw will be removed - J. Guthrie thanked H. Shaw for her contribution to FCC 	HS/SM
10.	<p>Group and Representative Reports & Questions:</p> <p>S. Moat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended a charity event for Keiran Mckandie and whilst there spoke to Richard Lochhead who would like to attend a FCC meeting for a chance to speak to the group. E. Hayward will arrange a date for his attendance - Member of public had contacted S. Moat regarding to parking in Forres High Street and police not taking action with regards to people parking in places other than parking spaces <p>G. Murdoch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received a round of applause for Colours of Cluny. G. Murdoch reported that the Colours of Cluny event was a fantastic success and hoping for it to happen again next year - Forres Business Association had Christmas Dinner in November and was well attended. Claire Doughty is currently setting out the programme for next year and it is hoped that 	EH

the Forres Business Association will help link shops and business in with Colours of Cluny

K. Hardie:

- K. Hardie asked the Moray Councillors present what protection is in place for Forres Common Good assets should Moray Council go bankrupt. Cllr G. Alexander clarified that the Moray Council Section 95 Officer Margaret Wilson has stated bankruptcy may occur in the revenue account which runs services like refuse collection, education and social care. The upcoming budget for the next year will dip into the reserves but reserves can only be dipped into once so the challenge will be faced in the following year by the next Council. Should Moray Council declare bankruptcy, Civil Servants from Edinburgh will take over the running of the Council. Cllr G. Alexander also confirmed that the Forres Common Good Fund would be secure and unaffected if this were to happen

G. Hilditch:

- G. Hilditch asked what impact raising Council Tax in Moray would have. Cllr G. Alexander confirmed a 3% increase would raise approximately £1.2 million which would not be enough to cover the expected deficit in Moray Council funds

K. Shand:

- K. Shand provided a written report detailing concerns he had looked into regarding to overgrown grass verges near Grantown Road Park, the possibility of providing a bus shelter with sides in the Thornhill area, sinking slabs in the Sunken Garden, and is helping assess the accessibility of the new Credit Union premises

C. Rodger:

- Noted the work that has been carried out around Sanquhar Loch saying it is starting to look great

AOCB:

- With the next election coming up, declarations need to be submitted by March 31st 2017. The election is due to take place on Thursday 4th May
- In 2017 Cllr L. Creswell is keen to arrange a meeting about possible future uses for Leancoil Hospital

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- In September 2017, the next round of Forres Community Council elections are due to take place- G. Murdoch has invited an interested party to the January FCC for possible co-option	
	Date of next Meeting: Thursday January 19 th , 7:15pm	

Meeting ended: 20:15

DRAFT