



The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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Minutes of the Forres Community Council held in The Tolbooth, Forres on Thursday 15 June 2017

Chair : Graham Hilditch
Attendees : E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, M. Walker,
Present: Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr G. Alexander, Aaron McLean, Garry McCartney
 Two members of the public and six representatives of Mount Dora
Apologies: K. Shand, Cllr Claire Feaver, Chas Rodger, John Guthrie, Samantha Fraser

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

Topic	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome : Graham Hilditch opened the meeting and welcoming those in attendance in particular pupils from Mount Dora on an exchange visit to Forres. The Chair explained the role of the FCC. He hoped that they have an enjoyable visit and referred to his daughter who had visited Mt Dora enjoying her stay and found it a lovely place with lovely people. . Angel and Cherie presented the Chair with a print of a famous painting of a well-known lighthouse at Mt Dora and also a book. In return the Chair presented both girls with Scottish piper figurines.</p>	
2.	<p>Presentation by Ian Hamilton of AECOM : Orchard Road/St Leonard’s Road Roundabout – Two months ago Mr Hamilton attended the FCC outlining a survey to be carried out on behalf of Moray Council to look at problems with the Orchard Road Roundabout and provide feedback. He explained the layout with suggestions and provided explanations but this was not definite. The preferred option was sharing the use of the space with more space being given to pedestrians and cyclists and drivers being slowed down by speed bumps. There would be fewer road markings. Everyone would look out for everyone else. No road user had priority. This layout had proved successful based on a concept trialled near Manchester. It was thought it may work more easily for pedestrians and cyclists A previous study suggested Tolbooth Street access being closed off but did not think this would be a good idea as it would put more traffic through the town. There would also be a change of colour markings on the road with the grassed area at the foot of Tolbooth Street being made more usable for pedestrian space. CC Murdoch enquired about parking and yellow lines. Mr Hamilton replied by moving parking to the other side of the street. The Chair queried no markings at the roundabout and response was “No” just a change of colour nor “Give Way” signage. CC Hayward queried the closeness of two primary schools being a grey area at 8 30 am and end of school day. Children’s safety must be taken account of. Response was that this would be a Council priority and also for a 20 mph speed with ramp. Mr Hamilton also advised that a survey of pedestrian numbers including pupils had been taken into account. CC Walker asked if the signs on the road had worked previously and response was yes. MC Alexander referred to a similar one in Elgin at the Muckle Cross where cyclists can go both ways. Forres Gazette Rep. asked are these speed bumps and answer was yes. It was a good idea and slows people down. Large vehicles have to be a certain size. Cllr Alexander asked about signs to show pedestrians have right of way? Representative answered “yes”. A triangle. Cllr</p>	

	<p>Alexander also enquired if the circle would be of the same height however representative said “yes” having looked at roundabout it had obviously been overrun by vehicles at the moment. Cllr Alexander asked about pedestrian movement into area and was any advice given eg signs. Response given that this would be something to look at. Cllr Cresswell asked if Tolbooth St was wide enough and response would be to improve parking bays. FCC Murdoch advised businesses have large delivery lorries and arctics and there would be little space for cyclists. The Chair remarked it was a major junction for schools and if slows traffic where do they go? Response is to improve driver behaviour.</p> <p>Mr Hamilton advised the Survey would be reported back to Moray Council and they in turn would speak with funders and decide whether to go ahead. Should this be the case, then it would be taken forward to a more detailed design stage including lighting. The Chair thanks Mr Hamilton for his presentation.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Community Warden Report: Forres, Alves & Upper Speyside</u></p> <p>Abandoned Vehicles – 5 Neighbour Issues - 8 Dog Fouling - 1 Noise - 3 Fly Tipping/Litter - 0 Rowdy Behaviour - 1 Other - 0</p> <p><u>Forres Speyside and Glenlivet Policing Team,</u> June has seen the start of the highland games season. The European Pipe Band Championships, in Forres, passed off peacefully and, from a policing perspective, presented us with very few issues. We are in the process of planning for all the highland games and other summer events that will take place in our area, including those at Forres, Dufftown, Aberlour and Tomintoul. I would describe the levels and types of crime that we have dealt with during the month as being typical for our area.</p> <p>We have continued to mount patrols aimed at improving road safety, and reducing road crime, dealing with speeding motorists on main routes throughout our area, and we have dealt with a number of motorists who have not paid relevant vehicle excise duty. We will continue to mount small scale local roads policing operations throughout the summer under the banner Operation Cedar.</p> <p>We have recorded a number of instances of vandalism during the month. There does not appear to be any pattern to these acts; they are often random and motiveless and, consequently can be difficult to detect.</p> <p>Fortunately, housebreaking is a rare event in our area, but we have recorded 2 instances of housebreaking with intent to steal. One was to a garden shed, where nothing was actually stolen, and the other was to the Benromach Distillery. Again, nothing was stolen. Two men were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for the housebreaking at Benromach.</p> <p>We have been using all lawful means to deter and disrupt drug use in our area. Officers have used stop and search powers when it was appropriate to do so and, as a result, several people have been caught in possession of small amounts of controlled drugs: in most cases this was cannabis. Information from the community powers our activity in this area, and I would like to thank people for the information that has been provided, and encourage them to keep it coming.</p> <p>Assault is a priority crime type for us, and we have dealt with a number during the month. Like vandalism, it is difficult to identify a pattern in the instances of assault, but it has been clear for a very long time that alcohol is generally a factor in this type of crime, and that continues to be the case.</p>	

	<p>Fraud, particularly on-line or telephone scams can result in victims losing fairly large sums of money. We have had one such crime in our area during the month. These are often complicated crimes to investigate and can be committed by offenders almost anywhere in the world. There is an array of advice available to help prevent yourself falling victim to these scams, but I would say that we need to be more sceptical of people who telephone out of the blue claiming to be from the bank, or some other organisation, and asking for money to be transferred, or passwords or personal information. Just tell them that you'll call in to your local branch, and hang up. As for the internet - if it looks too good to be true, that's because it is.</p>	
4.	Public Report : None	
5.	Ratification of Minutes: The minute from the FCC meeting held on Thursday 15 May 2017 was proposed by FCC Michael Walker and seconded by FCC Graham Murdoch	
6.	<p>Matters Arising :</p> <p>a) A96 - Ken Aitken, Transport Scotland advised FCC Hayward Report was not ready however Garry of the Forres Gazette made own enquiry and received an email from a Ms Mackinnon Transport Scotland spokesperson who said they had identified some anomalies and wish data to be as accurate as possible therefore Report had been passed to BEAR Scotland to address. Cllr Alexander enquired if they had not given a date for the Report and Cllr Hayward replied that it was Feb/March 2017.</p> <p>b) Cllr Hilditch advised of new dualling consultation Inverness-Aberdeen would be held in the Town Hall 22 June.</p> <p>c) FCC elections – Chair advised Community Liaison Officer Jane Martin suggesting a donation of £75 from Community Councils towards obtaining 200 leaflets to promote the upcoming community council elections. This was proposed by Michael Walker and Seconded by Eleanor Hayward.</p> <p>d) Living Streets – CC Hayward had been in touch with Barbara Allan to enquire if funding available for 20 mph speed reduction in Forres. However this was oversubscribed. Advised to put in comments and may bring back. Asked Cllr Cresswell to speak with Kevin Price of the Moray Council Roads Dept. FCC Murdoch advised Elaine Penney had said to press on because it is looked at all the time.</p> <p>e) Community Council Research – CC Hayward (Planning) asked all CCs to submit their own comments.</p>	<p>E Hayward</p> <p>E Hayward</p> <p>E Hayward</p>
7.	<p>Councillors Reports –</p> <p>Cllr McLean : He was confident with new administration and Cllr Alexander as new leader. He advised had been recuperating from Appendicitis and missed two committee meetings. Visit to Cabrach re pit for wind farm also new large development on South Side of Elgin. Chair of Audit & Scrutiny : finalising with Chief Executive and hope to involve all and get best value for Moray Council.</p> <p>Cllr Alexander : Five Independents plus 1 new chose to go with the Conservatives. Alternative 9 SNPs to make minority council. Only 3 re-elected with the others were new. All new Councillors on a sharp learning curve and two have since resigned. End of July is a holiday with no meetings. Tradition was that the ruling group sat in the front row with the opposition in the back row but would like to see them all working together as a whole and listen to the opposition's views and take them onboard. Cllr Claire Fever</p>	

	<p>Chair of Planning and Walter Wilson rep of Speyside is Deputy of Planning and Chair of Police Fire and Rescue. Interesting times ahead. Cllr Feaver was at the recent Joint Community Council Meeting. In a by-election can someone from another stand elsewhere in Moray. Cllr Alexander said yes.</p> <p>Cllr Cresswell : Was not on Integration Joint Board but following Cllr Alexander as Chair of Communities so has had one meeting. Was pleased with the attendance to the Health and Social Care Services meeting in Forres Academy on 8 June with further meeting planned for August. A Corporate Parent Board is wanted. Children in care want contact with parents. Attended Findhorn Conference on Democracy. Visited N. Ireland on a study visit which was very good.</p> <p>Cllr McLean : Advised £24m from Scottish Government to Moray Council to provide affordable housing. Cllr Alexander said the £24m is part of a long term planning assumption and most certainly welcome. 27 June is pre-determination hearing for 870 houses. Never enough to cover extra costs eg roads, schools etc. Developer contributions will not meet Moray Council costs. If no houses economy will stagnate. Cllr McLean : public consultation re old Tesco site. 80 units some two floors and also have land at old slaughterhouse.</p>	
8.	<p>Chair's Report: This has been a busy month with the launch of LEADER at Moravia Kinloss... Was phenomenal. They have benefitted from LEADER. £3m for Moray. A wide range of groups – keen on tourism, suggested putting one forward for Colours of Cluny. Last round to put in applications as soon as .Website was comprehensive – three staff and only 17% overheads. The Health and Social Care meeting opened my eyes. General view was overwhelming to keep Leancoil open in some form or other. People realise there are problems but not convinced there are the problems the NHS lead us to believe. Re Health Centre statistics - three major reasons for visits were obesity, diabetes and depression. Quite an eye opener when all are treatable. CC Walker 20 years ago people looked healthier and now gone downhill. CC Murdoch – Money has been held back from Leancoil and the hospital was Forres Hospital and it has been absorbed into the Health Service. There is a fair expanse of land there. Chair felt the presentation was pitched towards being against keeping Leancoil open. CC Murdoch – now only nine beds and not worth keeping ? It has been absorbed into the NHS . Had spoken to a GP and he pointed out that there was quite a strong view that there should be a convalescence home. Preference to go from hospital directly to home but could this building be a community asset transfer? Feels that there is scope to do something. CC Hayward feels that the NHS has let Leancoil slide... Could be used for blocked bed situation in Dr Grays and Aberdeen. Fear is that if closed then it disappears from Forres. The building is situated on prime development land. CC Murdoch spoke of a Community Asset Transfer if this could be done. The Chair felt the Forres Area Forum was very interesting however, a lot of matters overlap the FCC. Consider joint projects ? Consider a stand at the Forres Games for forthcoming CC elections but this did not prove worthwhile last year.</p>	
9.	<p>Secretary's Report : This month there was an extra Joint Community Council Meeting – the Moray Growth Deal to be held in Council Chambers. Legal Officer Rhona Gunn chairing Film Forres – would FCC consider and propose sponsoring Film Forres for the children</p>	

	cancelling out charge of hall ? What are CCs views? How many films per year ? This has been asked before. Cllr Cresswell said fee is 50p. Apparently Margaret did not want it. Sandra McLellan thought it could set a precedent. Paul Fowler would like to meet with the Community Council to give a presentation on what is being proposed for Castlehill Church. Agreed to invite Mr Fowler to July meeting	
10.	Group & Representatives' Reports: CC Graham Murdoch -- Mosset Burn : contact to be made to Bob Lawton local fisheries. He will contact experts and costings and whether we can fund we do not know possibly £1200-£1500. CC Hayward wondered if Benromach or other might help contribute towards this. CC Murdoch said growth on banks is more of a problem. Bob Lawton pointed out the fish spawning etc and overgrowth helped with this.	
11.	Planning : Application to remove ATM at RBS High Street. Will take effect in a few months' time.	
12.	Treasurer's Report : CC Murdoch all bank statements in order. Signatures to be changed but does not know if it had been changed from Heather Shaw to Shaun Moat.	
13..	AOCB : CC Murdoch will attend the Moray Growth Meeting. Situation of steps from car park to Tolbooth Street. It is anticipated they will be finished before Piping events. Rails have been cleaned and galvanised. Cllr Cresswell - Forthcoming event – A night in the Chieftan's Tent Ticket £10 per person. Chair felt too many co-options and to leave until elections in September. CC Murdoch said he had spoken to many but they were not interested. CC Hayward said the past four years had been productive with Colour of Cluny, Swing Parks A96 petition.	
14.	Date of Next Meeting : Thursday 20 July 2017 at 7 15 pm	