



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 20th July 2017, 19:15

Chair: G. Hilditch

Attendees: E. Hayward, J. Guthrie, S. Fraser (minutes), M. Walker, G. Murdoch

Also Present: Cllr L. Creswell, Cllr, C. Feaver, Cllr A. McLean (later 19:40), 3 members of the public

Apologies: K. Shand, Cllr G. Alexander, MSP R. Lochhead, C. Rodger

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

	Discussion	Action																								
1.	Welcome: FCC Chair G. Hilditch opened the meeting welcoming those present. Cllr C. Feaver was introduced as this was her first time attending a FCC meeting.																									
2.	Presentation: The planned presentation from Paul Fowler undertaking works at Castlehill Church was postponed. Mr Fowler will attend a future meeting.																									
3.	<p>Police & Community Warden Report: During the reporting period for the July 2017 Moray Community Safety Partnership Report, 18 incidents were investigated by the Community Warden in the Forres area (including Alves and Upper Speyside):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="217 893 1305 1014"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="8">Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Abandoned Vehicles</th> <th>Neighbours</th> <th>Dog Fouling</th> <th>Noise</th> <th>Fly Tipping/Littering</th> <th>Rowdy Behaviour</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>8</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The report from Community Warden David Haytack including the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 of the 5 reported abandoned vehicles in the area were in Forres, the owners are being traced to move them or face the vehicle being uplifted - Dog fouling in the Thornhill area was reported - An incident of an elderly couple feeling threatened by the coming and going of young people is being dealt with by Mr Haytack - As schools break for summer, Community Wardens will be part of School Watch to deter and prevent damage being done to school property <p>E. Hayward is to arrange for Community Warden David Haytack to attend a FCC meeting in the near future.</p> <p>The Police Report included the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Pipe Band Championship passed peacefully with few police issues. Teams across the area are planning for Highland Games and other summer events - Road safety patrols have continued in the area with a number of motorists being found to not have relevant vehicle excise duty and to be speeding on main routes - A number of instances of vandalism have been reported in the past month - 2 instances of break-ins were reported this month, one to a garden shed and the other at Benromach Distillery. On both occasions no items were taken. Two men were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for the break-in at Benromach - Stop and search powers have resulted in several people being caught in possession of small amounts of controlled drugs, namely cannabis. The report thanked the public for coming forward with information in relation to drug use - A number of assaults have been dealt with in the past month - An instance of fraud via an online/telephone scam has been dealt with in the Forres area, police advise all to be cautious of phone calls out of the blue 	Community Safety Report – Breakdown of Reported Incidents								Abandoned Vehicles	Neighbours	Dog Fouling	Noise	Fly Tipping/Littering	Rowdy Behaviour	Other	Total	5	8	1	3	0	1	0	18	E. Hayward
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4.	Public Session: A member of the public raised concerns about the construction, aesthetics and poor workmanship of the new steps that lead from Leys Road car park to Tolbooth																									

	Street. Through discussion, it was understood that the steps were made useable in time for the European Pipe Band Championships but were not yet finished. E. Hayward is to contact Paul Barron to ask if work was ongoing and if so when the work will be completed by.	E. Hayward
5.	Ratification of Minutes: The minute from the FCC meeting held on Thursday 15th June was proposed by M. Walker, seconded by E. Hayward and ratified by Chair G. Hilditch.	
6.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>A96 Crossing: E. Hayward updated the meeting that the report expected from Transport Scotland regarding the A96 crossing assessment to the train station had been completed and that FCC were yet to receive a copy. Ken Aitken of Transport Scotland confirmed the report would be available online via the Transport Scotland website. E. Hayward has requested a copy to be sent directly to FCC.</p> <p>Community Council Elections: The elections for Moray Community Councils are due to take place in September 2017. G. Hilditch updated the meeting that the nomination period would run from Tuesday 22nd August to Thursday 28th September. If new candidates are not already registered on the Electoral Register they must register by Thursday 10th August. The current Community Council term will cease on Sunday 1st October and the new term will commence on Monday 2nd October. Nomination forms will be made available online and at the August FCC meeting. To promote the upcoming elections and in conjunction with Kinloss & Findhorn Community Council, E. Hayward has organised stands at Tesco on Saturday 19th and Wednesday 23rd August 10:30am to 2:30pm. All Community Council members are to let E. Hayward know if they are able to attend. FCC will also contribute £75.00 towards the printing of posters, leaflets etc. to promote the upcoming elections.</p> <p>Living Streets 20mph Speed Project: The application for Forres to be considered as part of the Living Streets 20mph speed pilot was not successful as the project was oversubscribed to. Barbara Allan of Living Streets suggested FCC, along with local support, submit a letter requesting future consideration for inclusion in the project. G. Murdoch read a letter of support from Forres Business Association which supported the investigation of 20mph speed restrictions on Forres High Street. E. Hayward is to write a proposal to Living Streets on behalf of Forres Community Council for possible future inclusion in the project with support to be sought from FAF and Forres Area Community Trust also.</p> <p>Forres Common Good Accounts: Forres Common Good Accounts 2016-2017 (unaudited) and Forres Common Good Accounts 2015-2016 were circulated to Community Councillors ahead of the meeting. E. Hayward clarified that the final audited accounts for this year would not be available until the end of September, after the current Community Council ended, and so were being discussed now. G. Hilditch questioned the revaluation of the fixed assets which was valued in the 2015-2016 accounts as £7,763,000 and considerably less in the 2016-2017 as £3,493,000. Cllr A. McLean noted that Cllr G. Alexander queried this point at full Council prior to the summer recess and it was confirmed that the reduction was due to the revaluation of the land at Mosset Park after the sale of the land did not go through. E. Hayward read a statement from the bottom of the 2016-2017 accounts which clarified the position relating to the £4,000 debtor being reversed in 2016-2017 following advice relating to the compensation for remaining land at Pilmuir Road West. E. Hayward queried the Forres Town Hall value of £1.26 million in 2015-2016 compared to the 2016-2017 value of £28,540. G. Hilditch pointed out the £28,540 value was noted in the left hand column of the accounts, not the right, indicated this as the depreciation value. G. Hilditch noted the reduction in administrative costs and praised Moray Council on this efficiency. Cllr C. Feaver and Cllr L. Creswell clarified that the payment to the Common Good Account from Network Rail, which was paid into the incorrect account, would be reallocated in due course and show in the accounts next year amounting to £15,184.34. Cllr A. McLean confirmed that this year there is £20,400 available for disbursement of which £7,400 had been allocated leaving £13,000 to be distributed by April 2018.</p>	<p>E. Hayward</p> <p>All</p> <p>E. Hayward</p>

	<p>Shaping Health & Social Care: The follow up meeting looking at the Future of Health & Social Care will take place on Tuesday 15th August 7-9:30pm at Forres Academy. Cllr L. Creswell informed the meeting that a viewing of Leancoil Hospital took place yesterday, Wednesday 19th July, to see the property. E. Hayward asked if the value of the building and the land was known, Cllr L. Creswell said this was not yet known.</p> <p>Armistice Parade: E. Hayward read a letter from Staff Officer Ruth Douglas for the 39 Engineer Regiment based at Kinloss Barracks which confirmed the Regiment had agreed, along with the Forres branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL), to hold the Forres Remembrance Parade a week early on Sunday 5th November. E. Hayward and J. Guthrie expressed dissatisfaction with this decision and cited that many members of the public also felt the same. M. Walker did not want to see the date changed again in future and asked that reassurance of no future date changes be sought. It was agreed that E. Hayward write a letter to Ruth Douglas and RBL on behalf of FCC and the people of Forres expressing the dissatisfaction over the decision and asking for open dialogue about future remembrance service dates citing the community of Forres would like the service to be observed on the correct day in line with national services.</p> <p>Mosset Burn: G. Hilditch had been in contact with Rob Laughton of the Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust regarding to the possible survey of Mosset Burn. Such a survey would investigate the effects of siltation, identify where drains are blocked and could be opened, how land owners could help with maintenance and recommend areas where debris could be cleared. It is estimated a survey would cost approx. £3,000-£3,500. J. Guthrie suggested that FCC investigate the possibility of seeking external funding to cover the costs of the survey and that £1,000 of FCC funds be ring-fenced for the purposes of contributing towards the survey cost. This suggestion was proposed by E. Hayward and seconded by J. Guthrie.</p>	E. Hayward
7.	<p>Moray Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr A. McLean updated the meeting about his upcoming work including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being part of the leisure review - Reviewing the planning application for commercial units at Falconer Avenue - Attending the official re-opening of Applegrove Primary School - Visiting the new Forres train station and bridge in September. Cllr A. McLean praised the work of the project so far and noted that a new path to Tesco from the pedestrian walkway would be beneficial - Reviewing the Castlehill Church planning application <p>Cllr L. Creswell gave updates about her work including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attending the facilitated session with Town Hall user groups and Forres Area Community Trust to consider future options for the building - Pursuing the opportunity for children to take part in exchange trips to Vienenburg - Engaging with families to be part of a film about children and poverty in rural areas - Attendance at Tuesday Hub meetings as Chair of the Communities Committee - Being invited to a forum looking at poverty in Moray - Attending a seminar to find out more about apprenticeship schemes through the Chamber of Commerce Developing the Young Work Force project - Meeting with MSP David Stewart - Working with the Credit Union to relocate into new premises on Forres High Street - Taking part in the Forres Area Wellbeing Network and confirming Fiona Harris as the New Forres Health Centre Practice Manager <p>M. Walker highlighted the problem of some families struggling to feed their children during the summer break and highlighted that the Tesco community food giving scheme has had to dispose of food which could be used by families in need. Cllr L. Creswell said more could be done to get this food to people in need and would look into what could be done to help.</p> <p>Cllr C. Feaver provided details about her work including;</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being appointed Chair of Planning and Regulatory Services and dealing with members of the public questioning why some changes require planning applications - Listening to concerns from Forres residents about speed limits and traffic - Sitting on the Integrated Joint Board for Health & Social Care and getting a feel for how care effects Moray as a whole and how it effects Forres - Being a part of the Economic Development Committee and Moray Growth Bid which now includes 14 project proposals. The outcome of the bid will be heard in October. G. Murdoch stressed the need for Forres to benefit if successful and would like to see funds spread across Moray and not just centralised in Elgin 	
9.	<p>Chair's Report: FCC Chair G. Hilditch informed the meeting that he was part of the Auchernack Trust application review meeting. 8 applications had been received; the decision of funding awards was yet to be made public. G. Hilditch raised concerns about the cost of administrating the fund and questioned the necessity for legal services to review the funding decision. Cllr L. Creswell highlighted that the fund could be managed out with Moray Council and steps could be taken to do this if it was felt necessary.</p>	
10.	<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>House Martin Nest: Residents in the Tailwell and Claremont area of Forres had raised concerns to E. Hayward about the removal of a House Martin nest from a building in order to erect scaffolding. E. Hayward contacted Douglas Darling, Police Officer for Wildlife, who is looking into the matter on a positive line of inquiry including taking witness statements. Following reports of the incident, works were suspended and the RSPB contacted. Sadly, the fledgling birds did not survive the nest removal.</p> <p>Joint Community Council: The next JCC meeting is due to be held on Thursday August 10th. The Chair Alastair Kennedy has raised concerns about the future of the JCC due to declining attendance numbers.</p> <p>Cameron Project: E. Hayward raised concerns about the Cameron Project established by Forres Area Community Trust and asked if enhanced disclosures of befrienders were being carried out. S. Fraser confirmed that all the volunteers involved in the project would be part of the PVG scheme as a necessity.</p>	
11.	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <p>G. Murdoch provided an overview of the FCC finances. Bank account balance £1,327.23 with an administration grant from Moray Council due to be cashed for £630.04. Credit Union account balance £118.78. The payment for the Christmas Gathering from the Credit Union account was questioned by G. Murdoch, S. Fraser noted that the payment for this invoice was to be reimburse to the Credit Union account. The updating of authorised signatories is ongoing.</p>	
12.	<p>Community Council Members Reports</p> <p>Business: G. Murdoch reiterated that Forres Business Association supports the investigation of 20mph speed restrictions on Forres High Street and further noted the association would not support any removal of on street parking or pedestrianisation of the town centre. G. Hilditch commented that it nice to see new High Street shops opening.</p> <p>Culture & Events: S. Fraser reported a very successful Forres Highland Games with over 4,500 people, visitors and competitors, attending. S. Fraser encouraged all to complete and return the Forres Heritage Trust consultation. J. Guthrie provided feedback that Piping at Forres was well attended and expressed disappointment over lunchtime proceedings meant a long gap was experienced when no bands were playing in the arena.</p> <p>Planning: E. Hayward highlighted that the Ferrylea planning application for a café, retail units and associated service yard is now open for comments which need to be submitted by Tuesday 1st August. The Application can be viewed on Moray Council website under reference number 17/01066/APP. Cllr A. McLean highlighted the constraints being placed on childcare in Forres and encouraged FCC to respond expressing the site could be used for</p>	

	childcare facilities.	
13.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Developer Contributions: E. Hayward raised concerns about developer contributions and promised work being completed, namely traffic lights at Orchard Road/ Victoria Road junction and pavements at Ferrylea. E. Hayward asked when these contributions would be received and when these works would be carried out. Cllr C. Feaver offered to find out more about these issues.</p> <p>Print & Book: The print of the Lighthouse and book presented to FCC from the Mount Dora exchange students have been handed over to Falconer Museum for safe keeping and future display.</p> <p>Information Point at Tolbooth: G. Murdoch noted that a member of the public has raised concerns about visitors trying to use the Information Point at the Tolbooth which no longer functions.</p>	C. Feaver
14.	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Pipe meets Organ at St John's Church, Tuesday 1st August 7pm</p> <p>Website Wednesday at FACT Office, first Wednesday of each month 6-8pm</p> <p>Forres in Bloom judging, Tuesday August 8th</p> <p>Joint Community Council at Moray Council Headquarters, Thursday 10th August 7pm</p> <p>Youth Drop In at Costa Coffee Shop, Friday August 25th 7-9pm</p> <p>Photo Exhibition at Tolbooth, Wednesday August 30th to Saturday September 2nd 10-4pm</p> <p>Online Family History Workshops, coming in September</p>	
15.	Date of next Meeting: Thursday 17 th August, 7:15pm	

Meeting ended: 21:10