



# The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

The Hub, Tolbooth Street, Forres

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## Minutes of the Forres Community Council held in The Tolbooth, Forres on Thursday 18 January 2018

FCC - Forres Community Council    JCC – Joint Community Council MC - The Moray Council

Topic	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b>Attendees :</b> Chair : Graham Hilditch, Lesley Edwards, David Parker, Chas Rodger, Gordon Thornton, Michael Walker, Alan Tissiman, Eleanor Hayward ,Graham Murdoch, Cllr Lorna Cresswell, Cllr Aaron McLean</p> <p>3 Members of the Public</p> <p><b>Apologies :</b> , Kenny Shand, Cllr George Alexander, Cllr Claire Feaver</p>	
2.	<p><b>Welcome. Chair</b> also advised all present of JCC requirement for Data Protection purposes that Minutes are noted and also recorded digitally.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Presentation by Debbie Herron – FACT : CAT Forres Town Hall</b></p> <p>Since FACT began in 2011 there has been and is one of 250 in Scotland. It was opened as a result of the closure of RAF Kinloss. FACT has moved to three different locations around Forres since its beginnings and had offered to buy the now closed Clydesdale Bank premises but for various reasons this did not come about. The Town Hall seemed to be the best option with space for offices. Consultation has been taken and the majority of people think it is a good idea. Over the last year session to refurbish was discussed, the front part of the Town Hall would remain untouched. Significant changes took place in the 1930s. The building is structurally sound therefore there are options for the building. The costs to refurbish are £3m. The upstairs would remain the same when built, changes will be made to fire alarm systems which are now coming to end of life. There will be a Reception area and Offices on the ground floor... Toilets will be refurbished and kitchen will remain as at present. Main change will be the large hall with stage being removed. Provision of flat seating will make it much easier for people to see. This will be similar to that at the Nairn Community Centre seating. Other areas are planned for workshops, dressing rooms and a recording studio. The Lesser Hall remains as it is but will be refurbished. Original design will be viewed. The ceiling is quite high and there is enough room to increase another floor. Intention is to bring other organisations into the town hall whether on a once weekly basis or more as required. Figures of £2m for actual building work, plus £1m for taxes, fees, refitting etc. A group meeting is planned for end of February and also to get together with users of the Town Hall who wish to be involved. Current drawings are not final. Approx. 400/500 individuals use the Town Hall every week.</p> <p>A number of questions were raised by members of the FCC as to what funding will be generated and response was that a cocktail of funding rather than one individual. Also can apply for Social Investment Scotland as a last resort. The Heritage Trust is giving input on how the building can be used as it stands. Q. What was the long-term</p>	

	<p>future of FACT in Forres by way of years ? Mrs Herron advised that they have a strong board business plan and hopes that they will be there in the long term. We have taken account of uncertainty globally and nationally, who knows. The money raised to do the work will make it cheaper to run in the long term. The work is to encourage greater use. The question of charges to use the Town Hall were also raised by FCC and it was agreed that charges will not suddenly hike however that it is not to say that prices will not rise in the future. This will be done in consultation with the users. Architects LDN have considerable experience and will assist with the tendering process and also have advantage of Moray Council re change of use.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour –</b>  <b>Forres</b>  Abaandoned vehicles – 4  Dog fouling – 7  Environmental – 3  Neighbours - 5  Noise – 4  Other – 1  Rowdy Behaviour 1</p> <p><b>Community Warden Activity</b>  Unsurprisingly our workload increased considerably into January as the relaxed tolerances of the festive period fade into memory and normal routines return. Neighbour disputes and noise complaints show little signs of abating and have been the predominant complaint over the course of the month. Abandoned vehicles continue to occupy our time and blight the streets in which they are left. Many reports we receive relate to vehicles that are not actually abandoned, but are being used without the requirements of road tax or MOT. In these cases we refer the vehicles to partners in Police Scotland for enforcement action. It may interest you to know that a Police Officer is based within the Community Safety Team. Instances of dog fouling have increased considerably in January. Innes CC forwarded this sign for our consideration and you may see a version appearing in our hotspot areas soon! There would, of course, be no need if irresponsible dog owners picked up behind them. You can help by naming and shaming them to us and a fixed penalty may be used as incentive to pick up on future walks. Our current posters have been placed at appropriate locations below and Wardens have given attention in these areas  Dog Fouling Locations Forres – Caroline Street, Thornhill Road, Argentier Rd, Fulton St, Old Bridge Court, Between Drumduan Park and Forbeshill.</p> <p><b>Forres, Speyside and Glenlivet Area Policing Team</b>  On 1 January, officers patrolling in the area of Grantown Road, Forres, observed a 17 year old local man drinking alcohol in public, in contravention of Moray Council by laws. On speaking to the man, it became clear that alcohol was not the only substance he was taking.</p>	

He was searched and found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis.

During the early hours of 1 January, a 20 year old local man, celebrating the New Year on Forres High Street, was approached by a 19 year old local man who shouted "happy New Year" and then punched the 20 year old on the face. Fortunately, the victim of this unprovoked assault did not suffer any serious injury. The 19 year old was arrested and charged.

On 9 January a 47 year old local man who was wanted by Police was found in the High Street area of Forres. He was taken into custody and during the course of a routine search, was found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis.

On 14 January an insecure house in Land Street, Rothies was entered by a person, or persons, unknown, and a handbag and its contents were stolen. This is known as a sneak-in theft. It is worth making sure that the opportunity for thieves to enter property and steal is minimised, by keeping ground floor windows closed and doors locked - even if you are in the property. On this occasion, the occupier was at home but had left the back door unlocked.

Also on 14 January, a 5 year old stallion was stolen from a stable in the Knockando area. The thieves would have had to use a horsebox, or similar, and a vehicle capable of towing it.

On the same date, at another farm property not far away, an Oxdale E400 log splitter and a Polaris 204 quad bike were stolen. It seems likely that the 2 thefts are connected. We would be grateful if people living in rural areas that see vehicles with or without trailers in circumstances that appear suspicious, call us so that we can check them out.

On 15 January, we were made aware that the Chapelton Farm Wetland and Wildlife Hide in Forres had been completely destroyed by fire. We have been following positive lines of inquiry, have identified those responsible and are in the process of charging and reporting them.

On 23 January, officers on patrol on Bogton Road, Forres saw a 40 year old local man driving a vehicle which had front end damage. They stopped the man and discovered that he was driving whilst drunk, and had no valid insurance policy. He was arrested and charged.

On 24 January, in Kinloss, a 30 year old local woman attended at the address of a 26 year old woman, where she argued with her before assaulting her. The victim did not sustain any serious injury. The assailant was subsequently arrested and charged.

On 25 January, a 69 year old Kinloss resident was telephoned by a fraudster pretending to be a BT engineer. The fraudster induced her to allow him access to her computer and her on-line banking. She later discovered that £900 had been removed from her account. Sadly, frauds like this are not uncommon, and we would remind people not to divulge security or personal information to people they don't know, no matter how insistent or persuasive they are. If you have any doubts at all, please call us before you do anything.

**5. Public Session :**

**Forres Warden :** Secretary to request if Warden David Haytack would attend the FCC monthly meetings. Difficult to get hold of him at Auchernack and Garry of the Gazette has also had problems getting hold of him. Secy EH advised that he did have a large area to cover and this was endorsed by Cllr Cresswell.

**Cycle Path :** Cllr Alexander had already written to MOTP regarding the cycle track to Brodie Countryfare some time ago. The MOTP produced photographs highlighting the condition of the path This was raised some 6/7 years ago and comments from one Councillor was found by the member of the public to be “disgusting”. A petition was raised and presented to Moray Council but did not progress. The FCC has been requested to assist with the reinstatement of the original path which is now in poor condition. FCC advised that the path was also in the domain of Dyke Community Council and followed into Highland Region. An alternative route was suggested by the FCC cycling via the Kintessack and Dyke back roads but MOTPs were not happy using these routes as they were used by farm vehicles. They wanted the original route reinstated. Cllr McLean referred to CC Murdoch’s point that the alternative route would be preferable. Funding is not available at the present time from either Sustrans or Moray Council. FCC Walker said it would not happen overnight.

**Bus Timetables implemented from 8 January 2018 –** New timetables not passenger friendly and FCC Shand found the new buses difficult to take a wheelchair. The Citylink bus arrives Inverness at 9 03 pm and the Aberdeen bus leaves Inverness at 9 00 pm. If passengers miss this connection they have to wait in Inverness bus station for two hours. No facilities eg proper place to wait, toilet facilities and bus station itself not a pleasant place for a woman or elderly to wait. There is a train approx. 9 35 pm however fares can be a bit pricey and if to Forres, some may require the addition of a taxi to get home from this point. A press release was put out by Mr Catto of Elgin Community Council who also complained about the timetable change and the Jet bus stopping at Nairn where airport passengers have to change coaches. Time changes are not fit for purpose.

**Play Equipment from Brodie Castle –** Sandra McLellan of Forres in Bloom was disappointed that she was not aware of this arrangement or discussions which took place with a member of the Moray Council Parks Dept. Wishes to know who was in charge of this. FCC Murdoch advised that the equipment was being given by Brodie Castle/National Trust for Scotland. He had spoken with Ken Kennedy of the Parks Dept. and was informed that it would be put into the Grant Park Forres. Unfortunately query to NTS by FCC Secretary was not answered however she contacted Ken Kennedy at Moray Council Parks Dept. who advised he would be meeting with Sylvia Jamieson of Vision 20/20 and would provide logistics to my comments later. The equipment is a chute to Forres with and another item is being gifted to Rothes. The current item in the Grant Park is being removed outwith the fenced playpark. FCC Murdoch said the Planning for Real is ongoing and was the

	FCC backing this? The FCC Chair advised this was introduced by the previous Chair and we have recently formed a new Community Council. We have therefore not had the opportunity to discuss this as a new Council. FCC Rodger advised that we are slowly getting there. Sandra McLellan said that we should be going for funding to purchase state of the art play equipment	
6.	<b>Ratification of Minutes : Proposed : David Parker Seconded : Michael Walker</b>	
7.	<p><b>Matters Arising :</b> Transport Scotland are proposing changes to the A96/Market Street junction. FCC has been pushing for this for a few years now. Solution is better than before. Key items are changes to signage to make clearer to drivers. Elgin direction into Market Street will have right of way. FCCs will attend a site meeting to compare with Transport Scotland's plans. Delays for this work were caused by the installation of the new rail station and pavements.</p> <p><b>Benromach Distillery</b> held a consultation to discuss the new building of eight warehouses. The surrounding area will be landscaped. The Mosset Burn will not be affected by this. The work will be spread over a number of years. This could create more jobs. Distillery and tourist centre will have no changes.</p> <p><b>Moray Council Development Plan</b> now in public domain. Consultation is being held on 8<sup>th</sup> March in Forres Town Hall.</p> <p><b>Planning Application for Muiry Wood New Builds :</b> Chair felt this to be a tricky one. Part of the wood falls within the Finderne Community Council. Land owned by Ray Mcdonald who formerly owned Cathay House now Cathay Nursing Home. Apparently the land had been earmarked for development in the 2015 Moray Development Plan and also in 2018 Plan. A number of residents close by have made their comments to the Application. It was agreed by the FCC to hold a site visit and this was arranged for 26 January. Cllr McLean recommended we speak with Mr Mcdonald.</p> <p><b>Electric chargers for cars and two electric bike :</b> Gordon McAlpine has written FCC re this development which offers affordable and convenient transport arrangements. He will be contacting Moray Leader fund to provide this. He would be interested to know if we supported this and asked for the FCC feedback and what would be the best locations to site these facilities. A rapid charger would cost £30,000 but it might make Forres a stopping point to charge. FCC agreed it was a good idea and suggested sites at the Grant Park Car park, Leys Road Car Park and the Town Hall Car Park.</p>	
8.	<b>Moray Councillor Reports :</b> Cllr Cresswell is involved with the Moray Council Budgets. Cllr McLean advised involved with Moray Council budget talks; Leisure Estates but Budgets was the main issue. Hopeful the Community Centre and Swimming Pool will	

	be left out. Talking to Hilife Highland - possible progression.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Chair's Report :</b> Nothing to report.	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Secretary's Report :</b> Reminder that the JCC meeting takes place on 8 February. Falconer Museum 21 February Talk about Moray Dolphins by Charlie Phillips – afternoon.</p> <p>Secy enquired of Cllr Cresswell the situation with the Lollipop ladies being made redundant. Answer : some will be but at the moment it is still to be considered within the Moray Council Budget. Review of part time hours.</p> <p>Secy advised Barbara Allan of Living Streets of the possibility of removal of lollipop lady at Anderson Primary School. This information to be included with our request for funding for a 20 mph speed limit on the Forres High Street.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> CC Murdoch advised he had sent last year's Audited Accounts to Jane Martin, Community Councils Liaison Officer.</p> <p>Bank - £1284.00 plus £624.75 less outgoings of Remembrance Wreath, Hospitality and Mosset Burn Survey leaving a balance of £870.00.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Forthcoming Events</b> –Previously advised JCC meeting on 8 <sup>th</sup> February.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>AOCB :</b> Cllr Cresswell had idea of old films for older members of the community and who may be interested in taking this forward. Promotion of Literacy and writing groups in the use of the Town Hall. Saturday matinees were a good idea plus specialist films.	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting : Thursday 15 February 2018</b>	