



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 21 December 2017

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

FAF - Forres Area Forum

Topic	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Attendees : Chair : Graham Hilditch, Lesley Edwards, David Parker, Chas Rodger, Gordon Thornton, Michael Walker, Alan Tissiman, Graham Murdoch, Cllr George Alexander, Cllr Claire Feaver, Cllr Lorna Cresswell</p> <p>Apologies : , Kenny Shand, Cllr Aaron McLean</p>	
2.	<p>Welcome. Chair also advised all present of JCC requirement for data protection purposes that Minutes are noted and also recorded digitally.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Community Warden Activity</u> Generally, dog fouling reports have increased with the darker nights as is the norm at this time of year. Neighbour disputes whether through noise complaints or some other form of annoying behaviour continue to occupy our time to a considerable degree. Hopefully they will have peaked for the time being with the festive celebrations having concluded. Abandoned vehicles are ever present and some discussion with colleagues across Scotland found that similar increases are being experienced elsewhere with the low scrap value of vehicles aligned with the stringent end of life process that has to be followed being common causal factors.</p> <p><u>Forres, Speyside and Glenlivet Area Policing Team</u></p> <p>On 2 December, officers stopped a vehicle on High Street, Aberlour and a search of the vehicle uncovered 3 different types of illegal drugs. 31 and 24 year old local males were charged accordingly. Sometime between 4 and 8 December, damage consistent with an attempt to break in, was caused to a rear garage door at an address in Adam Drive, Forres. No entry was gained and nothing was stolen. Between 11 and 13 December a heartless thief stole a charity box for "STARS" from a shop in Forres. Around 15 December heating oil was stolen from the storage tank of a house in Findhorn. This type of crime is more usually associated with rural locations and it is worth reminding people who have oil storage tanks to check them regularly, and to secure them as well as they can. Between 17 and 18 December a white Barracuda make bicycle was stolen from a garden in Cisely Gardens, Forres. Acting on information from the public, Forres officers were granted a warrant to search a property in Califer Road, Forres for illicit drugs. The warrant was executed on 20 December and as a result the 34 year old female occupant of the property was reported for obstructing officers and with being involved in the supplying of illegal drugs. This</p>	

	<p>kind of police activity is only possible if we are able to take good quality information to a Sheriff to grant the warrant and to this end members of the community play an invaluable role. We are grateful for those that do assist us in this manner it and would encourage the reporting of any suspicious activity with the assurance that it is in confidence. You may remain anonymous if you wish.</p> <p>Overnight 22/23 December a door was damaged at a property in Kininvie Court, Dufftown. This may have been an attempt to break in and our enquiry is continuing.</p> <p>On 23 December, officers in Dufftown stopped a car being driven erratically. On speaking to the driver, they became suspicious and had grounds to search the vehicle for drugs resulting in the recovery of a small amount.</p> <p>On 24 December a navy blue Sandro make ladies coat was stolen from a hotel premises in Craigellachie. If you have any information on this theft we would like to hear from you. It is unlikely the coat was taken by accident.</p> <p>Between 23 and 26 December suspicious activity occurred at a self-service car wash in Greshop Industrial Estate, Forres when somebody unsuccessfully tried to remove the cash box.</p> <p>Police Report layout was taken up with Chf Insp Maggie Miller at the JCC Inaugural Meeting. Hopefully CC Michael Walker is hoping to be liaison with local Police to obtain feedback January/February. They were quite happy for us to approach them.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Public Session :</p> <p>Sandra McLennan attended the Moray Initiative along with Les Morgan and was very successful. This is run by the JCC. She reported where the monies were allocated. There were seven groups in the Forres area which received funding but there was some disquiet that Forres received funding saying they should have got monies from the Moray Towns Partnership but the three town groups the Credit Union, FACT and Pipe Band for pipes for starting the Moray youth band. Planning for Real – Secy sent round paperwork to all FCC members.</p> <p>Meeting was very well attended. Sylvia will be organising meeting after Christmas to take it forward.</p> <p>Forres won the Most Beautiful Town which is down to the town. This was done by a public vote and to encourage people to vote for them and they received 880 votes – 23%.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Ratification of Minutes: Proposed by : Michael Walker Seconded by: David Parker</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Matters Arising :</p> <p>Ground at rear of Hilltop Forbeshill. Was difficult to analyse looking at the plans and five FCCs visited the site. Was a small section of ground. GH noted this was a big area of public amenity land and for all the revenue received for the sale would not solve any of the Council’s problems long term as 95% of the ground would have to be</p>	

	<p>maintained as before. It could also cause future access problems if it did go ahead. Secy sent round a Purchasers Guide. Estates advised that a section of ground would have to be left for their grass cutters to maintain the remainder of ground There are approx. 7 similar pockets of land at Forbeshill could disappear if sold off. Could set a precedent for purchase of similar land and green spaces could disappear if sold off. Chas. Agreed with Secy's comments and feels we need to protect the green spaces. Cllr Tissiman agreed with everything said. They are one of the more attractive parts of these estates with trees etc. Cllr Parker enquired if it was a right of way given Forbeshill has been established for approx. forty years. Out off line with other houses in the vicinity. The FCC are collectively against this sale.</p> <p>Secy advised of play equipment purchased by the Budes a few years ago and had heard that some of the equipment are coming to Forres. Climbing frame s to go Grant Park to the outside of the small children's' area with the zip wire to Rothes. The equipment will be uplifted by Moray Council as Ken Kennedy is dealing with the matter. Equipment is currently stored at Brodie Castle. Cllr Murdoch advised climbing frame was lying deteriorating. He telephoned Ken and he felt it should go to Grant Park. How did the Budes feel about this ? The slide was taken away as there had been a mishap a few years ago. Zip wire is apparently going to Rothes. Secy felt that any equipment leaving Brodie Castle should go to Forres. Secy To contact the National Trust Edinburgh and take forward for next meeting. Cllr Thornton asked if there was any cost to maintaining play equipment. Secy advised previous equipment had been removed owing to it falling into disrepair. It would be hoped that regular checks on equipment would be made. Cllr Hilditch said he hoped that someone from the Council would check the equipment first to ensure that it was fit for purpose. Members advised that the equipment is approx. five years or so old.</p> <p>Cllr Hilditch has requested the new FCCs submit photographs to update poster and contacts.</p> <p>A96 crossing still in abeyance. Cllr Hayward drew attention to a metal cage in centre of the carriageway. Cllr Parker advised it was for cycles and public could be the basic work for a later addition of traffic lights... MOTP said the crossing was better than it was before and said it was 100% better. Feels it is much safer standing in the middle of the road now. Vision is clearer. Cllr Hayward asked if he felt it was safe for wheelchair users. Cllr Hilditch was concerned that exiting the station was a danger as there are three routes to contend with. Traffic has now speeded up again and travelling at 40/50 mph. Usage will increase.</p> <p>Secy advised Debbie Herron will be presenting FACT CAT for Town Hall.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Councillors Reports – Cllr Alexander – . Main report precursor to Development Plan and anyone on neighbouring any land earmarked booked for industrial or housing development should receive a letter. Was at long service awards in Elgin Town Hall since last meeting the</p>	

	<p>Council must be a good employer as some have been employed for as long as forty years ! Keith Miller of Kintessack is keen on the Moray Growth Plan. One disappointment was people with lack of skills. Head Teacher now employed for Rothiemay. Was at audio conference call with \Keith Brown. Assurance given that there will be an Army presence at Kinloss and could be bigger than at the moment and not necessarily 39 Regt.</p> <p>Lorna Cresswell – attended an interesting presentation at Dr Grays. Discussed junior doctor situation and looking towards net year doing innovative work. Was also taken around Leancoil Hospital with a few Community Councillors. New mortuary has been raised and this will be fully costed. There is also new guidance on mortuaries. 2020 Vision Action Plan – was disappointed at the need for who takes it forward and who oversees it... Would endorse the work that is going on. Will the Community Council still have that involvement in looking to see the action plan going forward. Taigh Arras to be closed. Looking at better alternatives. Travelled to Govan to be part of a Community Renewal Group. Consultation on budget a short timescale. Lot of information gathered. MOTP advised issues with no branch available to deal with problems with card or cheque matters.</p> <p>Cllr Claire Feaver – Attended Vision 2020 meeting. Also. met up with Link Worker at Forres Health Centre.. Forres has the highest referrals from G\Ps for mental health help and is being looked into as to why that is and look at statistics and if the Link Worker can help with that. Findhorn Nature Reserve ongoing and in contact with RSPB. Numerous calls re lighting and gritting. Meeting Heads of schools. Developer Obligations – Playparks. Going to look at this to do more for maintenance. .</p>	
8.	<p>Chair’s Report :</p> <p>At Leancoil Hospital meeting. At Pam Gowns meeting in Town Hall. Mainly mental health was discussed. Was a good meeting. Pam is keen to continue with meetings. Was at Auchernack meeting. Agreed not to eat into capital budget. £500/600 for Rotary Club Christmas Dinner. Another meeting will be held in May. .</p>	
9.	<p>Secretary’s Report : .</p> <p>Benromach consultation date was cancelled and a further date will be advised in January Problem with booking Town Hall in advance. Is this still proving a problem? Sandra McLellan said queues commence at 7 00 am.</p>	
10.	<p>Group & Representatives’ Reports: .</p> <p>Cllr Edwards covering Health and Safety with Cllr Shand.</p> <p>Sec sent all a copy of the Friends of the Falconer Museum Newsletter for December. Would like to arrange another visit to the Falconer Museum Store for FCCs as first visit was a success. .</p> <p>Cllr Tasman went along to 2020 Vision presentation. Documents have a prioritisation event results. One was for the establishment of a Forres Green Spaces User Group and expectations Forres Community Council would be part of that. Would be interested in being part of that.</p>	

	Cllr Walker – Did some more long term unemployed walk-in interviews in Elgin and another one in February.	
11.	Treasurer’s Report: .Cllr Murdoch advised all accounts now paid. Compensation now paid from Bank of Scotland.	
12	Forthcoming Events – Sandra McClellan – next Money for Moray – Health and Wellbeing. With grants from £200 to £4000 and can be accessed online for anyone to apply. To encourage people to apply and is Scottish Government money and Forres groups can apply.	
13..	AOCB – Gentleman from Palmira contacted Secretary re having to bag leaves and rubbish at the flood alleviation area. He filled eight bags and required them to be uplifted. Wanted to know who is responsible for the clearing of this location. Had already contacted the Environmental Dept. but no one came to uplift. I called them myself but do Not know if the bags have since been uplifted. Is SEPA or Council responsible? Cllr Murdoch – Mosset Burn – Had spoken with Bob Laughton but not enough people had turned up to make a decision.	
14.	Date of next meeting : Thursday 18 January 2018 at 7 15 pm	