

The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

20th August 2020 VIA ZOOM MEETING

Secretary: Community Councillor Jo Lenihan | **Email:** info@forrescc.co.uk

Attendees		Apologies	
CC Shaun Moat (SM)	Chair	CC Jo Lenihan (JL)	
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	CC Kenny Shand (KS)	
CC Frank Byrne (FB)		CC Michael Walker (MW)	
CC Lesley Edwards (LE)			
CC Steve Ferris (SF)			
CC Fiona Graham (FG)			
CC John Innes (JI)			
CC David Parker (DP)			
CC Alan Tissiman (AT)			
MC George Alexander			
MC Lorna Creswell			
MC Claire Feaver			
MC Aaron Maclean			
Garry McCartney	Forres Gazette		
Members of Public	0		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were advised.	
2.	Ratification of Minutes 16 th July 2020: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, and one alteration required to change initials GH to GM; otherwise accepted as a true record Proposed: David Parker Secoded: Fiona Graham	
3.	Co-options and Associate membership: SM advised that co-option forms for 3 new CC had gone through. Alan James and Mike Miller remain associate members whilst A96 dualling project ongoing.	
4.	Community Safety Report: CSP 40 was circulated. There had been a significant reduction in crime during lockdown, but now increasing and local police are proactively going out to address any anti-social behaviour. JL to include Garry McCartney in distribution list for CSP.	JL
5.	Matters arising/updates: Item (i) to be taken first: (i) Restoration of walkway by BAM. FB contacted GA for contact within BAM. There is funding for restoration. FB will update at next meeting a) Forres High Street parking and double yellow lines. Double yellow lines have been dealt with. SM/GM, FACT and Emma Gordon (MC) meeting to discuss improvements that could be made to Town Centre. Links in with vehicle strategy Scotland. Shopping habits have changed since Covid – need to look at how to make it more convenient for people to get goods. Will report back at next meeting	FB SM

	<p>b) Love Local – SM had met with FACT and Mark Hindley of Forres local. FACT felt as they were main applicant for funding, they didn't feel application strong enough and haven't time to put one in at this time – project discontinued.</p> <p>c) Grant Park toilets. SM contacted Cullen CC. They employ a member of staff to clean and collect donation for use which equates to about 8-10p/user and does cover costs. If taken over by charity water rates not payable. Cllr Creswell suggested an approach to other users. JI had provided list of other WCs open. SM will progress.</p> <p>d) Cluny Hill –Paths not complete – some channels not working, and some sections still need to be tarred. Bike group have desire for a facility on Cluny Hill but acknowledge current situation bit risky. It was confirmed group is different to Sanquhar group which is for younger bikers. Discussion took place on who would hold Public Liability Insurance. MC controls Grant Park and Cluny Hill and Cllr Alexander had emailed Colin Bell re PLI but not received response. Cllr Creswell wondered if project would form part of planning for real exercise – will contact Colin Bell to clarify. Carry over to next month.</p> <p>e) Befriending service – LE advised 20 befrienders for 20 people. Tailed off to about 16 now lockdown easing. FG said befrienders now going back to work. FACT looking at re-starting groups 14 September</p> <p>f) Grant from SSEN – GM commented that start of problems resulting from lockdown not yet apparent and Forres has high level of child poverty so agreed we should wait to see if any need identified.</p> <p>g) Speeding/noise pollution. FB commented on growing concern about speeding in town and loud exhausts. Discussion with local police about possibility of more overt presence. SM to meet with Insp and will raise this issue.</p> <p>h) Flood elevation bike track – no comments. Review next meeting if required</p> <p>i) See above</p> <p>j) Town Centre – already discussed under (a) above</p> <p>k) Visit Forres – SM proposed a project to create a destination website to attract visitors to Forres. It would include a directory of business, facilities, etc. Moray Digital will donate website. It would be a FCC-led project but working closely with other local stakeholders. Discussion took place on how this fitted with Forres Local and it was felt this would be more effective platform. Key thing is to ensure good quality content and getting businesses on board. Links to other local interest groups would be good addition. Forres Gazette will promote. SM will send information to all and those who want to be involved to volunteer.</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>JL</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM</p>
6	<p>Community Councillor Group and Representatives Reports:</p> <p>a) Chair: Planning Applications. Berry Burn Extension. Discussion took place on the proposed extension to the Berry Burn windfarm. Forres CC is a consultee and can submit comments on the planning application if it feels it contravenes policy such as local development plan. Advice can be sought from MC Planners. The community fund is entirely separate and should not form part of the planning consultation. FB asked for more information on the current Berry Burn funding and whether FCC can put in an application for funding. Town Hall – Extensive refurbishment of the Town Hall. Recommend all look at the documentation on the planning website. Mannachie – 32 residential units with percentage of social housing. SM to find out deadlines for comment and circulate papers to all. It was confirmed the application applies to land that has been earmarked for residential development.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>SM</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) GM – All covered in previous items c) LE – Been involved in painting Town Hall, befriending. d) FG – Meetings slowly building back up. Health Centre doing review with IJB on Varis Court. Covid meeting to continue until further notice. Jo Smithson moving on from tsiMORAY. No news on when face-face services being resumed – Aberdeen situation has caused a delay. e) DP – groups looking to restart over next few weeks but awaiting guidance. Co-op have made a webpage for the Shed – link shared. Meeting scheduled for following week. f) AT – For information Covid has had an impact on giant hogweed control 	
7.	Public session: No members of public present	
8.	<p>Moray Councillor’s Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cllr Feaver – Best Value Assurance Report on Moray Council from Scottish Audit Commission shows poor performance following a poor one in 2015. There is a push to ensure report is brought before Audit and Scrutiny Committee for discussion which hasn’t previously happened. There have been 2 cases from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman since April that have been critical of Moray Council – these are also going to Audit and Scrutiny Committee. There is an issue with downward trend on educational attainment and Moray is also one of lowest spenders on education. The reports are in the public domain. b) Cllr Alexander – Complaints from resident about amount of heavy traffic using St Leonards Road from Quarry. Cllr Alexander will check with MC as they are supposed to use road out to business park. One positive – success of ‘Eat Out Help Out’ campaign in Forres. One big criticism in Best Value report is political instability in Moray. c) Cllr MacLean – Confirmed Best Value report will go to Full Council. It did report on improvement in political co-operation. Schools are using a huge amount of cleaning materials so Northern Alliance looking at alternatives. Despite concerns attendance at school is slightly higher than normal for start of autumn term at 97-98%. Outdoor facilities are starting to open now and indoor from 31st August. d) Cllr Creswell – Dog walker had reported signs hammered to trees in Roysvale Park which will be removed. Police - Campbell Thompson being replace by George MacDonald from Highland. Funding for community transport is coming online. Credit union is seeing lots of adult literacy issues and have been asking for funding to support this for years. Looking at setting up Credit Union collection point in Buckie as several people travel from there to Forres to use facility. Discussion took place on number of people who are turned down for Universal Credit on first application but high success rate of appeals. Must encourage applicants not to give up on process. If any concerns, ask people to contact one of Councillors for help 	
9.	Chair’s report: Attended Economic Recovery Strategy meeting asking for opinions on way forward. Attended JCC and discussion on frequency of meetings. New Lord Lieutenant encouraging Deputes to attend JCC	
10.	Treasurer’s report: Current balance £1998.39 which includes £1000 grant	
11.	Secretary’s report: nothing to report	
12.	Events: SCVO Good Governance and Risk Management 26 August. Findhorn Bay Festival 23-28 September. Blood donation – date not known	
13.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cllr Alexander stated that 19 September is doors open day in Moray and Forres Heritage Trust were taking part. See website for details 	

	<p>b) SM highlighted image taken by FB of old health centre steps showing a bad deterioration. SM to forward to Cllr Alexander.</p> <p>c) Cllr Creswell advised that Richard Anderson, Housing at MC, was retiring. 12 people had applied and 6 being interviews.</p>	SM
14.	Date of next meeting: Thursday 17 th September 2020 at 7.00 pm via Zoom	