

## The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 VIA ZOOM MEETING

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

Attendees		Apologies	
CC Shaun Moat (SM)	Chair	CC Fiona Graham (FG)	
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	CC Kenny Shand (KS)	
CC Frank Byrne (FB)		CC Michael Walker (MW)	
CC Lesley Edwards (LE)		MC Cllr Aaron Maclean	
CC Steve Ferris (SF)			
CC John Innes (JI)			
CC Jo Lenihan (JL)	Secretary		
CC David Parker (DP)			
CC Alan Tissiman (AT)			
MC Cllr George Alexander			
MC Cllr Lorna Creswell			
MC Cllr Claire Feaver			
Garry McCartney	Forres Gazette		
Debbie Herron	FACT		
Jan MacPherson	FACT		
Marc Hindley	Love Local Forres		
<b>Members of Public</b>			

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies:</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were recorded. Debbie Heron and Jan MacPherson from FACT were welcomed and invited to give an update on the plans for the Town Hall.	
2.	<p><b>Presentation by FACT</b></p> <p>The options appraisal for the refurbishment of the Town Hall had established key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a modern, multi-purpose performance space</li> <li>• the upper floor should be accessible</li> <li>• maximise income generating opportunities</li> <li>• restore the Lesser Hall to its original beauty</li> <li>• an attractive foyer</li> </ul> <p>The developed proposals were outlined referencing the architects plans and drawings. The key points to note were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• front entrance the caretakers office bigger more useful space</li> <li>• toilets enhanced including a wheelchair accessible toilet</li> <li>• lift to upper floors</li> <li>• staircase will be removed</li> <li>• kitchen will be enlarged and accessible from foyer making it more flexible and useable</li> <li>• extra door into lesser hall creating in/out option</li> <li>• above lesser hall will remain largely unchanged but refurbished</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesser Hall – double doors will be restored to original height more in keeping with original proportions of the room</li> </ul> <p>Main Hall –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• retractable seating facing towards Lesser Hall and performance area. This will be flexible to allow more seats/smaller performance area and vice versa</li> <li>• lighting gantries, etc in roof space</li> <li>• Lesser Hall can be used as dressing room space</li> <li>• old stage being removed allowing 3 floor levels</li> </ul> <p>Level 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting room, plant and storage. Accessible entrance, extra toilet facility including accessible toilet, additional lift</li> <li>• Balcony will be removed altogether. Boxed in steel girders fitted in 1920s will be opened out to give more open feel and option to have roof lights to allow natural light into main hall</li> </ul> <p>Level 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• staircase, lift shaft and toilets</li> <li>• storage area will become a flexible space possible office</li> <li>• existing FACT offices – extra mezzanine floor above office. Current corridor will become storage for pipers and Varis players</li> <li>• gallery space with fixed seating and 2 accessible seats</li> <li>• room for sound/lighting deck</li> <li>• workspace behind seating</li> </ul> <p>Level 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mezzanine to be accessible via lift</li> <li>• back of building – lift and extra workspace</li> <li>• expose original wooden features and will form ceiling with a window from large room looking down into main hall</li> </ul> <p>GM asked about the current and future capacity and acoustics. JM said current capacity is 200 in rows and 100 on balcony. New capacity will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>216 Retractable seats including 2 wheelchair accessible spaces</li> <li>27 fixed seats in the new gallery area including 1 wheelchair space</li> <li>243 seats in total inclusive of 3 wheelchair accessible spaces.</li> </ul> <p>Plan is to get acoustic panels fitted to Main and Lesser Hall and hope to be able to progress this ahead of main project.</p> <p>DH stressed that areas designated as workspaces will be flexible, multipurpose spaces eg offices, workshop, keep fit areas.</p> <p>Cllr Alexander – asked how things going with funding? DH confirmed the Stage 1 application had been submitted to Scottish Government through MC for regeneration capital fund. Waiting to hear when to progress to stage 2. They have been ambitious with the project which will cost £3.1 million. Stage 1 application is for £2.7 million and £300k from HIE. The remainder will be sought through other grant applications and local fund raising through coffee mornings etc. Acknowledged that it is a lot to raise but feel that its achievable by demonstrating the positive contribution to town and community.</p> <p>Plan to schedule work so the Main Hall and kitchen become partially operational to generate income and to keep building as operational as possible through the refurbishment. Still to procure design team so no definite plans on how this will be phased yet.</p> <p>Outside of building – only difference will be lift cavity.</p> <p>Façade – will stay the same and keep original windows. First floor windows replaced late 60's/early 70's so may be replaced with units more like originals.</p> <p>Building will be as energy efficient as possible.</p> <p>Plans available through the planning portal on MC website.</p>	
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3..	<b>Ratification of Minutes</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2020: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as a true record. Proposed: Frank Byrne Seconded: David Parker	
4.	<b>Community Safety Report:</b> CSP 41 was circulated. Key points were road traffic incidents and on-going investigations into a series of break-ins.	
5.	<b>Matters arising/updates:</b> a) Forres High Street parking and double yellow lines. No further action required b) Love Local & Visit Forres project – SM had circulated an email from Marc Hindley raising concerns about Visit Forres proposal impacting on existing Love Local project which already has a tourism focus. Discussion took place and it was noted that in the past it was felt tourism was being promoted by too many organisations and duplication should be avoided. MH advised that Visit Scotland had awarded funds in the past to develop the tourism aspects of Love Local. It was decided SM and MH to meet to discuss ways of collaborating. c) Grant Park toilets. SI suggested investigating use of signs for facilities from A96 to attract people into town. SM will make enquiries with Bear Scotland. d) Cluny Hill – Darren Gemmel had said the bike group are going to look to develop Sanquhar now and then look at Cluny Hill site in future. Cllr Creswell had received information in an email from MC – this will be recirculated for information. e) Speeding/noise pollution. SM had met with Insp Rigg and police are working to tackle ASB both vehicles and individuals. Califer is an area of concern. f) Flood elevation bike track – no further comments. g) Restoration of walkway by BAM. Cllr Alexander stated that agreement had been reached and money paid to MC for this but COVID causing delays. 6 stumps are to be carved. h) Town Centre – SM/JL/GM had a virtual meeting with Road traffic officer (MC), Emma Gordon (MC) and Insp Rigg. A town centre master plan will be developed but currently looking at Elgin before moving on to Forres. Any funding prioritises people with disabilities, then pedestrians, public transport, private cars. It was noted that not one policy that fits all places and what works in Elgin might not work in Forres. Target to have better offer in High Streets to increase footfall and work this into Town Centre Master Plan. Discussed Town Centre regeneration fund and Emma to find out what has happened to this. Forres centre needs parking in town for people who drive in and to get people back on the High Street but not be a through way for traffic. Traffic survey could be done to determine traffic on High Street. An application to reduce to 20 mph had failed some years ago. SM to follow this up. FB asked if there were any statistics on footfall into the town. Cllr Feaver advised that Moray Town Centre Health Check Assessment was available through the MC website. It was noted that some cars park all day in the High Street parking bays, including people who work in the town, making it difficult for people to park for short periods and forcing people to park at supermarkets. Restricting length of time people can park in bays would encourage turnover. i) Mannachie development – Falconer Avenue opened from Grantown Road to Mannachie Road. Traffic calming cushions on Grantown Road end but not Mannachie Road end – traffic confirmed they will be placed all the way along. Developer’s contributions to Orchard Road – Cllr Creswell told this should start next summer hols and will be front funded. Cllr Alexander has been assured by Transport officer that work to install traffic lights will be done in June 2021. Cllr Feaver commented that it’s a real plus about opening of Falconer Avenue as part of developer obligations would put in circular local bus service for Springfield. Hopefully now road is open this will come to fruition.	SM SM          SM
6	<b>Changing from zoom to MS Teams:</b> As Police Scotland are only cleared to use MS Teams it was suggested future FCC meetings be held via MS Teams. This was accepted and SM agreed to do some training – doodle poll will be sent out. He will also inform Insp Rigg.	ALL SM

7.	<b>Falconer Museum:</b> Unlikely museum will open this year as no funding currently available. It was confirmed that Moray Growth Deal was only for new projects. Museum service not essential service for MC hence reason for cutting funding, but funding could be found from other sources. Currently no member of FCC sits on committee; FB volunteered to contact Falconer Committee - LE to forward email contact details	FB/LE
8.	<b>Community Consultations:</b> JL pointed out 2 new consultations launched by MC: Climate Change Strategy and Corporate Recovery Plan. Everyone is encouraged to participate at this will shape the future of council services going forward. Links on MC website and to be promoted through FCC Facebook/website	ALL
9.	<b>Community Councillor Group and Representatives Report:</b> a) FB – Discussion on speed signs. Insp Rigg would support any purchase. FB to contact police to decide location and number and then get cost. GM commented that as a trustee he needed to be excluded from any discussions on applications to Berry Burn community Fund. b) AT – Findhorn Bay LNR meeting will hopefully be held next month. He will report back. FB stated interest in being involved in group.	FB AT
10.	<b>Public session:</b> No members of public present	
11.	<b>Moray Councillor's Reports</b> a) Cllr Alexander – approached by Bolton road residents about speeding vehicles. St Leonard's road residents are concerned about speeding and heavy vehicles. He will contact Diane Anderson to discuss. Tolbooth - £9350 went towards putting new steps inside Tolbooth which is part of Phase 1 of getting clock tower in shape. Scaffold is for replacing lead and pointing. Once finished a rail will go round the top to provide a viewing gallery – visitor attraction for future. b) Cllr Creswell – Head of Housing not appointed despite number of candidates so interim acting head.	
12.	<b>Chair's report:</b> Recent JCC included update on Moray Growth Deal and Chief Insp Stevenson reported on police activity and information on online fraud. SM had met with Insp Rigg and will be arranging regular meetings in future. Policing levels in Forres are not at full strength but not concerning due to more flexible way of working with other areas. Looking at how to tackle ASB within town. CCTV – all cameras are working but not all are moveable and can only be operated from Elgin. Project for future on CCTV system that would work on private shops and other premises.	
13.	<b>Treasurer's report:</b> Current balance £1998.39 which includes £1000 grant	
14.	<b>Secretary's report:</b> nothing to report	
15.	<b>Events:</b> Firework display had been cancelled. Cllr Alexander advised that Open Doors was being done virtually with details on Heritage Trust website and Doors Open page on MC website	
16.	<b>AOCB:</b> a) Cllr Creswell advised that Remembrance Day would be going ahead on 8 November.	
17.	Date of next meeting: Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.00 pm via Zoom	