

The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

Thursday 18th February 2021 at 7.00 pm via MS Teams

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

Attendees		Apologies	
CC Shaun Moat (SM)	Chair	CC David Parker (DP)	
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	CC Kenny Shand (KS)	
CC Frank Byrne (FB)		CC Michael Walker (MW)	
CC Lesley Edwards (LE)		Cllr Claire Feaver	
CC Steve Ferris (SF)			
CC Fiona Graham (FG)			
CC John Innes (JI)			
CC Alan Tissiman (AT)			
CC Jo Lenihan (JL)	Secretary		
MC Cllr George Alexander			
MC Cllr Lorna Creswell			
MC Cllr Aaron McLean			
Garry McCartney	Forres Gazette		
Members of Public	None		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were recorded. Welcome to Sgt Forbes and Richard Lochhead MSP	
2.	Community Safety Report: No CSP report available. Sgt Forbes updated the meeting on crime occurrences in Forres and report will be circulated when available. SM asked whether crime had returned to pre-Covid levels. Sgt Forbes felt not as they were not experiencing issues with late night drinking at weekends. SF raised the issue of snow/ice around police station and carpark. Sgt Forbes confirmed it is police responsibility and they do grit and clear as and when they can. JL raised that CI Stevenson had informed JCC meeting that Insp Kerry Rigg was moving on and being replaced by Insp Tony McCullie who has served in Moray for most of his service.	
3.	<p>Richard Lochhead MSP</p> <p>SM welcomed Richard to the meeting. Richard talked about the pandemic and how communities and groups had come forward to help. Offered a big thank you to everyone across the local area. Good news in Moray is seeing cases coming down following a rise in January. Vaccine roll-out has begun. FM giving update on Tuesday of revised strategic roadmap. Do not expect an immediate change to restrictions due to pressures on hospitals which is what determines regional restrictions. Biggest impacts being noticed amongst people on low incomes, women, and young people. Support is out there Covid has exposed inequalities in our communities. Most businesses getting support but still some falling through gaps. Economic challenges are huge in Moray due to reliance on tourism and hospitality as these sectors hit hardest. Big challenges to recover from Covid; however, Moray does have an underlying economic strength.</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>SM – Are there contingencies in place to go to full postal vote in Scottish elections if necessary?</p>	

	<p>Force 9 (Clash Gour) issued an MoU (circulated prior to meeting) offering community of Moray 5% ownership. About 12 community groups have signed up to MoU – this is an expression of interest not a commitment. Force 9 want a single community steering group to manage this so JCC applied for Scot Gov CARES grant to establish how best to do this which is still ongoing. Working with Energy for All who have worked with many other community organisations across UK on such projects. A BenCom will be set up which allows ethical investors to raise funds through investment with any surplus generated going back to community. When constituted it will require a board of trustees and members. Currently finalising rules and Articles to comply with OSCR and financial authority. The charitable organisation can apply for and manage community benefit on behalf of community and ensure funds are invested widely for future generations although returns from community investment are likely to be modest. Moray renewable energy hub will be part of the group. In July an expression of interest was sent to Scot Gov who are setting up network of regional renewable energy hubs. HIE, MC, and tsiMoray all involved in support and everyone in community is still able to participate. SM thanked Graham for the brief and his time.</p> <p>b) GDPR – distributed. Need to formally approve at future meeting. All to familiarise themselves with contents. If any comments please feedback to SM or JL</p> <p>c) SSEN grants – story in Gazette. Update – 3 individuals (1 x £200; 2 x £100). MFCU have been given £300 to distribute to vulnerable people who have arranged to give 6 x £50 grants. Additional £300 vouchers gained so actually worth £600. Thanks to staff at MCRU and Quarriers – letter of thanks to be written to these organisations. Still £300 to be distributed.</p> <p>d) Mosset Burn Survey – Tried to contact Bob Laughton but no success; will follow up on this.</p> <p>e) Update from JCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R100 already covered. • Kieran’s legacy and defibs – discussion took place on having unlocked defib cabinets due to recent issues gaining access to some in Moray. JL to feedback that FCC feel they should be unlocked. • Speeding in villages – pushed through JCC to get CC on board to get consolidated approach. • Resilience plans – resilience group to circulate questionnaire to CC’s for completion on identifying risks and use this to help communities come up with local plan. Suggest sub-group be set up to take this forward. <p>f) DP matters – in absence JL to circulate emails from DP</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JL/SM</p> <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p>
6.	<p>Chair’s report No report other than skatepark unsuccessful in funding from lottery fund. Osprey bus dormant but hope to work with FACT and others as move out of lockdown. Been fitted out with Covid cleaning kit.</p>	
7.	<p>Treasurer’s report £1906.42 following grants money being taken out. Still £300 of SSEN grant included in balance. JL advised to claim honorarium and then entitled to use as wishes, including donating back to FCC. SM/GM/JL to discuss.</p>	SM/JL/ GM
8.	<p>Secretary’s report Lots of free courses/webinars available – book if interested.</p>	

9.	<p>Community Councillor Group/Representatives Reports</p> <p>GM – Greenspaces meeting – Elaine Penny Sustrans keen to consult on cycle path route planned for Forres. Will be invited to give presentation to FCC. Woodland Trust want to consult public on piece of woodland. Other organisations also planning consultations. Difficult to do consultation in current circumstances – restricted to online. FB suggested using Town Hall with one in, one out and computer/information in cubicle. Issue cleaning of equipment but keep in mind. Forres Business Association (FBA) looking to revive and holding a meeting 23 February. Cllr Alexander – asked about Cluny Hill management plan. David Hardy has been doing plan and at point where wants to go back to public for consultation. Forres Heritage Trust have interest due to Nelson’s Tower – David is aware of this. Forres Then and Now Facebook page has a good following and could be initial point for contact for consultation.</p> <p>FB – complaints about dog fouling. Discussion took place on this – campaign with Garry doing piece in Gazette. Question raised about whether any street wardens/cleaners. Cllr Maclean to check if anything in place now. FB to photo leave issue on Market Street and send to SM. Cllr Maclean offered MC support in campaign as currently looking at this issue. Cllr Alexander commented on issue of fouling on sports fields which have to undergo patrols before use. SM/FB to discuss.</p> <p>LE – still befriending one lady. About 20 still using service.</p> <p>FG – vaccination moving from Mosset Park to Town Hall. Meeting of Leancoil Trust with health centre staff on ideas for Leancoil Centre. Pupils – those taking practical exams will return to school on Monday 22nd Feb on 3-week timetable. P1-3s also back on Monday.</p> <p>AT – sightings of unusual ducks at Sanquhar Loch.</p>	SM/FB
10.	<p>Moray Councillor’s Reports</p> <p>a) Cllr Creswell – concentrating on budget meetings. MFCU busy too.</p> <p>b) Cllr Alexander – attending budget meetings. Couple of things have happened over last year that have put MC in stronger financial position but still have deficits for next year and year after so caution needed on spending. Meeting 3rd March to finalise but this will clash with UK and S Gov budgets to may change.</p> <p>c) Cllr Maclean – also budget meeting which have been slightly easier this year. For Forres funding for artificial pitch will hopefully be moved forward as Forres ASG only one that does not have access to one. Music tuition costs to be reduced by 30%.</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>SM – are conservatives joining cross-party talks and will meeting on 3rd March be webcast.</p> <p>Cllr Alexander – meeting will be webcast. Budget development group doesn’t include conservative group.</p> <p>Cllr Maclean – hopeful that talks will open with conservatives in near future.</p>	
11.	<p>Public Session</p> <p>No public present.</p>	
12.	<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>March: Douglas Ross MP</p> <p>April: Laurie Piper, CE Moray Speyside Tourism</p> <p>May: AT has emailed Roy Dennis and waiting for response.</p>	
13.	<p>AOCB:</p> <p>GM – Elaine Penny to be invited in May. SM to arrange.</p> <p>SF – can’t access planning docs on teams so JL to distribute by email in future.</p>	SM JL
14.	<p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th March 2021 at 7.00 pm via MS Teams</p>	