

## Forres Community Council

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.00 pm via zoom

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

| Attendees - FCC          |                 | Attendees - Other                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| CC David Parker (DP)     | Chair           | PC Yvonne Squair                          |
| CC Graham Murdoch (GM)   | Treasurer       | Garry McCartney (GM)                      |
| CC Steve Ferris (SF)     |                 | Martin Robertson                          |
| CC Fiona Graham          | Vice Chair      | Draeyk Van Der Horn                       |
| CC John Innes (JI)       |                 | Kathleen Robertson                        |
| Kev Skivington (KSk)     | Co-opted Member | Paul McBain                               |
| Ben Stewart (BS)         | Co-opted Member | Scott Lawrence                            |
| CC Jo Lenihan            | Secretary       | Debra Duke                                |
| Apologies                |                 | Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance |
| CC Kenny Shand (KSh)     |                 | Graeme Reid                               |
| Henrietta Grant-Peterkin |                 |   |
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| Item | Discussion   | Action |
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| 1.   | <b>Welcome and apologies:</b><br>Apologies recorded as above. This meeting was held via zoom due to the bad weather.   |        |
| 2.   | <b>Community Safety Report:</b><br>PC Squair went through the CSP. Proactive mobile patrols are continuing successfully. There have been a few successful stops and they have helped people getting stuck in the snow/ice. Police are asking all to heed weather warnings. A letter is to be sent to all parents about anti-social behaviour relating to inappropriate snowball throwing following a recent incident.<br><br>GM asked where the proactive patrols were taking place. PC Squair advised that there were both foot and mobile patrols every weekend at licensed premises and any discrepancies reported. Also checked trouble spots for youths but none were noted in Forres. There are plans to run patrols around schools for parking on zig zags. |        |
| 3.   | <b>Public Session</b><br>Martin Robertson, MC. Transport Forum 31st January 6pm. Community Councillors to let JL know if interested in volunteering and she will pass names to Martin. Transport Forum is trying to rekindle activity such as getting community involvement in helping people to get to places, hospital transport etc. Hoping this will be taken on by JCC and currently looking at TORs. Martin will share minutes for circulation.  |        |
| 4.   | <b>Ratification of Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b><br>Minutes were accepted as a true record.<br>Proposed: Kev Skivington<br>Seconded: Steve Ferris<br>Graeme Reid raised the issue from the last minute about the crossing at Applegrove which has been broken for more than 6 months. Cllr Lawrence explained that this is being delayed for the same reason as the traffic lights, namely there is a worldwide shortage of  |        |

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|     | <p>circuitry which is out of Council's control. As soon as they can be sourced these issues will be addressed. KSk noted that these issues can't be blamed on Councillors and noted that other areas are having the same issues. Cllr Robertson stated that drivers must also take responsibility by driving carefully.</p> <p>Graeme suggested a temporary lollipop lady would help but this is not feasible.</p>   |                                |
| 5.  | <p><b>Matters Arising</b><br/>No matters arising other than those to be covered under later agenda items.</p>  |                                |
| 6.  | <p><b>Planning/Licences</b></p> <p>a. <u>Planning</u>. The only item needing consideration is a change of use of amenity land to garden on Inverene Road and SF would follow this up. Cllr Van Der Horn advised he had already contacted planning for more information on this.<br/>Confirmation that FFWF application for a polytunnel had been approved and Nick Molnar passed his thanks to FCC for supporting this.</p> <p>b. <u>A940 speed restrictions consultation</u>. Information on the consultation had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Graeme Reid had also submitted his objections to the proposal which had been circulated. SF and JL expressed their concerns about the proposals. Cllr Van Der Horn explained that he was sceptical until the Councillors had met with traffic engineers who explained the science behind the proposal. Whilst common sense seems to say slowing traffic further out of town would be better this is not backed by the science.</p> <p>Following further discussion it was decided all CCs should email their responses to JL who will consolidate these and send to the Traffic Engineer outlining concerns, including those submitted by Graeme. Cllr Lawrence will also contact the engineer with FCC's concerns. JL will forward copy of information to Garry.</p> | <p>SF</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JL</p> |
| 7.  | <p><b>Action Plan Updates</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Flooding</u>. Request from Rona McNicol for a meeting to help this move forward to help with spending the grant. Meeting hopefully being held 2<sup>nd</sup> week February.</li> <li><u>Flooding on Forbes Hill</u>. Flooding had been observed in the bottom corner of the field earmarked for the new housing estate. This is running into houses on Forbes Hill. Advice has been passed to the homeowners. Developers/planners need to be aware of this when the new build is planned. Further discussion took place on this as there is still concern that even with upgraded drainage the system is still unable to cope. JL had visited a house on Forbes Hill which had sewerage all over the garden. Dynorod had attended and found a fatberg and usual items that cause blockages such as wipes. The homeowner had provided photos of the spill which would be added to other collections. JL confirmed that two gardens had probably been affected in this way. Scottish Water did come back a week later and removed contents that had spilled and disinfected the area. Discussion took place on how FCC can help. Scottish Water have leaflets and we can ask if they leaflet houses.</li> </ol>                                      |                                |
| 8.  | <p><b>Correspondence</b><br/>JL advised that Anita Milne had passed away and would send note of condolence from FCC.</p>   | JL                             |
| 9.  | <p><b>Treasurer's Report</b><br/>Current balance is £6891.17 (£5249 – SSEN grant ringfenced for equipment). GM is waiting for someone to examine accounts and will then send through to the CLO.</p>   |                                |
| 10. | <p><b>Moray councillor reports</b></p> <p><u>Cllr Lawrence</u> – Cllrs met with Iain Macdonald, Locality Manager for health and social care, to discuss locality planning and look at health data for Forres. The locality group plans around this and there is an invite for FCC to sit on this. JL commented that FG and JL already sit on this group so could represent FCC too.</p> <p><u>Cllr Van Der Horn</u>. One of issues locally is about support at home and access to timely reviews and he had been in touch with Caring Circle a local charity which provides such support. Active travel – funding is available to install more drop kerbs. There is a lot of people concerned about bird flu and shooting on the bay contrary to advice from</p>   |                                |

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|     | <p>authorities. There's a need to understand what we can do to alleviate the issue. The reports of many hundreds of birds affected doesn't tally with what Naturescot have recorded but there is a huge backlog in testing. A Byelaw may help but this takes time. A Climate Hub is to be run by tsiMORAY and he's waiting to hear when this will go live. It might be useful for someone from FCC to attend. There's concern about Tree Preservation Orders being revoked which has been brought up in Committee. We need to know species of trees involved and be more robust in questioning felling.</p> <p><u>Cllr Robertson</u> – since the Christmas Recess focus has been on budget proposals and the corporate plan. She asked Community Councillors to spread the word about Forres Common Good and Auchernack Trust funds. Regarding bird flu Cllr Robertson explained that labs were seconded for Covid testing so there is now only one lab in south England that can do bird flu testing. Working with a different government agency had been interesting and they had praised Moray Council (MC) on their action on bird flu.</p>  |    |
| 11. | <p><b>Forthcoming Events</b><br/> 9<sup>th</sup> February – JCC zoom meeting.<br/> Forres Heritage Trust – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7pm 'What lies at the bottom of the Moray Firth' by George Brown in the Tolbooth<br/> Film Club on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Where's Wally<br/> Email from St Johns Event on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Child poverty conversation.<br/> FFWF AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7pm.</p>   |    |
| 12. | <p><b>AOCB</b><br/> <u>GM</u> – Kirsty Conti, MC, had advised that an application has been submitted for a Forres Conservation and Heritage Scheme for the development phase. If successful this supports an application for the delivery phase which could see £3million for various projects in Forres such as historic building repair, training, interpretation, public development improvement, enhancement of climate change. Kirsty will keep us updated. GM wondered if this funding could also be used for laurels on Cluny Hill, signage, and skate park as Cluny Hill and Grant Park are covered by the scheme.<br/> Concern has been raised about a man with several dogs that he ties up at Tesco's and which is making some people anxious. It's also noted that he takes the dogs on the Walkies without clearing up his dogs' mess.<br/> <u>BS</u> – currently on study leave. College paths in the bad weather were not great and buses were delayed waiting for people to get there.<br/> Garry asked whether there was any action on MC the gritting of roads/pavements raised at the last meeting. It was noted that only roads covered by bus routes now get gritted. JI said a bulletin had been issued by MC detailing the routes in Moray and he will send the link to Garry.<br/> <u>KSk</u> – Forres Area Forum – what is their role and where do we fit together. JL raised a question about potential duplication around the 2 groups. Should FCC have more of a role in the Town Planning work that's going on? Both are funded by MC but roles not fully understood. Martin explained that the area forums are to bring groups together, looking at gaps in local areas and how to action these. Martin is working on a response to recent emails. There is work being done on area forums Moray wide to see how these are working and look at a consist approach. FCC will be invited to the Town centre improvement discussions.<br/> KSk commented that snow clearing could become part of the resilience action plan. GM mentioned that when the blame/claim culture crept in it raised concerns amongst shop keepers, but we need to let shop keepers know its ok to clear their pavements.<br/> <u>DP</u> – MSP/MP have had a meeting with the banking hub organisers and hope this will move forward as soon as possible. Cllr Lawrence stated that Link group are looking for premises and hoping to have something in this year but will probably be later in the year.</p> | JI |
| 14. | <p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February's 2023 7.00pm. Venue: Tolbooth</p>   |    |