

Forres Community Council

Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7.00 pm Tolbooth

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

Attendees - FCC		Attendees - Other
CC David Parker (DP)	Chair	Cllr Kathleen Robertson
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	Garry McCartney (Forres Gazette)(GMc)
Kev Skivington (KSk)	Co-opted Member	
Ben Stewart (BS)	Co-opted Member	
CC John Innes (JI)		
Apologies		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
CC Steve Ferris (SF)		Graeme Reid
CC Kenny Shand (KSh)		Henrietta Grant-Peterkin
CC Jo Lenihan (JL)	Secretary	
Cllr Scott Lawrence		
Cllr Draeyk Van Der Horn		
Inspector Andy Meikleham		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies: Apologies recorded as above. GMc commented on the low attendance at the meeting and previous meeting. Apologies had been received from some CC's but there is still a need to recruit more CCs.	ALL
2.	Community Safety Report: The CSP for October had been circulated. There was a discussion about the reduced content of the report which was only 2 pages and concern that not all events were being reported. The Chair and GM had met Insp Meikleham and asked about police attendance. JL to email Debra Duke to ask if the same is experienced by other community councils. Note: <i>the secretary had received an email from Insp Meikleham to say the community police officer would be attending in his absence subject to operational requirements.</i>	JL
3.	Public Session Nothing	
4.	Ratification of Minutes 20th October Minutes were accepted as a true record Proposed: Kev Skivington Seconded: John Innes	
5.	Matters Arising No matters arising other than those to be covered under later agenda items	
6.	Planning/Licences SF was not in attendance to update on planning	
7.	Action Plan 1. Flooding. JI/SF/KSk attended the information event in the Town Hall. They are collating information regarding areas that experience flooding including photographs. 100 letters sent to residents of high-risk areas - Bank Lane, Councillors Walk, Croft	

	<p>Road, Bogton Road, and to local farmers. Birkenhillock Road had also experienced problems with flash flooding in the summer. Tolbooth Road and Bank Lane have been identified as the most critical areas so Scottish Water (SW) are arranging surveys, speaking to residents, and checking drains. Attendees at the event also identified other at-risk areas. STV did an interview with a few attendees. SW/SEPA also made it clear that people experiencing flooding should report it so they can build a picture. It was noted that the complaints line is a call centre which takes ages to get through to with no follow up action. JI/KSk/SF are building their own databank of information.</p> <p>The important thing is that the agencies are now speaking to each other which is step forward and they can see that FCC is working in the background and helping through the resilience plan with supply of sandbags to be incorporated in the plan.</p> <p>SF asked if flood defences people could come along to speak to those specifically affected.</p> <p>JI confirmed that 30-40 residents had turned up to meeting and were able to talk directly to the reps with maps in front of them to point out exactly where the problems are.</p> <p>Further discussion took place on the issue. It was noted that Anne Skene from Kinloss and Findhorn CC had highlighted flooding at Joint Community Council (JCC). It was noted that there is no ombudsman for Scottish Water as its run by Scot Gov so there's no recourse. Graeme Reid suggested councillors should take the issue to MPs/MSPs.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to keep collating evidence and keep SW/SEPA informed. • 24th November – KSk/SF/JI to attend resilience meeting in Elgin which may produce further actions 	KSk/JI/SF
8.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>SSEN Consultation – new power line. Information circulated</p> <p>Boundary Commission consultation – Proposal to divide Moray into east and west which has been brought about due to changes to the upper limit of population which is now 65,000. Discussion took place on the implications of this proposal and whether we should respond as FCC or as individuals. JL to email everyone for their views but everyone encouraged to complete the consultation. Closing date 5th December.</p>	JL
9.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Balance of account is £6483.49.</p> <p>JL has been added as second signatory on the account</p> <p>GM will submit accounts to Moray Council as soon as possible.</p> <p>Postal money of £468 for election promotion has been repaid.</p>	GM
10.	<p>Moray councillor reports</p> <p>Cllr Robertson gave an update on Council business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forres has been prioritised for a new Academy which must be built by Dec 2027 and to a specific standard. Scot Gov provides up to 50% of funding. Moray Council (MC) must find the balance and maintain the standard for 25 years. Options appraisal on the location has not yet done. Discussion took place on various options but until all feasibility work is completed potential sites will not be put forward. The new AstroTurf pitch must be located with the school as it will be funded as part of the project. • MC website has a new section to support people with managing poverty. • Moycroft trip – fascinating to see how rubbish is sorted. • Remembrance Sunday - attended services at villages across Moray. • Two other current consultations: Gaelic language and Conservation Area for windows scheme • Consultation tonight on Mannachie Park. • Town Centre improvement plans have been passed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community planning consultation events highlighted budget gap of £3.6 million this year and £16 million next year which means there are likely to be service cuts going forward. NUS teacher strikes next Thursday and January 10th and 11th. Other unions may also strike but not obligated to inform schools which makes managing this difficult. 	
11.	<p>Forthcoming Events 23rd November – online planning training 21st November – 17th December - Forres Crafters shop 3rd December - Christmas Lights switch on</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB DP – Attended Remembrance Sunday and laid wreath on behalf of FCC.</p> <p>GM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs for Cluny Hill. Forres Heritage Trust (FHT) want to progress this and were informed that Kirsty Conti (MC) was leading on this, but she was unaware of this. It is understood £5000 was award for signs but no one seems to know whether any money has been spent or where the money is. Text has been made up for the signs but just not moving forward. GM had been asked by FHT if FCC would take this on but don't feel there is current capacity to do so and asked if the Committee was happy with this comment. Discussion took place on the funding and what had already been done GM will raise it at the next Greenspaces meeting on 8th December in Community Centre at 7pm. DP to contact to Sandra Maclennan to find out any information. Further discussion took place on the issue this raises with different groups being involved in the same projects but not having one group to oversee and pull things together; is this something FCC should do and invite someone from each group to attend FCC meetings? This will be important for the Heritage Trail and Town Improvement plan being planned. Buses – reports that the bus service is dismal with several services not turning up and being unreliable Judith Binney – received a text about a group which is working to join up cycle paths. As a non-constituted group, they asked if FCC could apply for funding to the Moray Local Action Fund on their behalf (closing date 5th December). Discussion took place on the proposal. It was noted that a strategy for dropped kerbs had just been passed by MC. Cllr Van der Horne has been working on this so could provide more information. GM will go back to Judith to get more information and circulate this to the committee for responses. <p>KS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mannachie dropped kerbs won't be done until 2023. New Year: has there been any request regarding street closure. This was discussed but not group had approached FCC to apply for the licence this year. FCC had done this in previous years as their PLI covers the event but they do not normally organise the event. It appears the previous group who did may be struggling for volunteers and no-one has stepped in to take over. Traffic lights at Orchard Road – due to be installed in spring 2023. <p>KSk – Osprey bus is taking residents from Moravia apartments on a mystery tour and depending on success will aim to do more trips in the new year.</p> <p>BS – Youth consultation. FACT have been into school for Spirit of the Community consultation.</p>	<p>GM</p> <p>DP</p> <p>GM</p>

	<p>Jl –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-iterated the need to progress the next part of the flood action plan and try to get some firm answers. • Scouts – turnout on Remembrance parade over 100 young people which was fantastic. Regarding the cost of electricity, Hydro Electric quote for October to April for the scout hall has gone from £2,500 up to £10,000. Jl would like councillors to raise this at MC as all youth groups will be facing a similar challenge at a time when supporting young people is increasingly important. GM commented that at the community planning consultation a lot was said about young people and all the challenges they face. Scouts in Elgin have a 2 ½ year waiting list so something should be done to help reduce this and bolster local groups. In Forres the capacity of the Scout Hall restricts numbers. Mention was made of the underused TA Hall and whether an approach should be made to see if it could be used. <p>Top up taps – all confirmed they are happy with the location of the tap to be at the Sunken Garden end of Grant Park.</p> <p>Sound system for Remembrance Service – comments had been made about the poor quality with some attendees being unable to hear the service. DP will raise at RBL coffee morning</p>	DP
14.	Date of next meeting: Thursday 15th December 2022 7.00pm. Venue: Tolbooth	