

## Forres Community Council

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 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	Garry McCartney (GM)
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	Cllr Kathleen Robertson
CC Steve Ferris (SF)		Cllr Paul McBain
CC John Innes (JI)		
Kev Skivington (KSk)	Co-opted Member	
Ben Stewart (BS)	Co-opted Member	
CC Jo Lenihan	Secretary	
Apologies		Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance
CC Kenny Shand (KSh)		Graeme Reid
CC Fiona Graham	Vice Chair	Sandra MacLennan (FAF)
PC Squair		Henrietta Grant-Peterkin
		John Robinson

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies:</b> Apologies recorded as above.	
2.	<b>Community Safety Report:</b> PC Squair was unable to attend the meeting due to being on shift. It was noted that Crime Reduction Team were at a recent community event and were handing leaflets out. KSk will speak to CRT to see if there's anything FCC can do to support.	
3.	<p><b>Public Session</b></p> <p>Sandra MacLennan (SM) explained the Mannachie Play area is looking to raise some extra funding and would like to work with FCC on this. There had also been talks about developing the Town Centre Improvement Plan (TCIP) and funding. Discussion took place on how FCC and FAF could collaborate. SM was working with Martin Robertson and looking to organise a meeting along the lines of Green Spaces group to do this. A list of stakeholders already exists. Need to determine who needs to be invited and what the meeting is trying to achieve so that actions can be taken forward.</p> <p>Cllr McBain commented that not all groups are being reached that should be, eg active travel and the Town Hall could be booked to gather people from a range of groups (possibly 40-60 people) but somebody would need to run this and would require a strong chair. He confirmed money available for TCIP would be available in 18 months to 2 years.</p> <p>There was further discussion about this and the need to get groups together to share information on what they are currently working on. It was decided JL would contact Martin Robertson to discuss the best way forward and ask if he would chair the initial meeting. The need to get other people involved, especially young people was noted. It was also mentioned that the Spirit of Community report could be used as a foundation for discussions.</p>	JL

	GM – commented that town centres are changing, and high streets might not have shops in the future so need to factor this in to plans for this large funding pot.	
4.	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes 19 January 2023</b></p> <p>Minutes were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Proposed: Steve Ferris Seconded: John Innes</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>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>. SF reviewed recent applications. An application has been submitted for change of use for TSB to be converted into a gym. Wildthings have applied to put a yurt in Sanquhar Woods in the area owned by FFWF. Regarding the amenity land application raised at the last meeting, this relates to such a small area that there is no reason to object.</p> <p>b. <u>A940 speed restrictions consultation</u>. Discussion took place on the consultation following additional information that had been received from Moray Council's transport officer. Community Councillors were asked to vote on whether an objection should be lodged by FCC to the proposals. All voted no to submitting an objection. JL to inform the transport officer of the outcome.</p> <p>c. <u>Pavement parking legislation</u> JL outlined the consultation relating to pavement parking legislation and asked for people to advise any roads that might need to apply for exemption. The following roads were highlighted: Anderson Crescent North Road (behind Town Hall) Attendees asked to inform JL of any others. JL to forward email to Garry.</p>	JL             JL
7.	<p><b>Action Plan Updates</b></p> <p>1. <u>Flooding/Resilience Plan</u>. The team are working on a home emergency plan which will be an A4 sheet with information on what to do in an emergency. SF pointed out that resilience is about what you can do for yourself in emergency and then build from there. Some information will be provided, and rest is for the resident to complete. SF had approached Highland Mobiles for advice and the owner had kindly donated a phone and sim card which FCC thanked him for. The next phase is to get the sheet to every house in Forres and to draw up lists of people who want volunteer in an emergency. 5743 houses in Forres.</p> <p>2. <u>Recruitment</u>. It was highlighted that FCC need to recruit new councillors. Debra Duke is to put an advert on tsiMORAY volunteer bulletin board.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>A letter had been received from the Lieutenancy regarding the Big Lunch to celebrate the Coronation Weekend. This is likely to be smaller scale than the Jubilee but propose a party in the park again. The Jubilee one was organised by Ann Rossiter, FBA, Forres in Bloom and FCC. Need to take this forward.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Current balance is £6891.17. £20 paid for the renewal of the domain for <a href="mailto:info@forrescc.co.uk">info@forrescc.co.uk</a> email address</p>	
10.	<p><b>Moray councillor reports</b></p> <p><u>Cllr Robertson</u>. Crossing re-instated on Orchard Road and posts installed. St Leonard's Road speeding – an island is to be installed and pavement put on the other side of the road past Leanchoil. She has been visiting local business. James Jones is expanding and produces 50% of A frames for rooves in UK. Also visited AJ Engineering and Forsyth. Housing and childcare are still major issues especially lack of 0-2 years cover and wrap-</p>	

	<p>around care. A working group has been established to look at the impact of this. An empty property review is being conducted. King's Coronation will be a bank holiday for schools and Moray Council. COSLA – pay strike consultation for 28<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March. Budget due to be launched 1<sup>st</sup> March and will be made public on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Hoping to get approval to get this through.</p> <p>Rates revaluation – dropped for a lot for shops but huge hike for factories. The appeal process is so complicated which seems a deliberate policy to cut down the number of appeals.</p> <p><u>Cllr McBain</u>. Lots of negotiation and hard work undertaken to try and get the budget through. Visited Logie School for lunch which was served by the pupils – offered a good opportunity to chat to parents.</p> <p>A question was asked as to why Forres has lost its council advice service which now relies on librarians. People come in with range of queries but there's no-one there after 5pm to answer questions. Cllr McBain noted there should still be a phone in community centre to contact MC call centre for advice.</p> <p>An article in Gazette had noted that for certain age groups the uptake of school meals is dropping. Cllr McBain explained part of the issue related to loading of cards, but this has now been rectified. Also teenagers don't want to buy food from school when they can go up the high street with friends and get a better deal.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Forthcoming Events</b>  Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 3pm Local Delivery Plan community engagement.  Friday Film – Buzz Lightyear  Sunday – St John's soup and sweet</p>	
12.	<p><b>AOCB</b>  Osprey Bus. Getting out and about more.  Website. It is felt that FCC need a website and KSk to talk to Shaun Moat about this.</p>	KSk
14.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7.00pm. Venue: Tolbooth</p>	