

## Forres Community Council

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00 pm, Forres House Community Centre  
**Secretary:** Community Councillor Jo Lenihan | **Email:** info@forrescc.co.uk

| Attendees - FCC         |           | Attendees - Other                                |
|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| CC Steve Ferris (SF)    | Chair     | Cllr Paul McBain                                 |
| CC David Parker (DP)    | Vice      | Cllr Kathleen Robertson                          |
| CC Graham Murdoch (GM)  | Treasurer | Cllr Scott Lawrence                              |
| CC Kev Skivington (KSk) |           |  |
| CC John Innes (JI)      |           |  |
| CC Jo Lenihan (JL)      | Secretary |  |
| CC Fiona Graham (FG)    |           | <b>Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance</b> |
| CC Kenny Shand (KS)     |           | Henrietta Grant-Peterkin                         |
| <b>Apologies</b>        |           | Lorna Creswell                                   |
| Cllr Van der Horn       |           | Sandra MacLennan                                 |
| Graeme Reid             |           | Sue Lloyd  |
| Garry McCartney (GM)    |           |  |

| Item | Discussion   | Action  |
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| 1.   | <p><b>Welcome and apologies:</b><br/>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were recorded as above. The Chair started with a public thanks for the Fireworks and Remembrance Parades. Firstly, a thank you to the Rotary Club for the Fireworks which was attended by an estimated 4000. The Royal British Legion was thanked for the Remembrance Parade. Thanks also recorded for all the youngsters and their youth leaders that participated in the Parade.</p>   |   |
| 2.   | <p><b>Community Safety Report:</b><br/>The CSP for October has been circulated. SF went through the report. KSk will find out more details on the shop lifting. Discussion took place on this, but care must be taken in drawing assumptions from data as it doesn't provide a full picture reflecting only the number of incidents reported.</p> <p>A shop owner in Forres has reported number of cars parked on zigzags. An email had been received about this and JL will forward this to PC Aaron White, Community Officer.</p> <p>Parking for the fireworks caused a problem this year with cars parked on verges, pavements, etc. SF has written to the Rotary about this, and they will include it in the wash up. It was noted that traffic cones had been placed on pavements rather than the road which reduced the width of paths. Placing them in the road encourages traffic to slow down. It was proposed that the Academy car park could be used in future and consideration of a small park and ride could be an option using the Osprey buses. KSk/JL will progress this.</p> | JL<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>KSk./JL |
| 3.   | <p><b>Public Session</b><br/>Sandra MacLennan raised the issue of the sound at the war memorial which wasn't very good and offered use of the hanging basket poles to hang speakers on if this would help. Better speakers had been provided this year but unfortunately they were facing away from attendees. Forres in Bloom will speak to RBL about this.</p>   |   |

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|    | Cycle Path consideration - the route is being discussed with Forres Active Travel, but it is likely to be several years before anything happens and there will be consultation with stakeholders.  |                                   |
| 4. | <b>Ratification of Minutes 19<sup>TH</sup> October</b><br>These were accepted as a true record.<br>Proposed: John Innes<br>Seconded: Kenny Shand   |                                   |
| 5. | <b>Matters Arising</b><br>a. SF has spoken to Forres House Community Centre (FHCC) café who are happy for us to use the area if extra room is needed for meetings.<br>b. One person has applied to be secretary. SF/JL to arrange meeting.   |                                   |
| 6. | <b>Planning/Licences</b><br>a. <u>Planning</u><br>Nothing to note in the planning notices.   |                                   |
| 7. | <b>Action Plan Updates</b><br><u>Resilience</u><br>a. GM has received an invoice for the equipment of £1361.20. This is approved for payment.<br>b. Mailshot should be going out from Moray Council (MC) soon.<br>c. Radios – SF to do further research as those previously identified do not have a good enough range.<br>d. JL mentioned that additional funding was available from Scot Gov. She would forward the email to the resilience team.<br><u>JCC meeting feedback</u><br>a. Moray Woodlands and Forest Strategy 2023. SF outlined the strategy paper that had been tabled at the JCC. There are questions for CC's answer about local woodlands. Following discussion, it was agreed that groups already working in Forres should be involved. JL will forward the paper to the Sanquhar volunteer group, Forres Woodland Trust and Forres Friends of Woods and Fields (FFWF) for their consideration.<br>b. Trees near Nelsons Tower have been felled. FFWF will be replanting the area once brush cleared doing replanting.<br>c. Integrated maternity services improvement plan. SF outlined the programme timeline for provision of maternity services to December 2026. FG will check whether the information is available in the Health Centre.<br>d. Moray Council has drafted an expenses policy for CC's which can be modified and adopted as required. It emphasises that anyone who is a Cllr shouldn't be out of pocket. SF will circulate a copy for consideration and discussion at the next meeting.<br>e. Funding model for CC's in Moray. The admin grant is awarded based on a formula that takes into consideration population therefore larger areas get more funding. However, some CCs must pay rent for accommodation which can use up the whole grant leaving no funds for things like paying a secretary. Discussion took place on this as FCC doesn't use its full grant. A questionnaire will be sent to CCs about expenditure and a discussion will be held on this and how to support smaller CC's. GM has agreed to be part of this discussion group.<br>f. Outdoor Gym – this is being opened at 1pm on 1 <sup>st</sup> December by the Lord Lieutenant DP will attend on behalf of FCC.<br>g. Website – BS is still working on this on our behalf, and it will hopefully go live before Christmas. All CCs are asked to send a photo and short bio to Ben as soon as possible.<br>h. Forres Conservation & Heritage Scheme (FCHS). Tenders were reviewed by the on 15 <sup>th</sup> November and returned to MC who will award the contract on 29 <sup>th</sup> November to start December. This is to develop the capital bid for delivery of cultural & heritage improvements in the town centre. | SF<br>JL<br>JL<br>FG<br>SF<br>ALL |

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| 8.  | <p><b>Correspondence</b><br/> Email from PC Squair – she no longer works in Forres. Community Officer is now Aaron White.<br/> Email from Iolaire – Gallery 55 re illegal parking on zigzag lines at pedestrian crossing.<br/> Email from Learning Estate re establishment of Reference Group. First meeting 4 December 2023. FG to do this.<br/> Copy of letter to Moray Councillors from FABA regarding road works.</p>  |    |
| 9.  | <p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b><br/> Balance 18<sup>th</sup> September - £7720.30.<br/> Statement of accounts submitted to Debra.<br/> Claims for expenses and honorarium still to be paid.</p>   |    |
| 10. | <p><b>Moray councillor reports</b><br/> <b>Cllr Robertson</b> – Consultation is live on budget proposals and libraries and leisure, and all are encouraged to complete. RAAC update at 6pm on 29<sup>th</sup> November in the Town Hall to discuss phase 2. It was noted that the young people have so resilient being taken to Lossie, UHI and Moray College for lessons. The staff have been amazing as they currently have no staff room. Confirmation of funding has been announced for the new school. MC has received the Gold award for Armed Forces Covenant. Moray is the top local authority in Scotland for recycling. Andersons Primary received a really good report.<br/> <b>Cllr Lawrence</b> – There is a new Town Centre capital grant scheme for shop owners who can apply for up to £50k (50% match funding required) to encourage businesses to remain in town. He will forward the link giving details to JL to circulate. He has written a letter to the Director of Creative Scotland responding to recent comments about amount of funding going to Findhorn.<br/> <b>Cllr McBain</b> – Attended Public Dev and Infrastructure, Licensing committee and Licensing Review body which addresses planning disputes. He had attended 3 memorial services – Whitley Memorial, Dyke and Forres. He was disappointed that the protocol of laying wreaths wasn’t followed in correct order.<br/><br/> SF thanked the Cllrs for attending the recent meeting with TTF and Head of Corporate Finance Committee. It had cleared up misconceptions about funding and rents. TTF were pleased with outcome of the meeting so will now work with officers to move this forward.<br/><br/> Councillors were asked if a decision had been made on how to spend the £15,000 awarded. Plans are being finalised and will be announced in due course.</p> |    |
| 11. | <p><b>Forthcoming Events</b><br/> 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – Moray Transport Forum<br/> 24<sup>th</sup> Nov - Film Friday – Matilda<br/> 1<sup>st</sup> Dec – Incredibles<br/> 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Snowman and Snowdog<br/> 9<sup>th</sup> Dec - Barbie<br/> 15<sup>th</sup> Dec - Ratatouille<br/> Forres Crafters 20<sup>th</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> December<br/> Christmas Lights 2<sup>nd</sup> December<br/> 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community Centre week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> December</p>   |    |
| 12. | <p><b>AOCB</b><br/> <b>KS</b> – provided information to MC about issues with paths in Forres who had put these on a list to be addressed if money is available. It was noted that this might be something that could be addressed through the FHCS. There is also a raised drain in the middle of road near the Tolbooth and they are waiting for water board to get back about this.<br/> <b>JL</b> – still no response from Scottish Water so will email for an update for January.<br/> <b>KSk</b> – raised the issue of parking for Forres Osprey Bus which has still not been resolved. Neil McRae who was dealing with this has left MC so who would be the best to contact.</p>   | JI |

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|     | <p>Stuart Beveridge is main one but could also talk to Stevie Robertson about how this could fit in with project to improve charging infrastructure. One issue is that all spaces in Forres are for cars and there are none for larger vehicles.</p> <p>Raised the issue of a number of groups including FCC struggling for volunteers and wondered if some could amalgamate? Perhaps this could be considered in future.</p> <p><b>FG</b> – the paths in Mannachie Park have been blocked by piles of soil whilst new equipment is installed so disabled people are unable to pass. Cllr Lawrence will look into this.</p> <p><b>SF</b> – the water fountain in Grant Park is connected but still covered.</p> |  |
| 14. | <p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> No meeting in December. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.00pm.</p> <p>Venue: Garden Room or Café.</p>   |  |

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