

## Forres Community Council

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 7.00 pm, Forres House Community Centre

**Secretary:** Peter White | **Email:** info@forrescc.co.uk

Attendees - FCC		Attendees - Other
CC Steve Ferris (SF)	Chair	Cllr Paul McBain
CC David Parker (DP)	Vice Chair	Cllr Kathleen Robertson
CC Fiona Graham (FG)	Minute Secretary	
CC Graham Murdoch (GM)	Treasurer	Garry McCartney (GMC) (Press)
CC Kev Skivington (KSk)		
CC John Innes (JI)		
Peter White (PW)	Admin Secretary	<b>Members of the Public (MOP) in attendance</b>
CC Ken Shand (KS)		
<b>Apologies</b>		
Cllr Scott Lawrence	Graeme Reid	
Cllr Van der Horn		

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome, and apologies:</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Community Safety Report:</b></p> <p>The Chair read out the Community Safety Report with the following incidents in Forres.</p> <p><u>Anti-Social Behaviour</u> –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Incident at Tesco where the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Group had a flag and two members sprayed with red food dye and a male has been charged.</li> <li>b. A report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal where a male was arrested and charged for vandalizing his grandmother's Property and his behaviour was also threatening and abusive.</li> <li>c. There was wilful fire-raising which caused property damage and enquires are ongoing.</li> </ol> <p><u>Acquisitive Crime</u> –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Enquiries are ongoing to establish who was responsible for 2 instances of shoplifting at commercial property with Forres.</li> <li>b. There was one report of a romance-type fraud where someone if duped into purchasing gift cards and providing the codes online.</li> </ol> <p><u>Road Safety &amp; Crime</u> –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Following an RTC a male has been reported to the court for riding a motorcycle with no license or insurance.</li> </ol>	

	<p>b. A male was arrested and charged for driving almost 5 times over the legal drink-drive limit.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Public Session</b></p> <p>a. There was to be a discussion about the upcoming Grant Park 100 event that is taking place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2024. So, information was provided by KR, advising that there would be various attractions and events throughout the day. There will be heritage crafts and a variety of things to represent the last 100 years. The park will be enclosed and there will be a charge on the gate. The event is celebrating 100 years since the park was donated to the town by Sir Alexander Grant a son of the famous family who created the Digestive.</p> <p><a href="https://visitforres.scot/listing/grant-park/#:~:text=Gifted%20to%20the%20people%20of,area%20with%20a%20natural%20arena.">https://visitforres.scot/listing/grant-park/#:~:text=Gifted%20to%20the%20people%20of,area%20with%20a%20natural%20arena.</a></p> <p>b. Forres in Bloom are competing in this year's Britain in Bloom.</p> <p>c. FCC councillor Ben Stewart will be representing Moray at the Scottish Youth Parliament.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024.</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the previous month's meeting.  Proposer – David Parker  Seconded - Kenny Shand</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>Resilience</u> – SF gave an update on the radio equipment and that Colin Buchan has been looking at the radios that are used by the Mountain Rescue Team and Steve will catch up with him to find out costs, to hopefully have the in-tie for the Highland Games in July. KSk advised that they would possibly be looking for 20 radios, but the ones FCC gets could be trailed at the Games as well as the use of the generator for the Grant Park 100, SF stated that a donation could be made for the equipment to help cover costs such as fuel.</p> <p><u>Scottish Water</u> – Grant Park Fountain has had someone from Scottish Water working on it, but the cover is still on, this could be to advise users that it is closed for the winter, or it is until a legionella test has been carried out. Results of surveys done on Orchard Road are expected.</p> <p><u>Road works</u> – works were finishing up on Victoria Road but will be back after the resurfacing work on the Bypass is complete.</p> <p><u>Forres Conservation &amp; Heritage Scheme</u> – A drop-in event was held in the Falconer Museum, there was also another event to find out what people would like to see in Museum Square and the top of Tolbooth Street. GMc queried where were the events advertised as he had not seen or heard of them and who were the organizers. SF advised that it is 2 areas within the Council that are working on slightly different areas but are now joined up to work collaboratively and funding is from 2 different funding streams. KR informed all that the funds are for 2 different schemes, even though they appear to be similar.</p>	<p>SF</p> <p>JI</p>

	<p><u>High Street Parking</u> – SF queried about posters for shop windows near disabled parking bays and the zigzag line at the traffic lights, he advised he is waiting to hear back about the wording for the poster and to see if we can add the Police Scotland logo on it as well as having a Police Officer in attendance when the posters are put up and for inclusion in the Forres Gazette. KSk said he would contact the media team within Police Scotland to see if they have a ready-made poster that could be used. The Chair added that West Calder had a similar issue and they put up posters that told drivers that photographs may be taken and used in future prosecution, this helped to resolve the issue for their area. Or was suggested to contact the Forres Business Association to be involved in the publicity.</p> <p><u>Stagecoach</u> – The Chair advised that the issue with the bus service provided by Stagecoach has not been satisfactory within and around Forres. GM advised his issue would not be covered by the local paper as it is out of its area but GMc advised he contacted Stagecoach directly and was advised he would get a response from the relevant department. The email received stated there were no issues with the service. FG advised that this could have come from the Company HQ in Perth and that they don't know what goes on at the local level. FG said she would try to get in contact with the operating managers for Elgin and Inverness. SF advised we are waiting to hear back from the Transport Forum as they were asked to contact them.</p>	<p>SF / KSk / GM</p> <p>FG</p>
6.	<p><b>Planning/Licences</b></p> <p><u>Planning</u> - There was no planning that required a response from FCC.</p> <p><u>Licensing</u> – Application submitted by the Royal British Legion to have a change of opening times.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Action Plan Updates</b></p> <p>a. <u>Resilience</u> – See notes under Matters Arising.</p> <p>b. <u>Forres Cultural &amp; Heritage Scheme</u> – SF mentioned that currently work is in the development phase of ideas to be put together to ensure a successful bid application to gain funding to create stonemason apprenticeships so that conservation repair work can be done to historic buildings in town as well as improving their environmental footprint.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>All correspondence received has been distributed to all Community Councillors. SF advised he needs to speak with Moray Council CCLO (Debra Duke) regarding our insurance for the resilience equipment and the Outdoor Gym.</p>	

<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>GM advised the current bank balance is £6,658.68, with the honorarium being paid out to the admin secretary. GM also advised that FCC reimbursed PW for the taxi Fare that he had to pay from a previous meeting due to his scheduled bus not turning up, PW awaiting a further response from Stagecoach with regards to reimbursement. SF queried the balance in the bank for resilience funds, GM advised that £1,361.20.</p> <p>SF advised that there has been a request received from the Lord Lieutenant of Moray that Forres is not flying the Moray Flag. Steve mentioned that no one in town has one but KR advised there is one in the Tolbooth but it may not have been paid for. Steve has received a request from George Alexander to advise that the Heritage Trust will display a framed portrait of the King in the Tolbooth which is free for all Community Councils to obtain. And has suggested FCC pay for the flag so that it can be flown.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Moray councillor reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Robertson</b> – Advised that council tax for this financial year has been frozen but there is an increase, but this is with regards to Water charges. There has been cross-party approval of the budget, and the following are being increased – community wardens from 2 to 4 and youth workers are increasing by 8 of which 4 are starting right away with a further 4 to come on board and fill in gaps where needed. Agreement was reached for the Council to reduce their glycol phosphates and a commitment to just transition. Applications are being sought for a new chief executive for Moray Council. School Estate meeting being held next week with detailed plans for the new Academy if situated at Roysvale, there are fewer details for the remaining sites. There will be a short consultation period held for members of the public to vote on their preferred location. The Council's best value report is to be published by the Audit Scotland Accounts and it is better than in previous years. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, it is International Workers Memorial Day, this is normally on social media and internal comms but this year they are going to link up with other organizations and have an event outside headquarters. KR advised that the £15,000 ward fund from last year's budget has been disbursed to organizations in and around Forres.</p> <p><b>Cllr Paul McBain</b> - Advised that he attended Dyke Community Council, and he was telling them about Resilience and some of the things that FCC has with regard to equipment, etc. Last week the ASG met to discuss all aspects of the Towns learning estate and there were council members and parents, and another will be held for teaching staff. M.Connect has been holding events to show the members of the public what Phase 2 covers and what to expect from the summer of 2025. This will include more routes in Forres and its immediate surrounding areas. PM advised that he attended the latest Local Review Body for planning and had to look over a recent planning application that was rejected and that they must review all the evidence and why they decide as they do.</p>	

11.	<p><b>Forthcoming Events</b></p> <p>24/03/2024 – Forres Rotary Club has a trishaw in Grant Park and to see if they can get volunteers to help push/pull disabled users around the town.  24/03 – Elvis is in the Town Hall from 8 pm.  28/03 – M.Connect meetings in the Town Hall.  05/04 – Forres Film Club will be showing Marmaduke for children.  13/04 – Forres Men’s Shed Open Day.  20/04 – Forres Film Club will be showing Indiana Jones for adults.  06/06 – Celebration of D-Day being held at Findhorn Pier.  08/06 -Freedom of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, and they will be marching down Elgin High Street.</p>	
12.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Jl advised that several locals have mentioned that the gates at the end of the High Street next to the Post Office and towards the Needle need to be refreshed and repainted. Asked if members of the FCC could volunteer to do this or could members of Forres Volunteers could do it. PM stated he would check that this is ok to be done by volunteers. KR advised if endorsed by FCC the volunteers could be covered under FCC insurance.</p> <p>KM advised that disabled parking is still a problem as he and others have had problems lately, Inverness also has a problem, and when Police were called Parking enforcement officers attended and they went to the driver's home for instruction. A query was received about part of the land in front of Lidl and if it could be turned into a parking area for lorry drivers, KR advised that she did not think the Council had adopted the road so it may be Amey who is responsible for it. Kenny is now a proud volunteer for Erskine and his boss would love to come up to the community council meeting.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>Date: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024.  Venue: Garden Room, Forres House Community Centre</p>	