



# The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

Chairperson: John S Bremner  
90 Bogton Road  
FORRES  
IV36 1BJ  
Telephone: 07929 846340

Secretary: Colin T Lipscomb  
12 Hilltop Road  
FORRES  
IV36 1FW  
Telephone/Fax: 01309 675177  
e-mail: collie\_forres@keme.co.uk

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in Applegrove Primary School, Forres, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009.

### Present :-

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, Mrs L Dingwall, S J Ferris, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, S D R Kennedy, C T Lipscomb, J Mackenzie, F Mallon, Mrs C M Pitstra & Mrs K Rosie.

### Also Present :-

Moray Cllr L Bell, I Young, I Ogilvie, T Gilbert (Forres Gazette) & 38 members of the public.

### 1. Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Moray Cllr J Hamilton, Cllrs R T Duncan, C J Piper.

### 2. Minutes of Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008:-

The minutes of the above meeting were submitted and approved.

### 3. Public Session:-

Mr Mark Cummings, of Invicta PA, addressed the meeting and updated us on the initial figures that had arisen from the November public exhibition. He said that some 400 people had attended, with postal feedback from 300 more and from that initial response it had become apparent that the initial idea of a garden centre in the proposed development was not wanted by the respondents. He said that the aim of Redco Milne was to involve the town in the process with benefits to Forres Mechanics & a play area. A team of architects would match the development to the town, with no modern box buildings and a steering forum would include townsfolk on it. Cllr Ferris said that no doubt when Redco Milne had first considered the scheme the business outlook was boyant but now with the future being more speculative what proportion of retail was required to balance out the community provision. Mr Cummings said that there was a strong unmet demand for retail in N E Scotland. A member of the public raised the subject of the retail park in Elgin, empty a year after completion, & asked what guarantee that Bogton would not go the same way. Mr Cummings said that there was lots of interest & he was confident that it would be filled, a gamble that the developers were happy to take. It was pointed out from the floor that great things were promised of the Enterprise Park with uptake producing less than 10% of the promised forecast jobs & that once we sold the common good land it was lost to Forres. As undeveloped land its value was minimal, as soon as planning permission was granted its value increased dramatically but the town would not benefit from that increase if it had been sold, leased it would initially make less but guarantee an income to the town without giving up ownership. Members of the public were concerned that entry to the area, by way of a roundabout feed from the bypass, would draw trade away from the High Street, rather than the reverse, as would another supermarket chain. One opinion from the floor said that because Forres High Street was not a clone of every other High Street this was its appeal. Cllr Hellyer said that the Millennium Project had stalled due to the failure to gain an entry from the bypass on to the site at Bogton & yet Mark Cummings nine years later was telling us that it would be essential to the retail park to have such an entry. Mr Cummings said that if the community wanted an all weather pitch, youth facilities & a skateboard park then the books would have to be balanced by the retail side for the developers & the income from the retail would help provide the community facilities. Cllr Kennedy asked who would pay for the community facilities & Mr Cummings said that that was still to be negotiated. The Chair thanked Mr Cummings for his presentation & answering so many questions and told the meeting that he would allow time for those who wished to leave to do so before continuing with the normal business. The three Moray Councillors left the meeting at this time.

Mrs Carin Schwartz updated the meeting on the Allotments application for common good land & told us that a decision was to be made by the Moray Council Policy & Resources Committee on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, she said the lease could be signed & they could be in by April, though no commercial use would be allowed & it would remain as horticultural land, thus not needing a change of use permit.

**4. Secretary's Report:-**

- The Secretary told the meeting that mail had been received from Redco Milne agreeing to the public session this evening, and also responses from the Pharmacies in Forres in answer to our letter requesting their co-operation in establishing a pharmacy provision in the proposed new Forres Health Centre/Hospital unit. These responses had been copied to the Health Centre Patients consultative panel.

**5. Chair's Report:-**

- The Chair said he had attended a meeting of the Forres Neighbourhood Forum last night & listened to a presentation by Amanda Howard, Moray Council, on the Open Spaces Strategy. She expressed a desire to attend the February meeting of the Community Council. She said that over the next 14 months they would be gathering information about open spaces in the area and establishing ownership. The Secretary agreed to contact her.

**6. External Group Reports :-.**

- Cllr Dingwall reminded members of the Forres in Bloom funding meeting for the 2009 Entente Cordiale entry which the Community Council had agreed to host & to which members were welcome to attend. This was to be held in the Courtroom on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February at 7.30pm. The Secretary agreed to notify the Falconer Museum Staff of our usage of the room.

**7. Treasurer's Report:-**

- The Treasurer told the meeting that the CC account stood at £489.65

**8. A.O.C.B:-**

- Cllr Hayward spoke to members of a memorial garden for infant & stillborn deaths, to be established in the Clovenside Cemetary and after discussion agreed to investigate costs with which we could apply to the Forres Common Good Fund to grant funding for. She agreed to arrange a meeting with the Secretary, Cllr Dingwall & Moray Council Lands & Parks Dept. on site to seek a suitable location.

**10. Date of Next Meeting:-**

- The next meeting will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009.



Colin T Lipscomb  
Secretary.

Minutes to be ratified by  
Comm. Council 19/03/09



John S Bremner  
Chair.