



The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Town Hall, Forres, on Thursday 19th Feb 2009.

Present :-

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, R T Duncan, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, S D R Kennedy, F Mallon, C J Piper & Mrs K Rosie.

Also Present :-

Moray Cllr L Bell, I Young, T Gilbert (Forres Gazette), Mr A Sinclair & members of the public.

1. Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Moray Cllr J Hamilton, I Ogilvie, Cllrs, Mrs L Dingwall, S J Ferris, C T Lipscomb, J Mackenzie & Mrs C M Pitstra.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 15th Jan 2009:-

The minutes of the above meeting were not available due to the illness of the Secretary.

3. Public Session:-

- Ian Macdonald raised the discussion of the Consultation held in the Ramnee Hotel when he spoke with the representative of Redco Milne, Mark Cummings, with respect to what the young people of Forres required. At that discussion it appeared the developer wanted these facilities paid for from the funds paid for the common good land. At a meeting to be held on 13 March 2009 in Forres, there would be a presentation stand enabling discussion on the issue for a youth facility and what the youth of Forres want. This would include multi purpose facilities for films, and a café. Moray College was keen to be involved in the Forres meeting. He said that he was aware that the Community Council support in principle the provision of such a facility from previous discussions with them. Cllr Piper asked if Redco Milne had discussed the financing of the project & Cllr Kennedy said that if the facility had to be paid from the funds derived from the sale of the Common Good Land then Redco Milne was contributing nothing to the town or to its fund. Chairman John Bremner said we would have a better idea after the meeting to be held in March.

4. Secretary's Report:-

- In the absence of the Secretary the Vice Chair told the meeting of mail that had been received. He apologised to the meeting for not having the skills of the Secretary to condense the contents of the letters but told members that Moray Council had sent us a booklet on the Community Planning Partnership & the Single Outcome Agreement. The Environmental Protection Monitoring Officer requested that we support the National Spring Clean Event in April & the Waste Management Officer has changed the service provider for Textile Recycling. Community Services have updated the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Affordable Housing & invite comments on it.
- Grampian Police said that as a result of comments on their survey regarding Community Engagement more information will be available on their website at www.grampian.police.uk
- Peter Peacock MSP notified us that the Scottish Parliament has agreed to set up a Town Centre Regeneration Scheme as a result of Labour in Scotland negotiations, with £60 million allocated to it.

- A letter from a member of the public raised concerns over a number of factors including drainage of the plainstones at the Tolbooth, and an increase of disabled friendly dining facilities for tourists visiting the town. He said that he was proud of his town & urged residents & retailers to support efforts to make the town more appealing to the visitors. This letter will be copied to all Cllrs.

5. Chair's Report:-

- The ASCC Regional Meeting will be held in the Laichmoray Hotel, Elgin on Saturday 21st March commencing at 10.30 am. A buffet lunch will be served. Note was taken of those Community Councillors wishing to attend. These included Cllrs J Bremner, C T Lipscomb, R T Duncan, E Hayward & A Sinclair. Their names will be forwarded to the Community Council Liaison Officer.
- The Chair informed the meeting that the Scottish Parliament had varied the "Right To Buy" policy in Forres as it was now considered as a pressured area for council housing. Council tenants had been circulated with the details.

6. External Group Reports :-.

- Cllr Hayward said that with respect to planning there was nothing to report.
- Cllr Duncan said there was nothing to report re the Mount Dora Twinning Association.

7. Treasurer's Report:-

- The Treasurer told the meeting that the CC account stood at £ 489.75

8. A.O.C.B:-

- Cllr Hayward discussed a proposal to erect a memorial to stillborn babies at Clovenside Cemetery. She had obtained estimates and asked if funding could be provided by way of the Common Good Fund. There was a positive response from those present. Moray Cllr Young asked that all figures be passed to him for a request for funding from the Forres Common Good Fund.
- Carin Schwartz, Chair of the Forres Transition Towns, told the meeting that they were waiting for a decision from the Moray Council Policy & Resources Committee, who meet on March 10th, over the area of Common Good ground at Bogton Road which had been requested by the Forres Allotment Group as part of their Climate Challenge funded bid to enable Forres to be greener & lower the carbon footprint of the town. She said that delays in formulating an Allotment Policy within Moray Council were jeopardising the timetable agreed with the funders. She was concerned that land, which had been leased to Christie Elite, for a low rate was now been offered to a community group at a much higher rate, namely some £3,000 per annum. This would inevitably lead to individual plot charges of up to £100 per annum and therefore dissuade people from taking up the plots.
- Cllr Kennedy said that informal attempts to persuade Moray Council to upgrade the road, especially the verges, to the town dump at Waterford have had no effect & he therefore asked that a formal complaint be raised on the condition of it.

10. Date of Next Meeting:-

- The next meeting will be held on the 19th Mar 2009.

Colin T Lipscomb
Secretary.

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

John S Bremner
Chair.