



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 Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 16 April 2009.

Bob Hellyer, Community Council Vice Chairman, prior to the commencement of the meeting stated that Forres Community Council had expressed no formal position for or against the proposed development at Bogton.

Discussion with Mark Cumming, representative of Redco Milne :

Mark Cumming said that they asked people what they thought on the planned development at the previous exhibition and now were exhibiting revised plans. He said that the Consultation given last year was beneficial to what the people of Forres wanted and they acknowledged the feedback of 300 persons. As a result, the proposed hotel, bar, restaurant and garden centre had been deleted from the planned development with 2/3rds for community development and 1/3rd for community use with the requirement being the common good land. He advised that Redco Milne were liaising with Moray Council with respect to the Common Good Land. Therefore the proposals would benefit the community. Over the last number of months discussions have been taking place with Dr Anderson and Ian Macdonald re the Football Club/Forres Youth Group/Activity Group.

He stated that the simple reality was that RedCo Milne did not want to lease the common good land but preferred to purchase. An application will be submitted with respect to the new masterplan which would have access into the Town/High Street. A meeting would take place on Friday 17th April 2009 at the Town Hall to assess what the public now wanted. He would not name any of the operatives at this time.

Steve Ferris : Forres Mechanics and Youth Facilities? Cllr Ferris asked who would be funding these, stating that the football club would have to make way for the development. He was told clearly that Redco Milne would expect MC to use the money paid for the common good land to fund these facilities. Dr Anderson asked who would establish what this would cost? The stadium and pitch were concerns for the football club and were in discussion with Moray Council. He said that the Club must not be homeless for a day. Mark Cumming stated that they would not be the landlords nor would discuss the commercial value of the land however they would be happy to publish the value. Dr Anderson said he had a private consultation with Moray Council and had expressed concerns to them. They said they would support and reassure the Football Club but he felt uneasy with this that the club must not suffer. He was pleased that assistance would be given to the club although things would have to be right.

Cllr Kennedy said there already was a Football Club and did the club need a better facility. Dr Anderson answered that they needed better facilities but only for the benefit of the town. If there was not an improvement it would not be beneficial. It would require consolidation and improvement of what they already have. Vice Chairman Hellyer asked if the piece of ground was big enough for the youth facility. Ian MacDonald said they would require more space (require both fields?) and could do with more space for landscaping. Cllr Rosie asked Mark Cumming about the retailers attracted to the site & if he was confident they would complement the town of Forres. Mark Cumming stated it would enhance the town. Once they get the planning application they would begin to engage and tie up operators. Vice Chairman Hellyer said that in his opinion, there would be a problem moving the Forres Mechanics stadium. He suggested keeping the status quo for the Mechanics, reversing the diagram, giving the current ex Tesco building and car park to Forres, for youth facilities, improving the current Mechanics situation would also save development money. Cllr Mackenzie suggested that the current economic climate was not the best time to be selling land.

Mark Cumming then left in order that the Community Council could continue their monthly meeting.

Present :-

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, R T Duncan, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, S D R Kennedy, Mrs K Rosie, S Ferris, A Sinclair, J Mackenzie

Also Present :-

Moray Cllr L Bell, I Ogilvie, K Smith & T McLaren, Forres Gazette, & several members of the public.

1. Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Moray Cllrs J Hamilton, I Young, Cllrs C T Lipscomb, Mrs L Dingwall & Mrs C M Pitstra.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 19th Mar 2009:-

The minutes of the above meeting were presented, proposed and seconded

3. The Common Good Fund – where now?

Cllr Rosie we would have to wait and see then have a meeting with Moray Council to discuss the 2008/2009 accounts. The last letter dated 18 December 2008 to Moray Council sent by Sec. Colin Lipscomb to Mr McGeachan has to date received no response. It was noted that we as a community council did not get official accounts. It was suggested that we write to the Chief Executive A Keddie. There were no new questions. Auchernack was one point as was Edgehill, the latter according to Cllr Young was a common good property. Cllr Ferris asked how old were these events and was advised that no answer was given to Auchernack, one unacceptable answer to Edgehill, the Lodge house at Grant Park had been resolved as was the Quarry. These were questions asked at last years meeting. It was agreed that we must see the accounts as soon as possible. Cllr Kennedy said that since Redco Milne had been consulting with the Moray Council for some time why had MC not approached the Community Council for their views. As Moray Council had not, a separate letter should be sent to the Council requesting they consult with the Community Council. There are 2 separate issues here 1 a planning issue and 2 the disposal of common good land.

Two presentations had been given by Redco Milne and the question was asked when was Moray Council going to open up for discussion with the Community Council. Cllr Bell said everything was hypothetical. He also stated it was too early for discussions. However, on the one hand Redco Milne has said that they will do nothing until the ground is secured and on the other MC has said that they can talk to no one until they have a planning application. This situation does not make sense to the Forres CC as each is mutually exclusive.

Again concern was raised reference “Consultation”. With regard to the Allotment situation; no one came to the Community Council to ask what we thought. Moray Council was supposed to talk to the Community Council on such matters reference disposal/use of Common Good property.

4. Secretary’s Report:-

- An update was given on Colin Lipscomb Secretary’s health.
- Chief Executive web cast. JCC Chairman requests that we go to www.moray.gov.uk Policy & Resources, Part 10, voluntary sector report. This was to do with the way we are funded and the result would go to a consultation paper.
- Community halls & Associations – best kept village in Moray – numbers were dwindling by way of input. Did we have anything to input?
- Friends of the Falconer Museum - £25 for corporate membership. This was put forward to the May meeting.
- Invitation to session on 24 April 2009 in Elgin Town Hall. (Eric McGillivray)
- Ian Macdonald, Community Team Leader – Activities in Secondary Schools. Three weeks notice to prepare programme for 27 April. 7 00 pm Forres House Community Centre.
- Invitation to renew membership to ASCC. This was put forward to May meeting.

4. Chair’s Report:-

- Nothing to Report.

5. External Group Reports :-.

- Cllr Duncan reported that the Mount Dora AGM was on Monday 20 April 2009.

6. Treasurer’s Report:-

- The Treasurer told the meeting that the CC account earned 4p interest bringing the balance to £429.88 The Treasurer suggested that Cllrs, again waive expenses for this year.

7. A.O.C.B:-

- Cairn at Clovenside : Cllr Hayward advised that all paperwork had been submitted to Nicky Gosling Finance Dept Moray Council with a view to securing funding from the Common Good Fund or 50% from Common Good Fund with 50% from the Leader Fund.
- The speed of Stagecoach buses travelling through Forbeshill and other areas in Forres on narrow roads was a concern.

10. Date of Next Meeting:-

- The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st May 2009

Colin T Lipscomb
Secretary.

Minutes to be ratified by
Comm. Council 21/05/09

John S Bremner
Chair.