



# 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<sup>th</sup> July 2009.**

### **Present :-**

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, R T Duncan, S Ferris, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, C T Lipscomb, J Mackenzie, & Mrs K Rosie.

### **Also Present :-**

T McLaren , Forres Gazette, & 3 members of the public.

### **1. Apologies:-**

Apologies for absence were received from Moray Cllrs L Bell, J Hamilton, I Ogilvie, I Young & Cllrs Mrs L Dingwall, S D R Kennedy, F Mallon, Mrs C M Pitstra, & A Sinclair.

### **2. Minutes of Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009:-**

The minutes of the above meeting were proposed as accepted, seconded & ratified.

### **3. Public Session:-**

- Kim Sui, Moray Rural Housing Enabler, addressed the meeting, over a lack of affordable housing in the rural areas of Moray which was compounded by no council housing availability either. In a partnership between Moray Council and The Rural Housing Service Kim Sui said that she provided free practical help to communities to help secure the development of affordable housing. Her task was to seek out available land, create partnerships to develop that land with funding provided by the Scottish Executive to cover 60% of the costs. In ten years of the grants being available only 1 person had applied. The Rural Home Ownership grant, which covered 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of costs was available for young people (as first time buyers) to develop empty properties or shared equity schemes with Grampian Housing Association. She asked the meeting to spread the word that would extend the rural opportunities for home ownership to those whose need was greatest. Cllr Mackenzie said that he was impressed that grant money could be used to develop new sources of rental housing but the system should ensure that it couldn't be sold. Cllr Hellyer raised the topic of the 120 Grampian Housing Association houses just given planning permission adjacent to Thornhill and questioned just how many of them would be allocated to people from Moray, seeking low cost housing, & how many by newcomers to Moray.

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

The Secretary reported mail from the Moray Council.

- The Planning Department circulated a proposed guidance on Local Planning Issues.
- The Community Council received an invitation to an information seminar on the Planning Etc.(Scotland) Act 2006 to detail changes to the Act which come into effect on Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009.
- Notification of change of address for the Community Council Liaison Officer who is now situated in Unit 7 of the Elgin Business Centre in Maisondieu Road.
- A response from the Freedom Of Information Officer to the effect that no assurances have been given to a developer in relation to the sale of Common Good Land and after advice is given to the Moray Council advising on the legal position the elected members will decide the matter further.
- A letter from the CCLO advises that the Chief Legal Officer states that answers we seek to common good matters will be answered at the annual meeting on Wed 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

- At this point Cllr Hellyer explained to members the documents & their contents received from the Chief Financial Officer relating to the annual meeting with Moray Council Officers on the Common Good Fund. All members had been given a copy in order that they could follow the accounts & explanations. After discussions members agreed that the answers given to last years questions were not satisfactory & long overdue and members voted to refer them to Audit Scotland without wasting time further at this year's meeting. Questions were formulated on this year's accounts which will be asked.

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

The Chair said that he had received a copy of a letter from a member of the public to the Director of Development Services, raising concern over the proposed crossings of the Grantown & Mannachie Roads for the new Hospital/Health Centre. Mindful of the fact that many of the attendees may be elderly and infirm a plea was made that the crossings give plenty of time for people to cross without stress.

#### 6. External Group Reports :-.

- Moray Cllr Young who had arrived late at the meeting, from a previous appointment, apologised for his late arrival and said that he had been dealing with flooding issues cause by the recent torrential rain storms. He said that a meeting had been arranged with the Chair of Scottish Water, Richard Lochhead MSP to discuss the flash flooding and the overflow of sewage into streets and properties. He said that this was unacceptable in this day and age. Cllr Hellyer pointed out that some four years ago a representative of Scottish water had assured us that some £2 million was going to be spent in Forres within the next year, overhauling the drainage system to prevent the self same thing from ever re-occurring again after a previous incident.

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

In the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary said that the account stood approx at £1841.00 of which £1600 was allocated.

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

- Cllr Lipscomb asked members if it would be in order to write to the FCAA & offer our congratulations on the success of the Scottish Week. The meeting concurred with that suggestion. Cllr Hellyer pointed out that this Community Council now had 2 Burgesses, Cllr Mackenzie & Cllr Lipscomb in its membership. Associated with that the Secretary also said that he had been requested to produce a lapel badge on behalf of the FCAA for all Burgesses Of the Royal Burgh of Forres which had been priced at about £100 for production of 100 badges. Cllr Hellyer offered to propose & Cllr Ferris to second the motion that this be funded by the Community Council Special Projects fund to prevent Cllr Lipscomb embarrassment after his elevation to a Burgess of Forres.

#### 9. Date of Next Meeting:-

- The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 2009

Colin T Lipscomb  
Secretary.

Minutes to be ratified by  
Comm. Council 20/08/09

John S Bremner  
Chair.