



# 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 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 2009.**

### **Present :-**

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

### **Also Present :-**

Moray Cllrs I Ogilvie, I Young, T McLaren , Forres Gazette, & 2 members of the public.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Moray Cllrs L Bell, J Hamilton, & Cllrs S Ferris, Mrs L Dingwall, & A Sinclair.

### **2. Minutes of Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009:-**

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

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

- Sgt Sean Jones, Grampian Police, attended the meeting and was surprised to hear that the Community Council had had no Police input since the retirement of Inspector Dora & the initial visit of Inspector Donald in April of this year. It was explained to him that this was the reason for no dedicated slot on the agenda allocated for a Police Report. Cllr Hellyer said that with that and the 0845 telephone number it alienated the police and public in such a way that local intelligence must be reduced. The ceasing of annual meetings in a local school and the ability to telephone the police station made local input difficult. Cllr Mackenzie said that motorbikes in the Muiry Woods were causing damage & Cllr Mallon was not happy at the teenage drinking den in the Cluny Woods, just in the tree line from the Grant Park. Cllr Hayward was unhappy at the damage to plant pots on the Nairn Road, with the Europe in Bloom competition in process. Sgt Jones said the Police Station was manned from 7 – 5 daily though he admitted it could not be phoned into by the public. He said he would take the concerns back. The Chair thanked him for his attendance.
- The Chair welcomed Mrs Elaine Brown from MCHSCP to the meeting to explain to members why two years after Andrew Fowlie had told the Community Council provision for NHS dentists in Forres would be made there was still no sign of that provision. Mrs Brown said that the waiting lists for Elgin identified the Forres patients by their post code & that there were 1,200 from Forres needing an NHS dentist. Members questioned that figure as many more just did not bother to go on a list if there wasn't an option of a Forres dentist. The Secretary pointed out that in recent months a 5 chair facility had been opened in Huntly, for a population of 4,500, a 3 chair facility had been opened in Lossiemouth and a 5 chair facility had now been opened in Elgin. At this point Mr Andrew Fowlie, who had accompanied Mrs Brown, said that the facility in Lossiemouth was assisted by the military & that the Elgin facility was run by a private practice who were paid to take NHS patients. Mr Fowlie said that he realised with an area population of 15,000 plus there was an underlying need for a facility but said shortage of dentists and premises caused problems. The Secretary said that 2 years ago at the inception of the new Health Centre/Hospital it had been suggested they included dental surgeries in the plans to no avail but premises should not be a problem as the old Health Centre would be available next year & would make an ideal Dental Facility. Failing that, there would be space at

Leancoil Hospital when that was vacated. Moray Cllr Iain Young asked how many patients were on a dentists books & Mr Fowlie said that in Moray 1,500 per dentist was a normal figure. He also asked if it was not better to employ a dentist direct, rather than support a private practise. Moray Cllr Ogilvie asked what it would cost to set up a three chair facility in Forres, stating that there was money available from the Scottish Executive for such reasons. She also asked Mr Fowlie if he actively searched for dental practitioners to fill posts or if he waited for them to seek out the posts. Cllr Rosie said that she knew of a dentist seeking a post & if a facility was available she was sure that they would be interested. The Chair thanked both Mrs Brown & Mr Fowlie for facing the barrage of questions, which indicated the strength of feeling on the topic, & hoped that they would respond to the task called for.

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

The Secretary reported mail from the Moray Council.

- In the detail concerning the forthcoming Community Council elections he pointed out that Moray Council had reduced the numbers of the Forres CC from 15 down to 12, a fact which hadn't been spotted in our deliberations on the new scheme. He asked the Moray Cllrs if they had been made aware of this fact as well & received a negative response from them as well.
- The timetable had been published for the elections & application forms were available for all members to be re nominated.
- The Scottish Executive had offered Moray CC's a sum of £500.00 each to promote their own elections which Forres, together with 12 other Moray CC's, had accepted & we would be publicising the election locally, both individually & in conjunction with others.

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

The Chair said that he had attended a dinner with Forres in Bloom & was also invited to the inauguration of the Mosset Flood Defence Scheme next week.

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

- Cllr Hayward said that she had read a area draft planning document on future building & was concerned that the numbers would put more pressure on the drainage infrastructure.
- Moray Cllr Young said that Moray Cllrs, Moray Council & Scottish Water were due to meet in site visits in 2 weeks time to discuss the flash flooding problems that had resulted in raw sewage being ejected onto property recently. He said that Cllr Hayward's concern would be raised.

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

The Treasurer said that the account stood at £1194.96.

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

- Cllr Hellyer briefed the members on the recent annual Common Good Fund meeting with officers of the Moray Council. He told members that last years questions had not been answered satisfactorily, questions raised by this years accounts were also not answered, neither at the meeting nor subsequently. No explanation had been given as to why £40,000.00 had been taken from the Revenue Account and three different reasons had been given for common good land being transferred to the ownership of Grampian Housing Association without any offer of recompense. After due discussion by members Cllr Kennedy proposed that the whole subject be referred to Audit Scotland again. This motion was seconded by Cllr Mallon. After calling for any amendment & there being none the Chair called for a vote. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

- The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Sep 2009

Colin T Lipscomb  
Secretary.

Minutes to be ratified by  
Comm. Council 17/09/09

John S Bremner  
Chair.