



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 19th Nov 2009.

Present :-

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, R T Duncan, S Ferris, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, S D R Kennedy, C T Lipscomb, J Mackenzie, D Maclean, J McDowell, Mrs C M Pitstra & P Smith.

Also Present :-

Moray Cllr L Bell, H Shaw, Community Support Officer, T McLaren, Forres Gazette, H Baillache, Press & Journal, & 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Moray Cllrs J Hamilton, I Ogilvie, & I Young.

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

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

3. Public Session:-

- Cllr Ferris said that he had made enquiries into the condition of the Market Cross, which was classed as a listed building. He had spoken to Craig Wilson & Stewart Beveridge (Moray Council) who had said that it would have to be driven as a community effort. Cllr Hellyer said that the cause could be taken on by a heritage group and the Secretary pointed out that funding for the restoration could only be applied for by Moray Council, as titular owners of the Cross. **Further Action Cllr Ferris**
- Research into speed limiting zones revealed that two different systems were in use, Cllr Ferris told members. Method a) the 20 Mph Zone, required zone signs at each entrance and exit to the area, with traffic calming chicanes and speed bumps. Method b) Limits, are covered by signs & repeater signs throughout the area. A consensus of residents in the area would have to support the imposition of a speed limit, which is applied for a period of 6 months minimum, and feelers would have to be put out to the community seeking their views. Cllr Smith said that the 20mph zone in Thornhill is largely ignored & that he would rather see traffic banned from the High Street. **Further Action Cllr Ferris**
- The Secretary said that he, and a number of the members had attended a presentation by Robertson's, the builders, about their proposed development at Lochyhill. He had expressed concern at the idea of initial entry from the foot of Forbeshill & doubted their assurance that another roundabout on the A96 was a formality. He felt that the initial number of houses accessible from Forbeshill should be limited to a maximum of 50 by planning before the alternate entry was required, without another entry no further houses should be built. A member of the public also expressed concern about the increase in traffic at the Forbeshill junction by plant during construction. **Action Cllr Hayward**
- Cllr Hellyer drew members attention to the National Cycle to Work Scheme, which allowed employees of public sector authorities to purchase cycles at favourable prices. Although the Scheme permits usage of independent outlets it had been drawn to his attention that a Moray Council officer had stipulated that they would only recognise Halfords, a stipulation that disadvantaged employees in Keith, Buckie or Forres by limiting them to purchase, and get their servicing, from Elgin. He called upon Moray Cllr Bell to ensure this biased stipulation was rescinded. **Action Moray Cllr Bell**
- Cllr Mackenzie raised the topic of the history, usage and waste of the Tolbooth and the proposal by Moray Council in its budget consultations to close the building to save £10,000.00. He said that in

1991 £1 million pounds had been spent in renovation of the building with the intention of returning it to public use. This had never happened, with voluntary organisations being refused permission to use the building. Cllr Hellyer said there had been a history of attempts to open up the building following the transfer of the Rent Office, a public consultation had been started but then allowed to lapse when the public did not agree with Moray Council's idea of best use. After the spectre of disabled access was raised as a reason for non use the Community Council of the time submitted ideas for a lift & was told that Historic Scotland would never agree, the flag was removed under the guise of Health & Safety concerns & the building was allowed to decay, being used only as a Local Authority storeroom and once a month as a meeting place for the Community Council. Cllr Hellyer called on Moray Cllr Bell to justify the annual £10,000 cost for the building & Cllr Mackenzie called for a public meeting in the New Year to consult on the use of the building. **Action Moray Cllr Bell & Cllr Mackenzie**

- Cllr Hayward asked Moray Cllr Bell to request that Moray Council carried out their duty to ensure the maintenance of the Castle Inn, a C listed building, is enforced. **Action Moray Cllr Bell**

4. Secretary's Report:-

- The Secretary reported mail from Digital UK, The Crown Estate, The Northern Community Justice Authority, Moray Licensing Board, The Scottish Government, Moray Council & Moray Cllr Young.
- Digital UK, The Crown Estate & the Northern Community Justice Authority all were glossy newsletters. The Secretary pointed out that in this time of austerity posting of these newsletters should be frowned upon as a waste of money.
- The Moray Licensing Board are consulting on the Gambling Act 2005 draft Statement of Policy, due to come in to effect on Jan 31st 2010.
- The Scottish Government notified us of the evaluation of the Moray pilot to promote C C awareness.
- Moray Council required us to confirm & sign our annual grant proforma. The Secretary said this had been done.
- Moray Cllr Young tendered belated apologies for our inaugural meeting, explaining his absence due to major surgery & recuperation. He regrets that he will not be able to attend until the New Year.

5. Chair's Report:-

- The Chair said that he had nothing to report but wished to make it known that late items for addition to AOCB on the agenda must be notified to the Secretary before commencement of business.

6. External Groups Report:-

- Cllr Hayward said there were no planning issues
- Cllr Duncan said that the Mount Dora students had returned home.
- Cllr Mackenzie reported the AGM of Forres in Bloom and said that the next meeting would be in the RBL in January to plan the entry into the Scotland in Bloom competition.
- Cllr McDowell said he had been in contact with the Friends of the Falconer, who had no regular meetings as such but he had made contact.

7. Treasurer's Report:-

The Treasurer reported that the account stood at £140.05. Members voted £23.00 for a wreath for Remembrance Sunday from the Community Council.

8. A.O.C.B:-

- Cllr Ferris asked the meeting to endorse a vote of thanks to the Round Table, for the Bonfire Night, the RBL, for the Remembrance Day Parade & the Voluntary Youth Leaders. He also drew attention to the quality of life in Forres & the fact that as of December this year we had six empty shops in the High Street. He reminded members of Cllr Mackenzie's adage "Use it or lose it".

9. Date of Next Meeting:-

- Thursday 17th Dec 2009

Colin T Lipscomb
Secretary.

Minutes to be ratified by
Comm. Council 17/12/09

John S Bremner
Chair.