



The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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**DRAFT
MINUTES
ONLY**

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 18th February 2010.

Present :-

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

Also Present :-

Moray Cllr L Bell, D Bick (Forres Gazette), 20+ members of the public.

1. Apologies:-

Moray Cllrs J Hamilton, I Ogilvie, I Young; C Cllrs J Bremner, J McDowell, & Mrs C M Pitstra.

2. Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 21 January 2010

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

3. Public Session:-

- The Chair asked Councillor Bell for an update on the situation with Cyclescheme. The Councillor said that he had been told that they had not tendered for the contract. The Chair pointed out that according to their website there is no need for Organisations to insist on a tender from them since they had won the Government Tender to supply all Local Authorities, Government organisations and large companies. All that was required was for the organisation to apply, through their web site for support. The Councillor said that he would pass that information on to the NHS. It was pointed out that MC could still apply now for their support now to give their employees a choice.
- C Cllr Ferris advised no progress has been made to date regarding the 20 mph zones. He will continue with this matter and as he will not be present at the March meeting, will pass on any information to C Cllr J McDowall.
- C Cllr Mackenzie advised the Tolbooth issue received good coverage from the Forres Gazette and Northern Scot. Richard Lochhead MSP was impressed with what had been done so far. Inspectors from Historic Scotland will be making their first visit to the Tolbooth and C Cllr Mackenzie said this would be the difficult part. He also advised that there was no requirement for the installation of disabled access within the Tolbooth.
- Police Report : The Community Beat Officer, Kevin Skivington said 70 crime files had been recorded with a quarter of those detected. The problems at Waterford have also been actioned by police presence in the compound overnight. Youth disorder is ongoing however plain clothes officers are now involved and looking out for under age drinking.
- Mr Brian Forbes, the owner of the Castle Inn, Caroline Street spoke of his intention to demolish the Inn and sought planning permission to do so however this was refused as it is a listed building. A plan was therefore drawn up to convert the property into three town houses at a cost of £485,000. After discussing with a local property outlet on what price would be expected on their sale, a figure of £120,000 per flat was given. It was therefore not worthwhile having this work carried out. C Cllr Hayward read a letter to Mr Forbes from an adjoining owner who is subjected to debris falling from the property onto her grounds. She also stated the building was in poor visual condition and he had

an obligation to maintain the appearance of the property. Mr Forbes invited members of the Community Council to make a site visit and to become involved in the development of the site.

- Mr Peter Wilson of Mackenzie & Cruickshank raised the issue of the Findhorn Flood Alleviation Scheme and its impact on the Garden Centre. He advised that he and the directors of the company were not opposed to the Flood Alleviation Scheme but the works planned would have a serious impact on the garden centre which employs 75 staff. Disturbance from heavy plant, disruption to traffic, loss of access and customers being put off by works taking place were of concern. This could also cause health & safety issues coupled with insurance problems. Moray Council were reported to have said it would not be a problem. He asked for support of the Community Council in his discussions with the Flood Relief Team and members agreed to this, whilst pointing out that we have very little input.

4. Secretary's Report:-

- The Secretary welcomed Cllr Young back after illness.

5. Chair's Report:-

- In the absence of the Chair the Vice Chair said that he was unaware of any items to report.

6. External Groups Report:-

- C Cllr Mackenzie reported that the Forres in Bloom young people(the Wee Fibees) would commence on 8th March at 6 00 pm in the community gardens.
- C Cllr Duncan reported two students from Forres Academy would get in touch with Mt.Dora.

7. Treasurer's Report:-

- The Treasurer has been told that if he continues to object to only being paid for half a financial year we will be paid monthly. Moray Council do not appear to recognise the October to September financial year, brought in by the new Scheme For Community Councils as guidelines for themselves. All other Councils in Scotland were being paid annually. We would receive no further monies till April when a second instalment should take us to the end of the new financial year. He also advised that previously Community Council funding was based on 2001 Census figures and should remain based on that until the 2011 Census. The guidelines to that have also been changed by Moray Council.

8. A.O.C.B:-

- JCC Meeting : The Chair of the JCC had offered support re our letter sent to Audit Scotland in September 2009. No response has been received and has now being processed through the JCC to our MSP and Audit Scotland. Vice Chairman Hellyer said that if we have a problem we would go to the Councillors. The Association of Community Councils are aware, and are making a case to the Scottish Government and said that Common Good matters had to be sorted.
- The Community Council was approached by Ross Kennedy with a view to him being acceptable to the Community Council as a representative of the young people of the town. After discussion members voted unanimously to welcome him as a Youth Representative on the Council.

9. Date of Next Meeting:-

- Thursday 18 March 2010 at 7 30 pm

Colin T Lipscomb
Secretary.

Minutes to be ratified by
Comm. Council 18/03/10

John S Bremner
Chair.