



# The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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**DRAFT  
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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 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### Present :-

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

### Also Present :-

Moray Cllr , I Ogilvie, T McLaren (Forres Gazette), 10 members of the public.

### 1. Apologies:-

Moray Cllrs L Bell, J Hamilton, I Young; C Cllrs Mrs E Hayward, J.Mackenzie & D Maclean,

### 2. Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010

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

### 3. Public Session:-

- Mr Peter Wilson of Mackenzie & Cruickshank returned to update the members of the response of Moray Council, the Flood Relief Team and elected members of the Council. He asked for further support of the Community Council as a further month of efforts to start a dialogue with the authorities had failed to achieve anything. Basically he said that he was told the compensation to him would not leave him out of pocket but failed to take into account the losses to his employees, either in wages or jobs. He felt that his employees deserved a better response from their Local Authority than that. He asked if the Community Council would press the CEO of Moray Council to place more authority behind his instructions to investigate all options.
- Mr Clive Meikle (Managing Director, North) for Robertson Homes spoke to members reference their planning application for Lochyhill with a view to seeing if a compromise could be reached over the objections submitted by the Community Council. He said that Robertsons had not seen the objections submitted to the Planning Department. A member of the public asked why not as the new e-planning system was supposed to increase transparency. Cllr Hellyer said that even though the planning department website reminded people that their objections would be visible to others, in fact that was untrue and Moray Council had made the decision not to show objections to planning applications in case it stimulated discussion. Cllr Kennedy said that at the Llanbryde e-planning seminar he had questioned this attitude, together with the lack of maps of large developments being available for viewing. It was being assumed that everyone had access to a web access computer and therefore was in fact reducing transparency. The Secretary asked if all Community Councillors, as statutory consultees to the planning system would be issued laptops by the planning department to carry out their role. Cllr Kennedy proposed that a meeting should be set up with the CC, TMC Planning & the Residents Group to discuss the plan if requested by Robertson Homes. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hellyer. The CC then suggested that Mr Meikle re-approached the planners for access to the objections before any meeting.
- Mr Andy Jamieson, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator for Moray Council addressed the meeting on his role and the initiatives as part of the Safer Communities Theme Group. This involved co-operation between Police, Fire, NHS and Moray Council and covered Violence reduction (not great In Moray), Fire & Home Safety, Road Safety ( mainly under 25's) and ASBO's, for dog fouling & litter. He complimented Forres on their Community Warden & the way she had involved the community in initiatives to look after the town & expressed a desire to have six copies of her for use throughout Moray. He said ideas she had initiated in Forres were being exported throughout Moray. Mr Jamieson said that a number of warning stages had to be passed through before the issuing of an ASBO which meant that response was not instantaneous. Cllr Smith said that he realised that and that it had taken 5 years to remove a noisy neighbour's stereo. Cllr Kennedy said that whilst youngsters were good about cycling safety in general their parents need educating about helmets and lights. Youth Representative Ross Kennedy said that initiatives about litter could only work if there was a

sufficiency of bins but Constable Skivington said that it was possible to carry personal rubbish a few extra yards to the next available bin. Cllr Pitstra said that as a responsible dog owner she felt that more dog litter bins should be available as already bagged dog litter looked untidy hanging in hedges & on trees and bushes. Cllr McDowell told Constable Skivington that he felt that the public were concerned by the poor response to reports of vandalism. This he was told was a call centre problem and calls were being evaluated though Mr Jamieson said that Moray was luckier than most places.

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

- The Secretary told members that our Constitution had been returned, unratified, by Moray Council & that he would take a further look at it to satisfy the objections.
- He drew members attention to a planning application, submitted by a Moray Council Officer, converting a common good car park into a street market site. Members instructed the Secretary to object to the application on the grounds that it was too close to a major road.
- Moray Council notify us of a legal requirement of 28 days, up from 7 for public processions.

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

- The Chair informed members that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010 Public Liability Insurance for Moray Community Councils was being provided by Highland Council. This was in order to gain reduction of costs by economy of scale in increasing the number of Community Councils covered by the policy.
- The Chair briefed members on the presentation given to the Forres Area Forum on the Community Support Unit and their activity plan for 2010 – 2011. Members were concerned about the inclusion of Community Councils in the plan when no effort had been made to consult with us over the need for such a unit. It was also noticed that there was an intention to amalgamate funding of the Community Councils and Area Forums and members objected strongly to this. Cllr Kennedy pointed out that this had been raised at an e-planning seminar he had attended in Llanbryde and he had made known that whilst Community Councils were elected bodies, with a statutory role, none of the other participating groups, area forums, village hall committees and community associations were elected. Members also remarked on the JCC being used to represent all the Community Councils when in fact the JCC constitution prevented them acting in such a role without prior authority from the individual Community Councils. Members instructed the Secretary to write to the Moray Council and inform them that the Forres Community Council had no wish to be included in the plans of the CSU, and to minute the fact that the Community Council had not been consulted over the CSU & its plans, prior to the unit's creation.

#### 6. External Groups Report:-

- Moray Cllr Ogilvie said that following objections, closure of the Luncheon Club, was in obedience.

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

- The Treasurer reported that the account stood at £362.87

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

- At the last 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 by JCC from letters to our MSP or Audit Scotland. Cllr Hellyer said that the pressure would be maintained until a response was received.

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

- Thursday 15 April 2010 at 7 30 pm

Colin T Lipscomb  
Secretary.

Minutes to be ratified by  
Comm. Council 21/04/10

John S Bremner  
Chair.