



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 20th May 2010.

Present :-

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

Also Present :-

Moray Cllrs L Bell , D Bick (Forres Gazette), 29 members of the public.

1. Apologies:-

Moray Cllr J Hamilton, I Ogilvie, I Young , C Cllrs R T Duncan, S Ferris, S D R Kennedy, J McDowell, Youth Rep R Kennedy.

2. Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 15th April 2010

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

3. Public Session:-

- A member of staff from Mackenzie & Cruikshank, who had been chosen as their spokesperson, addressed the meeting on behalf of the 75 employees, to tell us of the petition they had launched to call for a compromise over the River Findhorn & Pilmuir Flood Relief Scheme. The petition, in just 17 days, has been supported by some 3,800 signatures from both residents to Forres and visitors to Moray. The campaign, run by a steering group of the staff, have held or are holding discussions with local MSP's but have been unable to address their Moray Cllrs, who, following advice given by officers, will not engage with them. They hope to present the petition to the Local Authority prior to the Public Enquiry which is scheduled to start on June 8th.
- Mr Wilson told the meeting that since our last meeting M & C had had a full days meeting with council officials who requested further technical information supporting the proposed modification to the plans. Even if those modifications are implemented the business will suffer setbacks from the construction he told the Cllrs but the business supports the Flood Relief Scheme 100%. He noted that in April 2010 the revised estimate for the plan had risen by £10 million to £40 million, an increase of 25% and that neither the Community Council nor members of the public had been kept informed of the progress of the scheme. He said that further costs would occur as a result of the Public Enquiry next month but hoped that the main result would be to retain the jobs of the 75 employees.
- Mr Euan Tulloch asked the Community Council where they stood on the subject of the proposed Travellers Site. He had seen quoted in the newspapers that the Waterford Trading Estate would be an alternative to the Kingsmeadow and wished to point out that, although undeveloped, the reason it was empty was because of hydrocarbon contamination & that there were high levels of arsenic on the site. Cllr Hellyer said that alternative sites had been suggested as there had been no consultation prior to the announcement that Kingsmeadow had been selected, this lack of consultation was now being rectified thanks to a objection raised by Moray Cllr Wright at the full meeting of the Moray Council last week. Cllr Mackenzie said that Officers & Travellers had been in consultation, but neither Moray Cllrs nor the public had been a party to these discussions. Travellers had brought about this public resistance to them and their sites by their own failure to clean up after themselves, even when Local Authorities provided facilities for litter collection. Cllr Hellyer said that if he chose to park his caravan in a lay by for a week & then moved on leaving all his rubbish littering the lay by he would no doubt be the subject of police action. Why, he asked, were travellers immune to similar action, why are they not harassed by the police. Equally so, why could they not use the myriad of normal caravan sites in the county, paying by the night as normal tourists do.
- Community Police Officer K Skivington told the meeting that during the last month only 18 crimes had been reported, a reduction, however he said the ongoing drives against drink driving and anti social behaviour go on.

A member of the public questioned the graffiti adorning the old Tesco building & PC Skivington said that patrols kept an eye on the building to try and apprehend the culprit.

- Carin Schwartz told the meeting that TTF had now complied with access requirements from the A96 in order to hold their Farmers Markets down at Bogton.

4. Secretary's Report:-

- The Secretary told members that following a letter to Cllr McGillivray (Chair of the Communities Committee) an exchange of letters with Mr Burrell on the leasing of the Kingsmeadow had been carried out. The Secretary read out the letters to members, together with the Community Council response.
- A letter had also been received from Mr Stewart (Director of Environmental Services) with reference to the Flood Alleviation Scheme and members were briefed on that and the response.
- The Secretary also updated members on the recent JCC meeting and the progress that the JCC had made in supporting our letters to Audit Scotland. They had received responses, which indicated that we had been written to, during the period of the Community Council elections. The Secretary pointed out that the second letter appeared to have been written on a Sunday, a fact that he found hard to believe.

5. Chair's Report:-

- The Chair said that he had received copies of a newsletter produced by the Scottish Health Council to promote Patient Focus and Public Involvement in Scotland.

6. External Groups Report:-

- Cllr Mackenzie said that the Tolbooth was being discussed with OSCR & Nelsons Tower is ready to go apart from Public Liability Insurance. He said that once the contents had been moved to the Greshop we would try and involve Schools to get grant aid.
- Cllr Hayward said that there were no planning applications this month though she and a number of Cllrs had attended the Castle Inn to be shown proposed plans for the premises. With the basement car park she felt that the plans would be acceptable to local residents & withdrew her earlier objections. However CC David MacLean did not vote for the demolition.

7. Treasurer's Report:-

- The Secretary, in place of the absent Treasurer, reported that the account stood at £753.15 after the remainder of our annual grant had been paid in. He reminded members of the annual membership fees that were due, including £15.00, already voted on, for membership of the ASCC, added to that we had the Friends of the Falconer Museum subscription, £25.00 which was proposed by Cllr Hellyer & seconded by Cllr Pitstra and the Forres in Bloom sponsorship set at £70, for 2 half Barrels, proposed by Cllr Pitstra & seconded by Cllr Hayward. The Secretary also pointed out our annual membership support of Forres Groups Action and asked for proposer & seconder for the £50 support. This was backed by the Chair & Cllr Pitstra respectively. All propositions were carried unanimously.

8. A.O.C.B:-

- Cllr Mackenzie said that he wished to draw attention to the pedestrian crossing in the Tesco car park, which he felt was in a dangerous position. He had complained to Tesco's without much success & felt that the Moray Cllrs attention should be drawn to the situation.
- Cllr Hellyer, on Cllr Ferris's behalf said that the 30mph sign on Leys Road was part of a survey to determine the speed of traffic using the road.
- On behalf of Cllr McDowell, Cllr Hellyer said that plans for the Luncheon Club to meet in the St Leonards Church Hall were progressing with the first meeting on June 4th and would be supported by the WRVS & the volunteer cook, on a three month trial. Cllr Hellyer drew members attention to a document, drawn up by The Moray Council, in association with NHS Grampian & Moray Community Health and Social Care Partnership for the period 2009 – 2014 with the title "Living Longer Living Better". Was this, he said, another pointless example of time, effort, research & cost wasting taxpayers money & resources by Moray Council.

9. Date of Next Meeting:-

- Thursday 17th June 2010 at 7 30 pm

Colin T Lipscomb

Minutes to be ratified by

John S Bremner

Secretary.

Comm. Council 17/06/10

Chair.