



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 15 July 2010.

Present :-

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, S Ferris, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, J McKenzie, J McDowell. Mrs C Pitstra,

Also Present :-

Cllr I Ogilvie, Cllr L Bell, T McLaren (Forres Gazette), PC Skivington.

1. Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were received from Moray Cllr I Young, Community Cllrs S Kennedy, P Smith, D McLean; R Duncan, C Lipscomb & Y Rep R Kennedy.

2. Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 17 June.2010

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

3. Police Report:-

- Traffic patrols had spoken with young car racers issuing 126 warnings.
- There were 74 reported crimes in Forres with 16 detected and this figure rising.
- A number remain undetected and were still ongoing. Shopkeepers were to be targeted in regard to shoplifters.
- CCllr Hellyer apologised for being remiss in not replying to survey and said that it arrived with a completion date that was before the C C meeting, a consensus was therefore not possible.
- It was recommended that the arrow in Tolbooth Street should be larger for the benefit of clarity. CCllr McKenzie suggested a "No Entry" sign be painted on the road

4. Public Session:

No topic raised.

5. Secretary's Report:-

- Community Planning - CCllr Hellyer advised that on 1st June 2010 the Planning & Regulation Committee of Moray Council passed approval for a market at Leys Road. He went on to ask the Councillors if they knew of the objections made by the C C. They replied that they did not.
- Redco Milne (Development at Bogton) – It would appear that MC are still progressing with a valuation for Bogton despite the fact that over 1200 signatures objecting to sale of this land were submitted to the Planning Department. The C C and the Forum maintain that the land at Bogton should be leased if this application is to be considered. Spending money on actions like this seems contrary to current financial constraints.

6. Chair's Report:-

- Forres Community Council Constitution – CCllr Hellyer proposed that CCllr Kennedy's amendments be accepted. CC Ferris seconded the proposal and the meeting approved it.

7. External Groups Report:-

- Forres in Bloom – The judges will attend the town on 2nd August 2010 with the Wee Fibeas being judged between 2 00 – 4 00 pm on the Tuesday afternoon.
- Forres Railway Station would also be dressed for the visit.

8. Treasurer's Report:-

- In the absence of the Treasurer on leave, CCllr Hellyer advised we were solvent.

9. A.O.C.B:-

- CCllr Mackenzie said it was hoped that items stored in the Tolbooth would soon be removed. He also advised that no funding was forthcoming from Moray Council but others were securing grants. He also advised T-shirts (which he was wearing) with the Tolbooth logo would be available. The Tolbooth Clock was to be adjusted to ensure all sides showed the correct time, and floodlighting was also being considered for the Tolbooth.
- CCllr Pistra said the path parallel to Clovenside Cemetery was overgrown however this was the Council's responsibility.
- Balnakeith Cairn was also overgrown however the owner of the Bervie Chipper said he would pay for this to be tidied up.
- It was noted that the flag at Auchernack required adjusting. Cllr Bell has taken note of this.
- CCllr Mackenzie commented on the Nelson Tower Flag. If the flag was flying the tower would normally be open to the public however there was no access to the Tower at the present time. When the Tower officially opens, the flag will revert to the old system.
- Cllr Bell had nothing to report other than the Murie Path. He wondered if any voluntary groups would assist in a tidy up. CCllr Hellyer would take request to the Woodland Trust.
- Andrew Fowlie of NHS Grampian will be in attendance on 19 August 2010 to answer questions on dental issues and the proposed Health Centre for Forres also Leancoil. Cllr Bell said the new hospital plans were to be more affordable and that Leancoil would not close. However, the Scottish Government were to approve funding for the new hospital.
- Cllr Ogilvie advised she had been approached by members of staff at Leancoil Hospital who are fearful for their jobs. She was actively raising petitions to save the facilities and jobs.

Forres Common Good Fund:

- Questions raised at the costs to administer so few items of the Forres CC Fund. The charges made were not in keeping with the work carried out. It was noted that just under £3000 was charged to the Forres Common Good Fund to produce the current accounts.
- It was noted that no minutes were taken of the meeting with Mark Palmer of the Finance Dept when four members of the Forres Community Council attended in August 2009 to discuss the Common Good balance sheet. Since there were still outstanding questions and no minutes existed it was felt that attending this year would be pointless.
- CCllr Mackenzie said we should move for officers from Moray Council to attend the Tolbooth to discuss the Forres Common Good Fund with public present.
- It was agreed that a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer Mr Alastair Keddie be sought and past and current problems be given to him for resolution.
- Over £17,500, which had been held back from the sale of the Lodge in Grant Park, was to be paid into the Common Good Fund in 2008/09. However, to date, nothing has been heard from the Moray Council Finance or Legal Departments, apart from an email saying they were reconsidering their decision.

10. Date of Next Meeting:-

- Thursday 19th August 2010 at 7 30 pm



Colin T Lipscomb
Secretary.

Ratified by
Comm. Council 19/08/10



John S Bremner
Chair.