



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 17th Jan 2013.

Present :

Community Cllrs J S Bremner, R Duncan, Mrs E Hayward, R J Hellyer, C Lipscomb, J McDowell.

Also Present :-

Moray Cllrs G Alexander, A McLean, A Skene, G McCartney (Forres Gazette) & 2 MOP's.

1. Apologies:-

Apologies for absence came from Moray Cllr L Creswell, Comm Cllrs S Ferris, S Kennedy, J F Mackenzie, D McLean, Mrs C Pitstra & Youth Rep K McGrath. Due to loss of hearing brought on by illness, the meeting will be chaired by the Vice Chair, Cllr Hellyer, and not Cllr Bremner.

2. Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 20th Dec 2012

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

3. Public Session:

- The Chair welcomed back Inspector Paul McCruden from his detachment and invited him to update the members. The Inspector said that during the last period work had been done relating to road safety issues with numerous driving offences reported including speeding, tachograph offences, driving off road, drink driving and document offences such as driving with no license, insurance and MOT. He said there had been little street disorder during the festive period with only 3 minor breaches of the peace. Local officers had continued to pay attention to parking issues on the High Street with drivers being warned about inconsiderate parking or given fixed penalty tickets for parking on zig zag crossings. Local officers also arrested 4 individuals for assaults, theft by shop lifting and possession of drugs and they were remanded in prison pending trial. Members were told that following the success of last years "Operation Avons" tackling under age drinking and antisocial behaviour, the Inspector said that further funding had been made available for this year. He briefed members on the progress towards a national police service with the combining of the Moray division with Aberdeenshire but there should be no change in the way the local policing teams work. The Chair thanked him for the information.
- Cllr Hayward told members she had been in correspondence with Mr K Price, Moray Council Road Engineer, with reference to Disabled Parking Regulations. She said that the legislation had been made law in 2009 but to date Moray Council had not actioned it. Mr Price explained that it had been submitted to committee in March 2011 but due to work pressures it had not been proceeded with, there were some 250 spaces that needed to be surveyed before the legal process could be carried out. He said that as new applications were received from individual residents they were being actioned.
- Neil Jeronim, a member of the public, asked permission to inform members of the council about the lack of a cycle path which had existed between Forres and Brodie but had been covered over during re surfacing work of the A96 in 2010. He said he had been in contact with Moray Council, BEAR (Scotland), and Transport Scotland to no avail as each passed the blame for not funding the

reinstatement onto another. The 2.2 mile stretch to Brodie was overgrown but enabled safe cycling alongside a busy main road and was not a part of the Sustran network. As the Moray Coast had just been added to the list of top ten coastlines in the world for beauty he felt that it would encourage tourists and cyclists to visit the area.

4. Secretary's Report:-

- The Secretary said that one letter had been received from Ian Douglas, Moray Council, asking for volunteers to join the Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum
- The Chair suggested that Mr Jeronim may care to represent the Comm Council on the Forum as a way of raising the status of his cycle path.

5. Chair's Report:-

- The Chair told members that he had nothing to report.

6. External Groups Report:-

- Cllr Duncan said that two pupils from Forres Academy had been selected for the Mount Dora annual exchange.
- Cllr Hayward said there had been no new planning applications but she was puzzled about the Hanover Housing application as there had been haste to move people out into other accommodation and the windows had been covered to prevent vandalism but nothing further had happened.
- The Chair welcomed M Cllr Skene to her first meeting. Cllr Skene told the meeting that she had enquired about our concern over the reduction in members in the last scheme and had been told that it was to establish parity with population figures. She also reminded members about the drop in consultation in Forres House on Mon 21st about contaminated land.
- M Cllr McLean said that he was pleased to see the old Mackenzie and Cruikshanks re-opened and to note the Chinese New Year celebration on the 4th Feb.
- M Cllr Alexander said that he had asked questions about a 50 mph speed limit at Brodie and a pedestrian crossing over the bypass. The annual Youth Concert was due again on Mar 5th at 7pm and Ben Romach had opened a second bottling line after a 13% rise in profits.
- M Cllr Alexander said that he agreed with Cllr Murdoch in a discussion about Comm Cllrs, at the P & R meeting, and the public did not support Comm Councils, illustrated by the lack of candidates coming forward at election time. He felt that they achieved little and some actively discouraged new candidates. Cllr Hayward said that Comm Cllrs gave freely of their time to their community and she felt under valued by Cllr Alexander's remarks.

7. Treasurer's Report:-

- The Secretary, in the absence of the Treasurer said that the account now stood at £1771.60

8. A.O.C.B:-

- Nil

9. Date of Next Meeting:-

- Thursday 21st Mar 2013 at 7 30 pm

Colin T Lipscomb
Secretary.

Ratified by
Comm. Council 21/2/13

John S Bremner
Chair.