



## The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres

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### Meeting of the Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres held in the Tolbooth, Forres, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Chair: S. Noble

**1. Attendees:** S. Ferris, E. Hayward, G. Murdoch, J. Guthrie, G. Hilditch, H. Shaw

**Also Present :** Moray Cllrs L Creswell, G. Alexander; G. McCartney (Forres Gazette); S. MacLennan (Minute Taker) & 3 Members of the Public (M.O.T.P.)

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence came from G. McRobie, M. Walker, J. Duncan, J. McDowell, C. Rodger, Cllrs A.Skene and A. McLean, D. Haytack (Community Warden)

(FCC – Forres Community Council : TMC - The Moray Council FAF – Forres Area Forum FACT - Forres Area Community Trust)

| Topic  | Discussion  | Action                      |  |        |   |  |
|--------|---|-----------------------------|--|--------|---|--|
| 2.     | <p><b>Police Scotland Update:</b></p> <p>a) Anti Social Behaviour: Male (29) arrested for assault following altercation with stewards; Female (35) for obstructing Police: Male (28) for fighting within licensed premises; Female (16) charged with assault following dispute with associate and Police seized noise making equipment under Section 54 following report of excessively loud music at a party. Motoring: Male (54) charged with driving over the limit; Male (26) found to be over the limit following accident in which his car left the road in icy conditions and Male (22) speeding on Forres by-pass. Drugs: Male (19) in possession of cannabis.</p>  |                             |  |        |   |  |
| 3.     | <p><b>Public Session:</b></p> <p>a) No matters raised.</p>  |                             |  |        |   |  |
| 4.     | <p><b>Ratification of Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b></p> <p>The Minutes were proposed by E. Hayward, seconded by H.Shaw and ratified by the Chair, S. Noble.</p> <p>Draft Minutes will be circulated one week from the meeting.</p> <p>Councillors are asked to send any amendments to S.MacLennan within one week. The Draft will then be displayed on Notice Boards.</p>  | <p><b>SN/EH/<br/>SM</b></p> |  |        |   |  |
| 5.     | <p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>7-5/2d</td> <td> <p><b>Parking and Road Improvements:</b> C.Rodger has passed the letter from FCC to Debbie Herron to be considered by the Town Centre Working Group. E. Hayward has received a list of <b>disabled parking</b> spaces in Forres. Anyone who is unauthorised to do so and parks in a marked space may be fined. <b>Junction of Orchard Road and St Catherine's Road:</b> Cllr Alexander reported that there is no time scale for installation of traffic lights. As the building progresses it is hoped that developers will pay. If not, TMC will make alternative arrangements.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>7-5/9d</td> <td> <p>M. Walker to meet Craig Barron. <b>Carried forward.</b> Mr Barron's contract ends at the end of March and there is no information if</p> </td> </tr> </table> | 7-5/2d                      | <p><b>Parking and Road Improvements:</b> C.Rodger has passed the letter from FCC to Debbie Herron to be considered by the Town Centre Working Group. E. Hayward has received a list of <b>disabled parking</b> spaces in Forres. Anyone who is unauthorised to do so and parks in a marked space may be fined. <b>Junction of Orchard Road and St Catherine's Road:</b> Cllr Alexander reported that there is no time scale for installation of traffic lights. As the building progresses it is hoped that developers will pay. If not, TMC will make alternative arrangements.</p> | 7-5/9d | <p>M. Walker to meet Craig Barron. <b>Carried forward.</b> Mr Barron's contract ends at the end of March and there is no information if</p> |  |
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|    |            | the post will be continued.  |           |
|    | <b>7c</b>  | Completed  |           |
|    | <b>11c</b> | <b>Moray Transport Seminar:</b> A copy of the Transport Handbook has been delivered to every house in Moray. E.Hayward relayed comments about difficulty in accessing <b>Dial a Bus</b> . The bus has to be booked the previous day and cannot wait for passengers if appointments extend beyond the time booked. The 2 hourly service bus can create lengthy waiting times for passengers depending on appointment times in relation to bus times. Cllr Alexander reported that a <b>new route</b> is to be trialled on 16 <sup>th</sup> January and if it proves feasible an hourly service will be started. It was agreed not to invite the Operations Manager from Stagecoach to the February FCC meeting. If any issues arise from the new service arrangements he will be invited to a future meeting.   |           |
|    | <b>11e</b> | <b>Trees on Cluny Hill:</b> The meeting with Ken Kennedy had to be postponed. E. Hayward has asked him to liaise directly with G. Murdoch. It is hoped to meet in the week beginning 19 <sup>th</sup> January. G. Murdoch will contact FCC Cllrs with details.   | <b>GM</b> |
|    | <b>8-1</b> | <b>Spirit of Community:</b> A group will meet on 21 <sup>st</sup> January to decide about a similar event for young people possibly nearer the summer. A directory for older people is to be produced.   |           |
|    | <b>8-2</b> | <b>Visit to New Health Centre:</b> S. Noble will organise a visit for FCC Cllrs in February.   | <b>SN</b> |
|    | <b>8-3</b> | <b>Auchernack Trust May Applications:</b> The Chair reminded Cllrs to bring forward ideas for projects to support older people.  |           |
|    | <b>9b</b>  | <b>Councillors' Training:</b> Tracey Rae will arrange a date when the Training Officer returns from sick leave.  |           |
|    | <b>10c</b> | <b>East Lodge:</b> G. Murdoch met with the owner. The deeds to the property indicate that access is permitted. Fewer vehicles are being parked recently. It was suggested that the issue is the responsibility of TMC and FCC will continue to monitor.  |           |
|    | <b>10d</b> | <b>Funding for Community Councils:</b> Alistair Kennedy, Chair of the JCC has asked councils for any suggestions which will be passed to the Chief Executive, Roddie Burns. S.Ferris pointed out that Community Councils are statutory bodies and must continue to be funded. FCC has no surplus funds. The annual budget has been frozen for several years. The services provided by FCC are good value and cannot be provided for less. G. Murdoch asked that receipts be submitted by any who are incurring costs for stationery etc. S. Noble felt that there has been a healthy change of approach being made to Community Councils by TMC staff.   |           |
| 6. |            | <b>Moray Councillors' Reports: Cllr Alexander: Scottish Week</b> will run from 15 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> June. <b>Piping @ Forres</b> will be on 27 <sup>th</sup> June and there will be six stalls free for charities. <b>Flood Alleviation:</b> The official opening will be on Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March and Cllr Alexander asked for a list of names of those to be invited. <b>Blocked Drain:</b> Cllr Alexander removed buckets of sludge from the drain which is now draining freely. TMC is unable to do this work because it would set a precedent for completing work at sites which are not TMC responsibility. <b>Steps on Tolbooth Street:</b> The work had been planned for 2014/ 15 but emergency demands have delayed these plans. It is hoped to complete in 2015 / 16. <b>TMC Budget 2015 / 16.</b> There will be further cuts to |           |

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|    | <p>be made this year and in the 2 years following. <b>Cluny Hill Trees:</b> Several trees have come down in recent high winds. It is intended to hold a public meeting in the spring to find out residents' views about use of Common Good Fund for the work. G. Murdoch said that the trees had been planted to provide cash for the Common Good Fund. S. Noble asked G. Hilditch about Forres Community Woodland Trust and he replied that the group is able to fell 6 trees per quarter without seeking a licence from the Forestry Commission. He feels that the costs for felling are not out of the question. S. Noble asked if TMC replaces each felled tree with two new trees. G. Hilditch said that this is part of the policy and that trees felled at Sanquhar will be replaced.</p> <p><b>Cllr Creswell:</b> There will be a <b>Health and Social Care</b> consultation exercise in Forres Community Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015. <b>Children and Young People's Services</b> present priorities are buildings and recruitment of teaching staff. Cllr Creswell has spoken with Fiona Burnett about the steps and waste bins at the <b>steps on Tolbooth Street</b>. She has spoken with Forres in Bloom and other local groups and they are willing to help. TMC officers hope to work in partnership. Cllr Creswell reminded those present about the <b>Fit Life membership</b> which gives entry to all TMC leisure centres. G. Hilditch asked if staffing levels have been cut and was informed that the cameras installed at the swimming pool have reduced staffing by one post. MOTP said that maintenance and cleanliness at the swimming pool are not to the same standard as in the past. E. Hayward asked if Moray Cllrs have had a <b>wage freeze</b>. Cllr Alexander replied that there has been a 1% increment. He will donate his increase to Forres Heritage Trust.</p> |    |
| 7. | <p><b>Chair's Report:</b></p> <p>a) <b>No report</b></p>  |    |
| 8. | <p><b>Secretary's Report:</b></p> <p>a) Mr Gordon Sutherland has asked to speak to FCC about the <b>Moray Space Port</b> project. He will be invited to attend the February meeting. S. Ferris said that the runway at Kinloss is too short but is long enough at Lossiemouth,</p> <p>b) MOTP has raised concerns about <b>fly tipping and litter at Balnakeith</b>. He was invited to attend tonight's meeting but has not done so. E. Hayward has passed concerns to TMC.</p> <p>c) <b>Pigeon Droppings:</b> E. Hayward reported that pigeon droppings outside Forres Town Hall are unsightly and a danger to health. The netting installed to prevent roosting has come loose in places. She contacted TMC and they will ask the contractor to address the problem.</p>  |    |
| 9  | <p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b></p> <p>a) The account stands at £1298.92. The HUB has been paid for the year and the Tolbooth for 8 months. S. Noble suggested that <b>promotional materials</b> be purchased for display at community events. He will research costs.</p>  | SN |
| 10 | <p><b>Forres Organisations Annual Update:</b> The Chair encouraged FCC Cllrs to contact relevant groups. FACT is updating lists and it is hoped to have these on Forres Web in future. Cllr Creswell reminded that TMC Moreinfo has this information online. Cllrs are asked to liaise with debbie@forresarea.org</p>   |    |
| 11 | <p><b>FCC 2015 Goals, Format of Meetings, Minutes distribution, Guest Speakers.</b></p> <p>The Chair, S. Noble, outlined his goals:</p>   |    |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Maintain full complement of Councillors. Think ahead about possible replacements if ever needed.</li> <li>II. Recruit 2 Youth Reps in place within 12 months.</li> <li>III. Work towards gender and age equality.</li> <li>IV. Increase public engagement by use of social media and increased attendance at FCC meetings. Keep an Attendance Record for each meeting.</li> <li>V. Create a FCC facebook page.</li> <li>VI. Encourage Cllrs to develop stronger relationships with Forres groups</li> <li>VII. Northern Lights Initiative: A key priority for the future.</li> <li>VIII. Agree TMC Register of Common Good assets, especially in light of the Community Engagement Bill which may bring fundamental changes.</li> <li>IX. Personal Goal 1: Establish stronger links with FACT, Forres Area Forum; Moray Council JCC and other Community Councils.</li> <li>X. Personal Goal 2: Conclusion of the Bogton development issue.</li> </ul> <p>G. Murdoch asked that Improvement of Cluny Hill be a priority.<br/> E.Hayward asked about plans to install solar panels at Kingsmeadow or installation of a wind turbine to create funding for local projects.<br/> S. Ferris hoped there will be more integration with TMC.<br/> There was no dissatisfaction expressed about the format of meetings and no dissent that good speakers be invited as appropriate.</p>   |       |
| 12 | <p><b>Common Good: Items carried forward from 2014 – E.Hayward</b><br/> MOTP has written to FCC with questions about Common Good Fund Accounts. FCC Cllrs felt that Moray Cllrs are the Trustees and if they are content with the conduct of the accounts FCC Cllrs accept their decision. S. Ferris said that Common Good Funds will be part of the Community Empowerment Bill and issues will be addressed after the Bill is enacted. E. Hayward will draft a letter to Deborah Brands, taking up her offer to pass any questions to her, and circulate it to FCC Cllrs for comment.</p>  | SN/EH |
| 13 | <p><b>Group and Representatives' Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Planning:</b> None</li> <li>b) <b>Community Gardens:</b> S.Ferris is now chair of the group and reported that there are 7 vacant plots. There will be an Open Afternoon on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm.</li> <li>c) <b>Mount Dora:</b> J. Guthrie reported that interviews are to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> January for the six candidates who have applied for the exchange visit. The Mt Dora group will contact the <b>Vienenburg</b> Twinning Group to share ideas about education plans.</li> <li>d) <b>Town Centre Working Group:</b> G. Murdoch reported that there will be a meeting at the end of the month.</li> <li>e) <b>Sanquhar Woods:</b> G.Hilditch reported that 15 tress fell and six were across the cycle track. The track will re – open next week. <b>Berry Burn Community Fund:</b> G. Hilditch gave a reminder that applications for the next disbursement are due on 19<sup>th</sup> January.</li> <li>f) <b>Forres Heritage Trust:</b> The AGM will be on 18<sup>th</sup> February in the Tolbooth. H.Shaw told Cllrs that there is no possibility that a lift may be installed in the Tolbooth. Nelson Tower: T exchange equipment, similar to a camera obscura, will be installed to allow those unable to climb to the top to see the view. <b>Friends of Forres Museum:</b> Next meeting 10.02.15 at 10am. <b>Credit Union AGM:</b> 20.01.15 in Forres Community Centre at 7pm.</li> </ul> |       |

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|    | g) <b>Community Markets</b> ; These will re commence in February.  |         |
| 14 | <p><b>Any other Competent Business:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Parking for Car Boot Sales at Transition Town Forres:</b> Residents are concerned about parking on Bogton Road. Planning Permission for Car Boot Sales states that access for vehicles should be from the A96, however, cars are being parked on Bogton Road and occupants are using the pedestrian gate. It was suggested that traffic cones be placed along Bogton to Road to prevent parking.</p> <p>b) <b>Lochyhill Development:</b> The developer has been given planning permission but G. Murdoch reported that there are still concerns about drainage. The overflow from the SUDS pond will contain fine sand which will choke the ditch. The treatment works may not be able to cope with additional use. Cllr Alexander asked the development company and they responded that there will be no effect from SUDS for those lower down and if there are any problems these will be rectified. He had also asked if the Treatment Works will be able to cope and was told that there is a review every five years and one is due in 2015. E. Hayward asked if it is recorded in TMC minutes that the developer has assured there will be no ill effects. Cllr Alexander will check.</p> <p>c) E. Hayward reported that 2 teenagers have been assaulted in the Caroline Street area. This is not an isolated incident and there have been other incidents in the same area. She would like to see <b>CCTV</b> cameras covering the area.</p> <p>d) J. Guthrie asked that acknowledgement be given to <b>Murdoch Brothers Butchers for their Silver Medal Award</b> at the Scotch Pie Event.</p> <p>e) There are 3 vacancies on the <b>Outdoor Access Forum</b> Contact Ian Douglas of TMC.</p> | Cllr GA |
| 15 | <b>Date of next Meeting: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in The Tolbooth (Ground Floor Meeting Room) at 7.15pm. Please note change of Start Time.</b>   |         |