



## REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2017

### COUNCIL CHAMBER/FORMER POLICE STATION, 1-3 SALTOUN SQUARE, FRASERBURGH

#### 1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 agree that the Council Chamber/Former Police Station, Saltoun Square, Fraserburgh be named "Faithlie House".

#### 2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The regeneration of the Council Chamber and Former Police Station in Fraserburgh's Saltoun Square is a major project, central to the success of the Fraserburgh 2021 project.
- 2.2 The restoration works are scheduled for completion June 2018 at which time the building will accommodate approximately 60 Council staff; an enterprise hub; customer contact centre and community space.
- 2.3 After discussions with the Fraserburgh and District Members this is now an appropriate time to confirm the name of the new building.
- 2.4 The name of the town means, literally, 'burgh of Fraser', after the Fraser family that bought the lands of Philorth in 1504 and thereafter brought about major improvement due to investment over the next century. Fraserburgh became a burgh of barony in 1546. By 1570, the Fraser family had built a castle (Fraserburgh Castle) at Kinnaird's Head and within a year the area church was built. By the 1590s the area known as **Faithlie** was developing a small harbour.
- 2.5 In 1592, **Faithlie** was renamed Fraserburgh by a charter of the Crown under King James VI. Sir Alexander Fraser was given permission to improve and govern the town as Lord Saltoun. At present this title is still in existence and is held by Flora Fraser, 20th Lady Saltoun and head of Clan Fraser.
- 2.6 This project secures the future of an important historical building in Fraserburgh town centre. Therefore with reference to the town's early development it is proposed that the building be named "**Faithlie House**".
- 2.7 The Ward Members have been consulted on this proposal and Cllr Topping has presented an alternative suggestion of "Anderson House". This is in reference to Baron Bailie, Sir Alexander Anderson who was responsible for great improvements at Fraserburgh Harbour, including the rebuilding of the Balaclava Pier and the construction of the Balaclava Breakwater. However, this name is already in use with "Anderson House", located at 9 - 11 Frithside Street, being the headquarters of local law firm Brown and Macrae.

- 2.8 Colleagues in Environmental Planning and Transportation have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are supportive of the recommendation. Councillors Buchan, Kille and Mair have also been consulted via Ward meetings and have informally indicated their support for the recommendation.
- 2.9 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

- 3.1 Roads Policy Note 9: Street Naming and Property Numbering In Aberdeenshire, Section 17 states “Where a change of property name is requested by the owner, no consultations normally take place and the decision to accept it is taken by Council officers. A name which is likely to cause offence or confusion will not be accepted.”
- 3.2 Given the Ward Members do not have a consensus view the Area Committee is able to determine the name of this building in terms of the Scheme of Governance Part 2A, List of Committee Powers; Section B11.2.2 “determine the naming of [...] buildings within the Council's control where the Local Members [...] are not in accord.

### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommendations within this report do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no staffing and financial implications arising as a result of this report.
- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Reputation management (including social media). Recent street naming in Fraserburgh has attracted significant levels of press and social media attention and which may have be perceived as reputationally damaging for the Area Committee and Aberdeenshire Council. In order to mitigate this risk discussions have taken place with Ward Members with a view to seeking a majority view on this subject prior to determination by Area Committee. No risks have been identified within the Directorate Risk Registers.
- 4.4 Aberdeenshire Council recognises that town centres have an important role to play in the sustainable development of local economies. Town centres are a common denominator within delivery of our services and they are the heart of our communities, forming a key component of the intensity of civic pride. They can act as a hub for various activities, offering spaces to meet and interact, with access to a range of facilities and services.

They are still very much a base for many small businesses and jobs and offer a variety of visitor attractions. Should Members be minded to approve this recommendation the rebranding of this historically important building, combined with its vibrant new use, will have a positive impact on Fraserburgh Town Centre.

**MARIA WALKER**  
**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS SERVICES**

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