

NORTH QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2004

Present:

A Neville	- Chairman
J Dyce	- Vice Chairman
P Dennison	- Vice Chairman
N Kerr	- Treasurer
R Thomson	- Minute Secretary
C Ewen	- Councillor
I Mitchell	- Councillor
J Taylor	- Councillor
A Monteith	- Councillor

In Attendance: PC Maylin, PC Davies – Fife Constabulary
35 Residents approximately

1) Apologies

L Collis, J Hawkings, Cllr Philp

2) Minutes of previous meeting

Proposed by I Mitchell, seconded by P Dennison.

3) Matters arising

Letter to Scottish Enterprise Fife – deferred to next meeting

4) Fife Councillor's Business

Not present due to election duties

5) Vice Chairmans' Business

- a) Community Centre – AGM to be held in June, see notices for details. J Dyce repeated the invite to residents and members to attend. The Community Centre Committee is in the process of changing to a company limited by guarantee. The Centre have also applied to purchase the ground on which the centre is located.
- b) Wells Project – funding application has been successful. There is now funding of £40,000 for the project. Residents are invited to join the project committee.
- c) Take Pride in Fife – Conference to be held in October/November, details to follow
- d) Main St / West Sands – a letter has been received from a resident about the paving blocks that were removed during electricity works and not replaced, also raising concerns about the lack of maintenance of the cobbles and slabs on the Coastal Path and Post Office Lane. Letter to be sent to Fife Council Transportation Service requesting remedial action. **ACTION J Hawkings**
- e) Carlingnose SSI – letter received from a resident about the problems of rabbits damaging plants in Carlingnose. Passed to S Bonnar. **ACTION A Montieth**
- f) DSW Overflow car park – works to form a new entrance to the car park (for Park and Ride) are causing traffic problems. Letter to be sent to Transportation Service and Police **ACTION J Hawkings**
- g) West Bay – survey boxes have still not been removed. Letter to Heriot Watt University **ACTION J Hawkings**
- h) Request for minutes to be published earlier – **ACTION R Thomson**
- i) Public input at meeting – request that when the meeting is opened to the public for comment, could those speaking please identify themselves

- j) Images of Scotland – letter passed to the Heritage Trust
- k) Piggery Steps – a meeting was held between P. Dennison and I Mitchell from the Community Council, representatives of Fife Council’s Planning Service and Legal Services along with G Bald regarding the right of way. G Bald agreed that the minute of the meeting produced by Fife Council was accurate. At that meeting, the Community Council agreed to have the gate re-installed as a gesture of goodwill pending the agreement of all parties to the wording of a sign to be posted on the gate indicating that it is a right of way and, should Mr. Bald wish, drawing attention to the need to close the gate and keep to the path. Alternatively a finger-post sign could be used. The Community Council agreed to engage a contractor to refit the gate. There followed a discussion regarding the events, which had occurred prior to that meeting. A number of the contributors to the discussion expressed the opinion that the Community Council had acted out with its authority in removing the gate. The council expressed the hope that, with the present agreement having been made, a fresh start could be made, and expressed its thanks to Mr. Bald for what had been a constructive meeting. An offer to keep the steps and path clear of debris has been made by L Collis.

6) **Police Matters**

Crimes – 2 acts of vandalism reported. A Youth Diversion Scheme for 14-18 year olds, offering football coaching at East End Park, will be operating every Saturday night during the summer holidays.

Damage by a vehicle to the wall on the Brae was raised, details to be passed to Police **ACTION A Neville**. Speeding cars on Main St at midnight. Parking at Turning Circle on Town Pier creating noise and disruption to be investigated by Police. Request made for traffic calming on Old Kirk Road. Parking issues to be investigated

7) **Chairman’s Business**

- a) Ferrytoll Roundabout – Fife Council are proposing changes to the markings. Letter to be sent to Angus Carmichael of Transportation Services, requesting a meeting **ACTION A Neville**
- b) Safer Routes to School – concerns about the lack of footpath from the brae to the school. Also update required on the improvements to the footpath crossing under the road bridge - to be addressed in above letter.
- c) **Railtrack Claim to land title – Map to be displayed at the Community Centre. It is important that anyone who owns land that may be affected by this claim should make a counter claim.**
- d) Land adjacent to Deep Sea World under the rail bridge – Railtrack has been requested to tidy this area.
- e) DSW Seal Sanctuary – DSW have made reassurances that there will be no smell from the seals. Interested persons are invited to attend Middlebank.
- f) Road Bridge 40th Anniversary –
 - i) SQCC are trying to arrange a Red Arrows fly-past. Also planned are water based activities including ferry crossings by the “Maid of the Forth”, heritage walks and water based tuition for school pupils at Lochore Meadows.
 - ii) Coat of Arms – costing obtained. EU funding may be available **I Mitchell to investigate**

- iii) Other suggested activities and costs – transport of children to Lochore Meadows (£200), display boards (£800), seat/bench (£1000), youth sailing at Boat Club (costs to be investigated), Gateway project.

8) Locality Manager

Not present . Request to be made for him to attend at least every alternate meeting.

ACTION R Thomson

9) Correspondence

A full list is available from the Secretary on request.

- a) A number of letters from residents, critical of J Taylor for having cleared trees from the old quarry and having trimmed trees on the coastal path, were read out. J Taylor responded that he owns (with others) the land over which the Coastal Path crosses and owns the quarry. The question of development of the quarry and the building of houses was raised and discussed. The quarry lies outside the settlement area in the Local Plan. This prohibits any housing development. Permission for tree felling was not required as there is no Tree Preservation Order, nor does it form part of the Wildlife reserve. Discussions were held regarding the status and access rights of the Coastal Path. It was noted that at that area the right of way is a road, not a footpath. The unlawful blocking of this right of way by residents aggrieved by J Taylor was also discussed. It was suggested and agreed that any future work, by any residents, could be notified to the village by the use of the village notice boards. It was also suggested that where machinery and equipment was being used in areas with public access, suitable warning signs should be displayed. There then followed discussion of a letter from a resident requesting that J Taylor be removed from the Community Council, centring on the issue above and referring to possible conflicts of interest. It was explained that the community council had no power to remove one of its number. It was also pointed out that the Community Council's Standing Orders require councillors to disclose any pecuniary interest that they may have in any matter under discussion and it was expected of Councillors that they would disclose any such interest.
- b) A letter from a resident requesting the removal of A Neville from the Community Council, on the grounds of conflict of interest and actions taken on behalf of the Community Council was read and discussed. The provisions of the standing orders were again drawn to the attention of the meeting, and, on Mr. Neville's assurance that he had fully disclosed any and all relevant interests, it was resolved to take no further action on the letter.

10) Treasurer's Report

F Bastianelli has audited the Annual accounts. Thanks were given. Current balance was £922.79 of which £400 is the Environment fund and £500 for floral enhancements.

11) **AOCB**

- a) Marina/Ferry Pier Development – I Mitchell declared a potential conflict of interest, in that he is legally representing (in an entirely unconnected matter) a developer who may be invited by Fife Council to tender. He indicated that this was presently only a potential conflict and was in any event not such a pecuniary interest as would be required to be disclosed under the Standing Orders. However, he was declaring it in the interest of openness, and would abstain from any vote that might be called on the matter. The involvement of the Community Council and context of earlier meetings held with this developer were discussed. It was pointed out that the Community Council would not be responsible for selection of any particular developer: This would be Fife Council's remit.

The possibility of any development leading to the infilling of the Bay was raised and discussed. It is extremely unlikely that this would happen as the status of the Bay as a SSSI and a Special Protection Area, along with the Local Plan, protect this environment. This is now clearly stated in the revised draft development prospectus prepared by Fife Council in consultation with the Community Council, as are other items raised at the Community Council meeting in May. Copies of this draft prospectus are available on the Community Council Web site www.nqcc.co.uk/.

The possibility of a Community Development Project taking on the development was raised and favourably discussed. It was further suggested that such a project may consider purchasing the quarry and land at the start of the Coastal Path.

Any concerns and proposals for the Marina Development should be sent to the Community Council who will pass them on and discuss them with Fife Council. The Community Council indicated its particular desire to hear from those residents who were involved in the "Save our Bay" campaign with a view to transmitting their suggestions to Fife Council. Please send any comments to NQCC, P.O. Box 26164, Dunfermline, Scotland, KY11 9WQ, or marina@northqueensferry.plus.com

- b) East Battery Pier – It was confirmed that the route to East Battery Pier is a right of way and as such, Railtrack cannot prohibit access.

- 12) Date of Next Meeting – It was proposed and accepted that, due to the significance of the current issues, the next meeting should be held in July, rather than August (as per the Standing Orders)

**NEXT MEETING – Thursday 8th July,
7.30pm in the Community Centre**

All Residents Welcome