

**North Queensferry Community Council
Minutes 11th August 2005**

Present: Peter Dean (Chair), Jenny Robertson, Christina McKenzie (Treasurer), David Greig (Acting Minutes Secretary), and Cllr. Jim Philp

Apologies: Ian Mitchell (Vice Chair), Karen Trotter (Secretary), Anne Monteith, Catherine Ewen, and Freda Bastianelli

7 residents attended the meeting.

Police Report

- Constable Smith reported a relatively quiet month in North Queensferry. There had been 14 calls and 2 recorded crimes. 1 crime remained undetected: tyres stolen from a car. The constable asked anyone who might have information about the crime to contact the police.

- Colin Caldwell is the new Community Inspector for the area.

Minutes of The Previous Meeting

Peter Dean reported that Jenny Robertson had resigned as Minutes Secretary.

Jenny Robertson wanted to record some comments about the minutes for the June meeting. 1) Her minutes for March had been criticised by a resident at the June meeting and she had been asked to amend them. She wanted it recognised that minutes cannot be amended after they have been approved and she should not have been asked to do so. 2) The March minutes were, in any case, correct in her opinion. 3) She had been criticised for producing biased minutes and late minutes. She disagreed with both these criticisms.

Peter Dean apologised to Jenny Robertson for the error in procedure. He accepted that he should not have asked her to amend the March minutes. He agreed that her minutes had not been late or biased. He thanked her for her work as minute secretary.

Chairman's Report

NQNW: North Queensferry Neighbourhood Watch is in process of being revived. Jill Brown is the new chairperson; Allan McGhee the vice chair; Mary Rae the treasurer and Peter Dean the secretary. Constable Kenneth Kingshott is the contact in Fife Police. The constitution has been amended slightly to bring it up to date. There will be an initial membership fee of £2 per household. The village has been sub-divided into up to 35 neighbourhood areas. The new committee is seeking representatives ("area coordinators") who live in each area to act as the NQNW contact person for that area. Once these have

been appointed, a program of appropriate actions will follow.

Planning White Paper: NQCC belong to The Dunfermline and Coast Association of Community Councils which has been pressing for a third party right of appeal on planning decisions. Such a right would provide support for local interests (including community councils) in cases where planning decisions favour developers. It would promote public participation. The recently White Paper published by the Scottish Executive on reform of the planning process does not favour the introduction of such a right.

Radiation effects of living close to Rosyth dockyard: NQCC has already passed a motion critical of the adverse effects of radiation. A report is now available which examines safety at all British nuclear sites. The study found no evidence of danger of radiation from living in close proximity to a nuclear generating station. It did find a small excess of cancers within 15 miles of Rosyth (Leukaemia and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma) and a gradient of cancer cases which declines with distance from Rosyth. But the linkage between these cases and Rosyth Dockyard cannot be conclusively demonstrated.

Resignation from NQCC: Peter Dean reported that Lin Collis has resigned. He thanked her for her work as a councillor.

Cllr Philp's Report

- Cllr Philp reported that he had obtained a working phone number for complaints to EWS regarding Coal blow off and other issues. The number is 01698 745 712.

- He reported that gel to stop Coal blow off had begun to be applied to coal trains travelling in to Fife but the machinery to apply Gel to the trains travelling south has not yet been installed. He expected it would be another month before these trains were gelled.

- The toilet block off Ferry Road is not wanted for use as a readsweeper's hut and so Fife Council will be checking whether any other departments could use the building and, if not, the land and building will be offered for sale.

Treasurer's Report

Christina McKenzie reported a balance of £2, 538. (Full summary available from Treasurer)

The boat club will not be pursuing sail training because of prohibitive insurance costs. As a result some money from the FETA grant remains undistributed. Some of this will be used up because the benches have cost a little more than anticipated. However, £800 remains to be spent from the grant.

David Greig proposed that this money be earmarked for young people in the village.

Secretary's Report

A full list of correspondence was read out by Christina McKenzie in Karen Trotter's absence. Full list available from Secretary.

- Cruick's Quarry: Tarmac Ltd wish to reinstate a regular six monthly meeting to discuss with Fife Council and The NQCC issues arising from the workings at Cruick's Quarry. Peter Dean agreed this was a good idea.
- Fife Coast and Countryside Trust: requesting nominations for membership from NQCC. Peter dean reported that he and Anne Monteith had attended a preliminary meeting of the trust and felt that, while he supported it's aims, it was a low priority for NQCC and neither he nor Anne Monteith felt it urgent that NQCC was represented.
- Mrs D. Bald had written to express concern regarding Fife Council continuing with a proposal to erect a sign pointing to The Piggery Steps. She fears this will increase disturbance to her property.
- Payphones: British Telecom are inviting consultation on a proposal to get rid of the payphone at Mt Hooly. A motion was passed that NQCC felt it was important to keep the payphone at Mt Hooly and David Greig is to write to British Telecom to express this objection.

Proposed Upgrading of North Queensferry Wastewater Treatment Works

Susan Rowe (Scottish Water, Business and Community Liaison Manager) and Ian Clark (Scottish Water Solutions, Project Manager) attended the meeting in order to inform the Community Council about proposed works to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment works at Helen Lane.

A full proposal is displayed on the notice board at the community centre.

Ian Clark outlined the benefits of the works once complete. Currently Scottish Water has to open covers in order to carry out desludging. This creates an odour problem in the lower part of the village. The new tanks will have a small vent to which the Tankers can attach a hose. This will considerably reduce the odour problem during desludging. The new tanks will be built in to the slope of the hill beside the site replacing the current above ground concrete structure.

The works are scheduled to begin in mid to late November and it is anticipated they will take six months to complete.

Ian Clark hoped disruption to residents would be minimal and said that Scottish Water would keep local residents informed.

Peter Dean said residents should be prepared for construction traffic.

Ian Clark pointed out that during works there would be some problems with access to the paths beside the bay.

During the works desludging will need to take place two times a week. Ian Clark said that the odour problem should be less on each desludging due to the regularity of the work. A resident expressed concern that residents in the lower part of the village would be subjected to smell from the desludging two times a week.

Ian Clark encouraged residents to contact Scottish Water if they are holding special events such as birthday party's, fetes, barbeques etc. during the working period. This may make it possible for Scottish Water to schedule desludging activities sensitively.

Peter Dean suggested a site walk with representatives of Scottish water so that residents can see for themselves where and how the works will take place and ask questions about concerns they may have. This walk was arranged for:

MON SEPT 5th at 7.00pm (Meet at The Sewage Works, Helen Lane.)

TRAFFIC CALMING

NQCC was presented with a map showing Fife Councils proposed traffic calming measures as part of the Safer Routes To Schools programme. Residents and councillors scrutinised the plans and the main comments were as follows:

- Concern about too many road markings.
- Concern about placement of certain speed humps
- Concern that speeding on the entrance to the village under the road bridge and on Ferryhills road was not being addressed.

Cllr. Philp suggested that FC officers were able to give a workshop presentation to villagers where they would listen to specific comments and suggestions and then incorporate them into the proposed plan. A workshop was arranged for SEPT 5TH, 8PM, VENUE TBC. Residents are invited to attend.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

Peter Dean reported that The Boundary Commission has proposed changes to the North Queensferry electoral boundary. The new boundaries would see North Queensferry linked with Rosyth rather than Inverkeithing, as is the case at present. The chair of Inverkeithing Community Council had expressed his desire that the linkage with NQ remain as is. David Greig said he felt that residents used Inverkeithing for shopping and that other connections such as scout troops, schools etc were stronger with Inverkeithing than with Rosyth. David Greig proposed a motion to express to the Boundary

Commission a preference to remain with Inverkeithing. Christina Mackenzie seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

HERITAGE TRUST

Peter Dean reported that NQ Heritage Trust has presented plans for an anchor at Pier head. Councillors and residents scrutinised the plans. No objections were expressed.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE

- Cllr Philp said he was keen to get Fife Council youth workers back in Inverkeithing and North Queensferry. He offered to make representations to the relevant officials at Fife Council.

- Peter Dean reported that he had spoken to Fife Council officials regarding possible improvements to the football pitch and they had proposed that the village might wish to apply for funds to build a multi use sports/ play area on the land currently occupied by the dog walking area beside the community centre.

- Cllr Philp said that The Community Centre Committee would be best placed to apply for such funds as might be available. He suggested that Cllr Alan Kenny was someone whose advice was worth seeking on any application as he had experience in this area.

- A public meeting would be held on all issues concerning young people in the village. That meeting will be scheduled for October. Date and Venue TBC.

AOCB

- A resident reported that two accidents involving wheelchairs had recently occurred on The Brae. In both cases people were visiting Deep Sea World. The wheelchair users had lost control of the chairs on the Brae. Whilst there had been no serious injuries the people involved had experienced great distress and shock. The resident asked that NQCC express to Deep Sea World the need to ensure that their literature warn people of the difficulty of wheelchair access when visiting by train. Peter dean said he would make a representation to Deep Sea World.

- A Resident pointed out that the area between Waterloo Well and the garden of the flats is overgrown and untended. The resident said he was prepared to look after the area if the Council were prepared to clear it. Cllr. Philp said that Fife Council would probably agree to such a proposal. Peter dean suggested contacting Peter Howden who looks after these matters for Fife Council.

- Jenny Robertson suggested that a list be made up of areas in the village which need tidying up and a list of people willing to look after the areas once tidied. She was willing to take on this job.