

North Queensferry Community Council

Minutes

9th March 2006

Present: Peter Dean (Chair),
Dave Dempsey,
Cath Ewen,
Anne Monteith,
Christina McKenzie,
David Greig
Cllr. Jim Philp

In Attendance: 2 residents.

Apologies: Iain Mitchell QC (Vice Chair),
Jenny Robertson,
Freda Bastianelli,
Karen Trotter (Secretary)

Police Report

Constable Smith reported 24 calls from North Queensferry during February. This resulted in two crime files, one for vandalism at Deep Sea World and the other vandalism on a car in Main Street. This is an improvement on the figures from last year at the same time.

Police had received a lot of word from Deep Sea World and from the school regarding vandalism and nuisance from youths hanging about. PC Smith said police are stepping up patrols.

Police have had many reports of problems in the car park at battery point. PC Smith will look into the option of closing the car park at night with the possibility of fixed penalty fines for parking outside certain hours.

PC Smith will look into Special Branch parking on the brow of the hill near Gordon Brown's house.

Minutes Of The Previous Meeting

Approved by Christina McKenzie, Seconded by Anne Monteith.

Matters Arising

Gary Bald has reported more material falling from the bridge into his garden. He sent a

bag of this material to the meeting. Cllr Philp identified it as definitely railway related material. Cllr Philp will look into the matter with Network Rail.

Peter Dean reported that he and Karen Trotter attended a meeting in Dunblane with Mark Ruskell MSP to discuss community land buyouts under the new legislation. PD reported that it is, in fact, surprisingly difficult for a community to buy land under the legislation.

Peter Dean has spoken to Deep Sea World about the overflow car park. It was being used for the workers repairing the viaduct. They are now cleared from the site.

Cllr Philp's Report

Gordon Docherty has agreed to fund new noticeboards (£200) and the proposed coat of arms for the village (£800) is on it's way for this purpose.

Hope Street is to be widened to provide a right turning lane near the viaduct at Ferry Toll. The stone wall will be rebuilt and the footway and cycleway restored.

No plans to remark the roundabout at Ferry Toll in favour of NQ residents. CM complained that the current markings were dangerous and Cllr Philp agreed to try to get original markings restored.

Gordon Drysdale has agreed to erect signs at the top of the brae warning that the road is unsuitable for long vehicles.

My Fife: National Free Bus Travel Scheme for Elderly and Disabled People. A mistake had been made in sending out letters advising residents of this scheme. Residents who wish to register can still go to the Scout Hall in Inverkeithing where they will be able to claim their card. If residents cannot make the journey they can call the Scout Hall and travel will be provided.

The additional lane on the A90 is anticipated to be completed by April.

There is now a new bus link from Inverkeithing Station to Edinburgh Airport starting at 5.15 in the morning and running until 11.45 at night.

Chairman's Report

The benches at Shore House have been removed temporarily while the owner, Mr Macdonald, conducts improvements to the area. The land is owned by Scottish Water. Mr Macdonald regards it as a public area. He is tidying up the beach and importing sand to improve amenity. The benches will be restored and the whole area tidied up in due course.

Four noticeboards have been ordered.

Safety Day is on March 23rd in Dalgety Bay Sports Centre. Many service providers will be in attendance Fife Constabulary, Fife Community Safety Partnership, The Pension Service, The Fire Service , Trading Standards, The Fife Council Housing Investigation Team. These services will be in one place at one time to help residents. Anne Monteith and Cath Ewen agreed to contact older residents in the village to let them know of the event and of the availability of transport.

Fife Council have changed the system whereby they allocate nursery places to children. This, combined with the decision not to have an afternoon session this term means that some children from North Queensferry, or who have been attending NQ Mothers and Toddler's Group may not be able to attend nursery in NQ. DG agreed to look into the issue.

Treasurer's Report

Christina McKenzie reported a balance of 2,590.67 of which £2,505.00 is set aside, £400 for environmental improvements and £2,105 being the balance of the Feta grant. The Feta grant is there to meet the cost of the commemorative benches, recently installed and the balance will be used for the Youths of the Village.

Secretary's Report

New MP Willie Rennie has asked to attend a meeting of NQCC to hear about local concerns. Karen Trotter will write to him to inform him of the dates of our meetings.

Village Gardening

Anne Monteith reported that the two seats in memory of those who died building both bridges are now in place.

She reported that Flowers For The Ferry is now in it's fourth year. It's time for a fresh initiative. A Village Gardening committee has been formed and it is seeking volunteers from the village to help with planting, tidying up, looking after areas of the village and all gardening matters. If we have a real push North Queensferry might be in line for a best kept village award.

Planning Applications

Extension to Tower House, Pierhead. – No Comments

The new house at Carlingnose is, according to a visit from Planning officers, in accordance with the plans. The Community Council expressed great regret that planning permission had been granted for such a prominent building in such a sensitive historical location. In particular it was noted that the building's visibility from the coastal path was most regrettable and spoiled the secluded nature of the coastal path. A letter will be sent to planning asking for an explanation as to why NQCC's comments were not taken on

board when the CC viewed the plans.

AOCB

David Greig reported that Mount Hooley resident Alice McGrath had enquired about the whether the land beside the new bench near the cul de sac of Mount Hooley could become a children's play area as there is lack of a play area in the middle of the village. Cllr Philp said that the council own the land. He said that a petition would be a good way to get the councils attention. He said that it was up to local residents to organise themselves and approach the council.

A member of the public asked whether the council could make improvements to the doors of the lock up garages on Old Kirk Road. Peter Dean reported that he owned one lock up and the council had replaced the door when he had asked them to. Other owners are encouraged to do the same,