

North Queensferry Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 13th September 2007

Present: Peter Dean (Chair)
Ian Mitchell (Vice Chair)
Christina Mackenzie (Treasurer)
David Greig
Cllr Douglas Chapman
Cllr Keith Legg

Apologies: Jenny Robertson, Ian Mitchell, Cath Ewan, Anne Monteith, Freda Bastianelli

In Attendance: 4 residents, Gordon Muir and Anthony McGulgan of the Paul Hogarth Company (Landscape Architects).

Forth Bridge Memorial

Gordon Muir (Landscape Architect), gave a presentation to the meeting about the siting of the proposed memorial to the men who died building the Forth Railway Bridge. Designs for the memorial stone were shown. The memorial takes the form of a dark, plum-coloured monolith some 7ft high with the names of the men sandblasted onto the front. It is set on a plinth which will point to another memorial stone set on the promenade in South Queensferry.

Initially the idea was to site the stone on the Brae opposite the Jubilee Well or in the play park at Pierhead. Cllr Chapman said Fife Council were not keen on this. The meeting discussed other potential sites for the stone. Four sites were discussed: the Battery Road Car Park, beside the war memorial, on the land of the West Bay marina, and in the cul de sac at the end of Mount Hooley above the brae.

It was agreed that a village-wide consultation was necessary about where best to locate the memorial. PD suggested that every villager receive a leaflet about the project so that everyone be given the chance to state a preference and make comments.

Minutes Of The Previous Meeting, 9th August

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted unanimously.

Matters Arising

DG reported on The Boathouse Project (West Bay). Currently the first phase of feasibility study is drawing to a close. The fun day was very successful with excellent attendance despite the weather. An extensive survey has gathered over a hundred detailed responses from villagers. Visitors to the village have also been interviewed. Project Consultants 'Indigo Project Solutions' have held focus groups at The Boat Club, and meetings with

local businesses and The Heritage Trust. They say the Boathouse Project is feasible and the concept is ready to be developed further. The next phase is to apply for funds to draw up a business plan and architectural plans. The North Queensferry West Bay Trust will make this application in the autumn.

Cllr Keith Legg introduced himself to the meeting and was welcomed to his first NQCC meeting by PD.

Police Report

No constable was in attendance. PD reported that crime is down in the village due to the larger than normal police presence following Gordon Brown's appointment as Prime Minister. Inspector Caldwell apologised for non-attendance of the police due to lack of staff and work pressure.

Treasurer's Report

The bank balance at 12 September 2007 was £3,902. Allowing for money set aside for various purposes, the free balance was £371.

Chairman's Report

PD reported that Wilf Monteith has repaired the notice board at the station. PD thanked Wilf for doing this.

PD reported a letter from a resident complaining that minutes had not been being posted recently on village notice boards. PD recognized this problem which has been due to lack of a secretary and of a permanent minutes secretary. PD said he had now posted the most recent minutes..

PD reported that he had written to the manager of Deep Sea World regarding the problems of congestion that had happened on a couple of weekends over the summer. The manager had replied with a detailed letter in which he explained that there had been a problem of underestimating the number of visitors on those particular days. The underestimates had led them not to hire buses to take visitors from the overflow car park. The manager expressed regret about this. He said they always try to get the estimates right. The manager emphasized that Deep Sea World are very keen to have good relations with the village and would make every effort to ensure these congestion problems are kept to a minimum in future.

PD reported that this was the last meeting of this Community Council as Fife Council had announced elections. There would be an election in October for a new council. PD thanked the councillors for their support during his period as chair.

IM proposed a vote of thanks to PD for his work as chair. The motion was passed unanimously.

Planning Applications

The Wee Restaurant has applied to increase the number of its covers by opening up an extension to its dining room.

AOCB

IM reported that buses have now stopped trying to get into Brock St and have, instead, begun to stop outside the church to wait for passengers. This results in potential traffic danger and the minister has expressed concern that buses will be parked outside the church when a wedding or a funeral is in progress. PD agreed to write a letter to stagecoach asking what was going on.