

North Queensferry Community Council
Minutes of the Meeting of 10th April 2008

Present:	Iain Mitchell	Chairman
	Brian Armstrong	Secretary
	Christina McKenzie	Treasurer
	James Lawson	Councillor
	Pat Dennison	Councillor
	Cllr Keith Legg	Fife Council

In attendance: 4 Residents plus the Police representative

Apologies for absence:	David Greig	Councillor
	Jenny Robertson	Councillor
	Jan Short	Councillor
	Cllr Douglas Chapman	Fife Council

Minutes of previous meeting:

These were approved.

Police Report:

There have been 24 calls to the area office since the last report. Most of these refer to youth disorder, speeding offences and minor drug problems. The police are confident these particular matters are now under control.

Minutes:

PD pointed out that at the previous meeting it had been agreed that the Council would, as an experiment, attempt to produce and distribute the minutes of the meeting within 14 days in order to see if it might be practicable to adopt such a system in the future. The Minutes were taken as amended to record this, and subject to that amendment, were approved.

Matters Arising:

It was noted that it had not proved practicable to produce the Minutes in 14 days.

BA advised he would shortly be having a meeting with the local team leader of the Fife Council Criminal Justice Service to discuss the possible repairs to the village notice boards, beach cleans and other areas that were identified as requiring urgent cleaning.

KL agreed to investigate the terms of lease for council property on matters of cleanliness and garden maintenance.

IM reported that he had received an acknowledgement from the Boundary Commission regarding the Community Council's preferred name of either *Forth Bridgehead and Cowdenbeath* or *South Fife and Cowdenbeath*, for this constituency.

BA advised that he had spoken to Tony Martin (FETA) about attending a forthcoming council meeting but it was decided that more information from Transport Scotland would be required before a meaningful discussion could take place. However there is to be a briefing shortly by Transport Scotland and the new bridge planning authority to which the Community Council will be sending representatives.

Co-option of new Councillor:

Colin Bell was unanimously co-opted as Community Councillors to fill one of the vacancies on the Council. He will serve in that capacity until the next Community Council elections.

Chairman's Report:

The Feasibility Report on finding an alternative use for the station building was distributed to all councillors present and IM presented a summary of its proposals. Repairs to the building structure were the main cause of concern and will require considerable expenditure. Identification of responsibilities was now under discussion.

A meeting recently took place with a representative from Balfour Beatty to discover if they would be able to assist with the formulation of a detailed business plan. This matter is now under active consideration. The overall plan remains unaltered, to repair the building and accommodate the Forth Bridges Visitor Centre which would incorporate an audio visual display room, small café, reception area and toilet facilities.

A proposal to continue negotiations was fully supported by those present. It was agreed that the North Queensferry Station Trust set up to facilitate the change of use should continue as independent organisation with representatives from the Community Council and the Heritage Trust and any other local interested party to take all matters forward.

JLL advised the meeting that an offer had been made by First Scotrail to supply the station with flowers, plants etc in suitable containers if the village was prepared to maintain them. All implements would be provided but it would require a small group of enthusiastic volunteers to take charge and enable us to take up the offer.

The chairman also reported on his recent meeting with Inspector Caldwell of Fife Police at the Battery road car park. Also present were two local residents. The meeting was extremely constructive and all parties are now fully aware of the problems and a way forward was discussed. For the police to adequately respond to residents concerns they must firstly be aware of all incidents as they occur. These should be reported in the first instance to the police main telephone number. The installation of CCTV with a rapid response unit is a possibility for the future. Any installation of a gate to the car park will have to be discussed separately with Fife CC.

Fife Cllrs' Report:

KL reported on the proposed reduction in the speed limit to 40 mph from the Ferry toll roundabout to the start of the 20 mph sign in the village on the lower road. Much discussion followed. It was considered that the introduction of the limit was not necessary. However there was general agreement that the introduction of a 30 mph sign suitably located before the bend at the Queensferry Hotel would be more sensible in the interests of road safety.

A report was also made on the repair of pavements in Inchcolm Drive.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented a summary of the accounts for the last financial year to the meeting which showed a current balance of £2,840.35. After an allowance was made for money set aside and previously allocated there remains a balance of £129.88, of which £120 was allocated to the Christmas lighting fund.

Correspondence:

BA took the meeting through a list of correspondence received and the proposed actions.

Planning Applications:

PD advised that there were no specific applications requiring discussion but she was continuing to maintain vigilance as time limits for objections often occurred with some of the applications. The online 'planning aid' was particularly helpful in acting as an independent advisor. In the absence of PD, Colin Bell agreed to assist PD in the monitoring of planning applications.

AOB:

JLL advised that he had spoken to the manager of Cruicks quarry who indicated that he was unaware of any recent proposals to extend operations beyond the expiry of their lease in Oct 2010.

CM was concerned about the lack of maintenance to the quarry viewing platform area much of which was overgrown. JLL advised that the matter will be reported to the manager.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 8th May at 7.30pm