

NORTH QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 1st May 1996 (after the AGM)

Present: M Gaskin (Chairman), C Ewen, A Monteith, D Gaskin, Councillor Cook, Councillor B Stocks, N Kerr (Secretary), J Dyce, D Symington (Vice-Chairman), Dalgety Bay Police representative and 1 resident.

1. Apologies: S Millar (Treasurer), M Tate, B Armstrong.

2. Minutes: Accepted.

3. Address by Councillor Barbara Stocks: Councillor Stocks is Chair of Community Services for West Fife and member of Fife Council for Kincardine & Culross. It was her aim to visit as many community councils as possible. The new Fife Council regarded itself as a listening council and saw community councils as a method of finding out about local issues. Fife Council local area meetings were open to the public and there was a slot for public input on every agenda. Councillor Cook agreed to provide a programme of the rotation of meeting places.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR COOK

A meeting of the Community Services Committee would be held in the Community Wing at Inverkeithing on Thursday, 13th June at 3.45 p.m.

Councillors Cook and Stocks agreed to provide a copy of the detailed structure of Fife Council.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR COOK

Councillor Stocks agreed that there had been some delay in crediting grants to voluntary bodies as a result of Fife Council taking over from the old district and regional councils. She did not think that the community council needed to formally apply for its grant but would raise this with the official concerned, Finlay Coutts.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR STOCKS

Mr Gaskin raised the matter of the common good fund which had resulted from the demolition of the institute. Councillor Cook advised that Mrs Tate thought she had some relevant letters. When he had those he would raise the matter with the official concerned, Finlay Coutts.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR COOK, M TATE

4. Matters Arising: (a) Road Safety - It was understood that Fife Council were considering removing one bollard and using dimmer lights. It was noted that, although there had been complaints about the appearance of the bollards, some people thought that they were doing a good job in warning of the junction at the triangle. Other points raised included the need for clarification of road markings around the triangle, the feeling that the rumble strips were not as effective as had been expected and the fact that buses still came round the bend at the triangle on the wrong side of the road. Fife Council was monitoring the level of noise produced by traffic going over the rumble strips. The community council would keep this matter on the table and review it again with a view to making official comments to Fife Council. It was agreed that it may be necessary to request further traffic calming measures.

(b) Petition about road crossing under the bridge at the top of the Brae - Councillor Cook had had a site meeting with officials of Fife Council. It had been agreed to consider the provision of pavements under the bridge, making the road single-track.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR COOK

(c) Condition of Ferryhills Road - There was an increasing number of potholes. Concern had been expressed about the absence of a pavement in view of the increased traffic caused by the Carlingnose development. There seemed to be two options: widening the road and providing a pavement, or not widening the road and providing traffic calming measures.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR COOK to pursue matter of potholes; ACTION: C EWAN to consult locally over preferences concerning the road layout

(d) Concern over number of people jumping from Road Bridge - Mrs Gaskin reported the history of attempts to get the Forth Road Bridge Joint Board to provide telephone lines to the Samaritans. These had been unsuccessful over many years. It was agreed to write to the Bridge authority, Fife Council and the Police expressing the community council's concern at the high number of people jumping or attempting to jump from the Bridge. These concerns were both for the people themselves and for members of the community who may be injured or traumatised by such incidents. The letter should ask what measures have been taken elsewhere and for proposals on measures to be taken here.

ACTION: SECRETARY

(e) Neighbourhood Watch AGM - Mr Gaskin asked whether we wanted the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to continue. Although in general people thought it was a good idea there was a distinct lack of volunteers to put in enough time to make the scheme effective. The AGM was on 29th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre. All members were urged to attend.

(f) Hound Point - The presentation from BP on its plans for vapour recovery had still to be arranged. Inverkeithing Community Council had written to BP Oil with its concerns over the reduction in the number of tugs from 6 to 3. Joint consultation with Fife Council and the Forth Ports Authority had been proposed. We should await replies; in the meantime M Gaskin would discuss the matter with Inverkeithing Community Council.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

5. Cruiks Quarry: The new owners of the quarry intend to go to public enquiry. The community council felt that the neighbourhood committee should be held under the auspices of the new Fife Council, rather than being a body set up by the quarry owners. Councillor Cook would raise the community council's interest in the planning matters with the new Fife

Council.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR COOK

6. Railtrack: The Secretary had written about the state of the picnic area and the approach road. Railtrack's Director for Scotland had agreed with our comments, having seen the condition for himself during the recent visit by the Prince of Wales. The area would be upgraded after the scaffolding had been taken down. His letter said that he would be happy to send a representative to any meeting that we arranged with Fife Council and Fife Enterprise. It was agreed that we should reply stating that we did not think it was appropriate for us to take the initiative in arranging such a meeting.

ACTION: SECRETARY

7. Treasurer's Report: £296.37 in joint account. £5.19 in current account. Outstanding bills: £31.99.

8. Correspondence: (a) Voluntary Sector Forum - J Dyce to attend on 17th May.

(b) Planning application for 200 berth marina at Ballast Bank.

(c) Letter from Fife Council regarding the statutory role of community councils in planning. For any applications that are contrary to a development plan, we will have 14 days to respond. A weekly list will be sent to us on Fridays. We should inform Planning within 7 working days if we require details of any of the applications on the list.

ACTION: SECRETARY

(d) Scottish Office Planning Advice Note 47 on Community Councils and Planning received.

ACTION: J DYCE to obtain copies for all members.

(e) Association of Scottish Community Councils AGM Rothes Hall, Glenrothes, Saturday 8th June 1996.

ACTION: N KERR and M GASKIN to attend; SECRETARY to check whether Fife Council will pay fees as FRC did.

(f) Closure of unmanned public toilets at Marina - letter received from Fife Council advising that these were to be closed from 1st April to save money. It was agreed that the area would be used for toilet purposes whether or not the toilets were open. The community council was concerned that there had been no consultation, particularly in view of Fife Council's wish to involve community councils more in local issues.

ACTION: COUNCILLOR COOK to raise with the official concerned.

(g) Citizen of the Year Awards - Mr Trotter to refer to the Heritage Trust.

(h) Fife Constabulary Policing Plan received from the Chief Constable dated 16th April 1996. To be circulated among members.

(i) Letter received from Fife Council about a draft consultation plan for Fife Regional Park. There were some doubts about exactly where the park was. Mrs Monteith would look at the report.

ACTION: A MONTEITH

(j) Fife Health Board's Bulletin had been received for information.

(k) Letter received from Fife Council about the Local Government Advisory Commission for Scotland's view that the present 92 members should be reduced to 78. It was decided that the community council would support the level of representation remaining at 92 members for a few years, in view of the recent changes in local government and our reluctance to go through further drastic changes in the near future. Fife Council to be written to.

ACTION: VICE-CHAIRMAN

9. AOCB: (a) Mr Gaskin would provide a list at the next meeting of the council's needs for office equipment now that space for an office had been made available in the Community Centre. Councillor Stocks suggested that the community council should write to Fife Council requesting items from surplus equipment.

ACTION: M GASKIN

(b) Mrs Monteith raised the fact that the beach at Port Laing had not yet been cleaned. She also raised the matter of a dangerous spike on the Coastal Path at the end of Port Laing. This would be taken up with Fife Enterprise.

ACTION: A MONTEITH

(c) Mr Dyce pointed out that there was no hand-rail at the recently improved Willie's Well area. To be taken up with Fife Enterprise.

ACTION: SECRETARY

10. Date of next meeting: 5th June 1996