

North Queensferry Community Council

Minutes of Community Council Meeting on Thursday 9 October 2014

Members Present: Iain G Mitchell (IGM), Lin Collis (LC), Christina McKenzie (CM), Mary Finlayson (MF), Barbara McKechnie (BM), Jim George (JG), James Lawson (JL), Cllr Mike Shirkie (M)		
4 Village Residents including Brian Armstrong (BA)		
Agenda Reference	Description	Action
1. Apologies	Simon Tate	
2. Minutes of previous meeting	Minutes for September were approved with the proviso, spelling correction for IGM	BM
3. Matters Arising	i) Simon Tate had passed his apologies to IGM and regrets that he would not be standing for re-election to the NQCC. ii) Christmas Decorations - MF confirmed that she had filled in information for available grant; mid-range lighting had been sourced; Fife Council had been contacted for cost estimate of power source at the War Memorial prior to applying for grant. MS believes issue is not cost of electrical connection but site ownership around the above area. Other sponsorship options were discussed eg local businesses including Deep Sea World. JLL will mention sponsorship to Network Rail contacts at appropriate time	JLL
4. Police Report	None available. BM to contact Police Scotland to query lack of promised updates and the failure to advise of Community Engagement Meeting dates.	BM
5. Parking Issues	Following questions from CM in September, two replies were received. From the Transportation Development Management, confirmation was given that currently, 'Fife Council does not have any proposal to provide additional public parking within North Queensferry'. The second query related to school parking and that around the North Queensferry Railway Station. The former was answered and JLL will follow up with the Headmistress of the Primary School at a scheduled meeting at end of October. BM will follow up with Lesley Craig of the Transportation & Environmental Services with regard to parking around the Railway Station.	JLL BM
6. Village Questionnaire	Re the NQ residents' opinions on the World Heritage Site nomination and proposed development by Network Rail: IGM first asked the Council to consider the basic principal if the survey was a good idea. CM, LC and IGM agreed that it was; MF questioned timing and JLL supported the query. By waiting to January 2015 to issue the Questionnaire, the Forth Forum groups, present at the meeting on 100914, would be able to offer more information on which to base opinions. It was acknowledged by all that fuller information was required to enable residents to express a properly informed opinion. MS clarified that the object of the first community meeting on 10 September had been to set the record straight, to advise the public on the research and information gathering that was taking place. LC asked that the script of the 100914 meeting and list of attendees be made available to the Council to ensure all are informed of next meeting. CM confirmed	

	<p>that her question, left with the panel at the 100914 Meeting, had received a reply. IGM asked for confirmation that material that will be available in January enabling the shaping and definition of the questionnaire. MS advised that the plan for the second meeting, scheduled to be held in January, will provide the updates from all constituent groups detailing progress and option possibilities and MS will ask that Fife Council representatives prepare a synopsis of facts that may accompany the questionnaire. It was the feeling of the Council that asking residents for reasoning on their opinions in the questionnaire (as opposed to a straight Yes or No) will guide the Council on its ongoing representations although consequent interpretation and analysis will have challenges. In order that NQ residents are aware of the current work in progress CM will draft a short article to be approved by IGM for inclusion in the Ferry News.</p>	<p>MS</p> <p>CM IGM</p>
7. World Heritage Steering Group	<p>MF updated the Council meeting in respect of the attendance of the UNESCO assessment team to the last meeting. There was no new information as such presented at the meeting. After consideration, UNESCO will come back to the Steering Group and the Forth Forum with their questions. Network Rail also presented and UNESCO are aware of all options. The UNESCO focus is on visitor accessibility to the Forth Bridge and Educational value added. HONQ had met separately with the UNESCO assessor after the meeting.</p>	
8. Tourism Project Group	<p>Not held recently</p>	
9. Forth Bridges Forum	<p>It was confirmed that the Councillor officially designated as lead contact for the Community Council on the work of the Forum has not been in touch.</p>	
10. Forth Rep. Crossing	<p>No new information</p>	
11. Forth Bridges Festival	<p>With short notice, Pam Bell stepped in to represent North Queensferry at the symbolic meeting with South Queensferry representatives on the Bridge. JLL reported that excellent feedback had been received from Pam and 6 visiting German dignitaries from Wilhelmshaven (twinned with Dunfermline) who followed a guided tour of North Queensferry and (courtesy of Fife Council) were on board a boat during the Flotilla on Sunday 7 September 2014.</p>	
12. Community Group Updates	<p>i) Railway Station – JLL reported that Phase II has to be completed by February 2015 due to change of Scotrail franchise ownership. ii) Community Trust – following revisions there has been slow progress from Fife Council on readiness of Harbour lease for signing. iii) Boat Club – the Club complied with eviction order by 150914. JG queried exact delay. The business plan was approved and consequent Milestones Document, required to be incorporated as an integral part of the lease. Fife Council had promised revisions to the text of the Milestones document, but had delayed until the previous week to intimate them. The</p>	

	<p>revisions require to be approved by the Community Trust before signing of lease can be completed. MS had provided a Fife Council update to IGM on 091014 and it is hoped this will trigger conclusion within next two weeks. iv) HONQ- BA reconfirmed the attendance and presentation by HONQ at the World Heritage Steering Group meeting, their support of the World Heritage Nomination but opposition to Network Rail development. It was acknowledged that there had been miscommunication between the NQCC and HONQ in respect of the Village Survey. All agreed that the questionnaire when circulated must not be biased. v) Heritage Trust – JLL confirmed that the guided walking tours held during the Forth Road Bridge Festival were successful attracting 100+ participants starting at the Queensferry Lodge Hotel or the Railway Station. Doors Open Day attracted 30+. The Heritage Trust plan to continue the guided walking tours and discussions are taking place for future development with Scottish National Heritage, Visit Scotland and are supported by Transport Scotland. vi) NQ Church of Scotland – the Church has hosted two visitors from Hohoe, Ghana, staying with village residents and visiting regional areas of interest. vii) North Queensferry Primary School has new Headmistress</p>	
13. Fife Councillors' Reports	<p>MS confirmed that most topics were already covered above. Planning for extension to North Queensferry Lodge Hotel has been resubmitted (previous approval had lapsed) and will be considered by West Fife Planning committee. MS confirmed the updated FIFEplan will shortly be open for public consultation. BM noted MS' contribution to What's Happening Rosyth Facebook site and asked permission to add link to NQ web site. MS was happy to agree to this, but asked BM to clear with Steven Leckie as a courtesy.</p>	BM
14. Planning Applications	<p>JG outlined three private applications plus one for replacement lighting columns at West Sands and a second for the aforementioned Queensferry Lodge Hotel extension. BM confirmed to MS that a link will be added to the NQCC web site for the updated FIFEplan when available for public comment.</p>	BM
15. Treasurer's Report	<p>CM reported current balance of £1462.05, Funds set aside of 969.96 (Environmental Fund 85.98, Xmas Decor 222.00, Floral Enhancement 661.98) leaving unrestricted funds of 492.09.</p>	
16. Floral Enhancement	<p>LC is following up with MF to ready for Spring 2015. MF will follow up with Fife Council re broken barrel removal.</p>	
17. Correspondence	<p>BM confirmed all mail posted to web site. Information and forms received for Community Council elections. JG will post the election information and timetable to the village notice boards.</p>	JG
18. Any other competent business	<p>i) LC asked how the catboat 'dumped' in West Bay could be removed – IGM will be writing to the new Chair of the Boat Club this month and will mention the catboat. ii) BA updated the Council on the arrangements for the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial as he will be absent</p>	

	that day. BA will liaise with IGM who in turn will work with CM to organise the event.	BA/IG M/CM
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Next Meeting: Thursday 13 November 2014, North Queensferry Community Centre 7.30pm

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