

## North Queensferry Community Council

### Minutes of Community Council Meeting on Thursday 10 July 2014

<b>Members Present: Ian G Mitchell (IGM), Lin Collis (LC), Christina McKenzie (CM), Jan Short (JS), Mary Finlayson (MF), Barbara McKechnie (BM), Jim George (JG), Councillor Mike Shirkie (MS)</b> <b>6 Members of the public including Jim West and Mike Low</b>		
Agenda Reference	Description	Action
<b>1. Apologies for Absence:</b>	James Lawson (JLL)	
<b>2. Minutes of previous meeting.</b>	Minutes for July were approved	
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>	<p>Mike Low drew attention to a point, in the May NQCC meeting minutes, requiring clarification. The amendment to the last sentence in Item 5 NQCC Meeting Minutes 2014 has been posted to the NQCC website to reflect the statement refers to 'a minority of those present'.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nqcc.co.uk/documents/minutes/2014-minutes/nqcc-minutes-may-2014_amendment-100714.pdf">http://www.nqcc.co.uk/documents/minutes/2014-minutes/nqcc-minutes-may-2014_amendment-100714.pdf</a></p>	BM
<b>4. Police Report</b>	No report received this month.	
<b>5. World Heritage Steering Group</b>	<p>MF reported that there had been no further Group meeting since the last NQCC meeting. MF outlined, for the benefit of the public attending the NQCC meeting, the composition of the World Heritage Steering Group. Information on the core members and the group functions is available at <a href="http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk/forth-bridge/world-heritage/steering-group.html">http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk/forth-bridge/world-heritage/steering-group.html</a></p> <p>To assist public consultation relating to the UNESCO bid, two public meetings were held on each side of the Forth Bridge (4 in total). Details of the public consultation and the resultant Nomination document and Nomination Management Plan document may be read in detail at <a href="http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk/forth-bridge/world-heritage.html">http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk/forth-bridge/world-heritage.html</a></p> <p>MF outlined the consensus with (South) Queensferry that there is still a great need for the voice of the communities to be heard. IGM, who also attends the Group meetings, outlined how he strongly objected to a proposal to have a World Heritage Site Management Group consisting only of the local authorities, public agencies and Network Rail but not the community groups (including community councils) participating in the Steering Group. This proposal was dropped following his objections and counter proposal to have an individual with overall management responsibility and answerable to all, including the Community groups. Following a question raised by Mike Low (ML), MF confirmed that she would raise any queries raised by the North Queensferry community at the Steering Group meetings. MS</p>	

	<p>highlighted that 4mths ago he had questioned Fife Council as to who was channelling all the thoughts on the impact to North Queensferry and the surrounding area. Following that Fife Council had appointed Sandra Montador-Stewart to co-ordinate and present the information. MS confirmed an initial walk through has taken place with Sandra and the Fife Regional Technical Officers and a potential development plan is planned to be presented to the community on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Jim West (JW) queried the Environmental Management Plan based on a 20meters limit beyond the Bridge and does not include the village. See information in the Nomination document at <a href="http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk/images/forth_bridges_forum/documents/Forth%20Bridge%20World%20Heritage%20Nomination%20Document.pdf">http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk/images/forth_bridges_forum/documents/Forth%20Bridge%20World%20Heritage%20Nomination%20Document.pdf</a> (Section 4.b (ii) Environmental Pressures states that under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, an Environmental Assessment was not required. See also section 4.b (iv) Responsible Visitor Access and Education.) IGM stressed the error in a recent press article apparently linking the World Heritage Nomination and the building of the Network Rail visitor centre as one project. LC and MF highlighted the options to circulate information to all village residents including in Ferry News. At meetings of the Steering Group, it should also be stressed by the community representatives attending that the stakeholder members have greater administration capability to keep the communities informed.</p>	
<p><b>6. Tourism Project Group</b></p>	<p>This group has had the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and next will be on 13 August 2014. The group, a subset of the Forth Bridges Forum, is still finding its feet and considering options eg National Park status for the area, IGM and several members present stated that designation as a National park may not be appropriate, given the onerous formal controls that such designation brought with it.</p> <p>MF confirmed the group is looking at the 3 Bridges as a tourist focus area. MS said that the group is looking at this side of Scotland up to Dundee so focus is not just to be with Edinburgh and Stirling. The group will look at tourist packages that will keep visitors in the area for 4/5 day periods – looking at how the area can utilise a base that may have a 50 mile radius – how can Fife Tourism generate an area of growth bringing jobs and people to Fife.</p>	
<p><b>7. Forth Bridge Forum</b></p>	<p>IGM finds this group frustrating in that it is difficult to obtain information on the progress of the group. Requests have been made for feedback from the attending Fife Councillor, Pat Callaghan but they have not been answered so MS will follow up with the councillor attending the Forum and give advance notice to provide information and attend the NQCC September meeting. MF said although NQCC are not members of the Forum, about 30 people attended UNESCO</p>	<p>*MS</p>

	meeting.	
<b>8. Forth Replacement Crossing</b>	The last meeting attended by a member of the Community Council was on 21 May and the next will be 20 August. The meeting of 28 June was missed. Jim West queried when the lower access road to North Queensferry would be closed - differing dates have been quoted at different meetings. Once LC has dates confirmed of the August meetings to share information with the Community, LC will forward the information to BM to post on the website.	*LC
<b>9. Forth Bridge Festival</b>	MF had circulated good news to the members of the Council advising that the Queensferry Hotel would still be having functions including a Fireworks Street Food Party and Banquet and there will be a Jazz Jamboree on 14 September involving the Albert and Ferrybridge Hotels and the Community Centre. MS will pass further information to MF the week commencing 14 July 2014.	*MS
<b>10. North Queensferry Protest Group (HONQ)</b>	LC said that she felt the group had come about due to lack of communication from the Community Council. IGM stressed that constructive engagement with HONQ is good. LC and JG from NQCC confirmed their interest in HONQ. ML stated that he did not criticise lack of communication and continued to outline the current status of HONQ. An initial meeting was held on 24 June and a second meeting was held on 9 July. Enough interest exists for the viability of the Group but as yet there is no committee appointed. ML advised that he wishes to work with the Community Council and that nothing could be achieved if we did not work together. ML confirmed that HONQ is a single issue focus Group. MF was concerned that at their original meeting, HONQ did not seem to be aware of and had not consulted with NQCC for all relevant information on the UNESCO application and work that has been done by NQCC on this; it was said that there was no information on the NQCC website which was not the case. MF responded to say that NQCC members had attended various group meeting reporting back to NQCC and that NQCC had held 2 open meetings and had distributed information leaflets on these meetings throughout the village. JW asked why the HONQ meetings were not held in the Community Centre which was intended to be the heart of the NQ Community. (IGM confirmed that if there were cost issues, he had been involved in money discussions regarding the dissemination of information on the Forth Replacement Crossing). IGM confirmed that personally he believed development must not happen to the detriment of the village but if UNESCO votes Yes, then the World Heritage Site status will happen. JG confirmed that personally he believed the Forth Bridge deserves World Heritage status but the Network Rail development did not. MF asked if the benefits have been	

	<p>presented fairly in the HONQ meetings. CM asked that HONQ, in their existence as a 'one agenda focus group', circulate the current objectives as stated by ML not the aggressive nature of the original. (See Addendum 1 below for the current objectives outlined by ML). ML said that after the public meeting planned for 10 September 2014, HONQ plan to host a meeting inviting all of North Queensferry, not just the bottom of the village. MS advised that the village needs to respect all views eg what could improve the village vis a vis maintaining the village. MS continued that there is a fine balance to be struck, to maintain caution and be united somehow, be careful of not damaging the UNESCO bid by looking also at the pro-active side – the Rail Museum, possibility of travel by train predominantly, possibility of boat transport between NQ and SQ and from visiting cruise boats. MS advised that some concerns may be allayed by the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014.</p> <p>JW asked that lessons be learned from the experience of Deep Sea World's development, that they (the developing authority) must be tied down and promises have to be bankable.</p>	
<p><b>11. Community Council Communication with Village Residents</b></p>	<p>LC asked that Meeting Minutes must always be on the village Notice Boards. This was in place but no cover arranged for holidays/periods away. The website should be promoted more and maintained. BM confirmed that WebMail manager had been contacted and issues are being resolved. BM will update the Website. JG agreed to post Minutes on Village Notice Boards. MF will deliver the keys of Notice Boards to JG.</p>	<p>*BM *JG *MF</p>
<p><b>12. Forth Bridge Community Stakeholders Meeting</b></p>	<p>The meeting held at end of June was intended for everyone to be able to attend but had been worded for Community Councillors. LC has asked that the next meeting be open to all and is held on the North side of the Forth. No answer has yet been offered.</p>	
<p><b>13. Meeting with Fife Council, Network Rail and Transport Scotland on 10 September 2014</b></p>	<p>This meeting is planned and details will be circulated in the village when confirmed. MS asked that Mike Low and Jim West do consider joining the Community Council as he believed that they could make a valuable contribution to the Council. This was backed by IGM.</p>	
<p><b>14. Community Group Updates</b></p>	<p>-The Station development does need promoting eg a notice on the North bound platform that an exhibition/cafe is on South platform.</p> <p>- Community Trust is in continuing negotiation with Fife Council in respect of West Bay and IM advised that good contact had been made with the Acting Chairman of the Boat Club.</p> <p>- Hohoe visit – JS confirmed that the minister and a teacher from Hohoe will be visiting North Queensferry in late September. Eliz Mackie will be holding a fundraising garden party at which there will be a display on the twinning, at their</p>	

	home on 7 September 2014	
<b>15. Fife Councillors Reports</b>	<p>MS advised that the Naming Ceremony of the new Aircraft Carrier at Rosyth had gone well and had worldwide media coverage of the event which was good for the area.</p> <p>MS, as per CM, confirmed that the MUGA funding had been approved.</p> <p>The relocation of Beamer Light was moving forward.</p> <p>The lease issue of the West Bay harbour is progressing as are the Boat Club discussions.</p> <p>Additional funding for the Fife South West Area is available but applications have to compete with other projects.</p> <p>CM asked MS how we stop large vehicles mistakenly entering North Queensferry – a sign warning against suitability for HGV is required. LC will forward previous correspondence regarding heavy vehicle access to MS who will raise the issue.</p> <p>An issue had been raised to CM regarding overgrown hedges/bushes in the lanes linking Mount Hooly, Queen Margaret's Place and Whinney Knowe. MS confirmed that trimming should occur in council maintained areas twice a year. CM will send information regarding the overgrown areas and photos of some unacceptable gardens at Brock Street to BM who will write to MS with details of request to be made to Fife Council.</p>	<p>*LC</p> <p>*CM</p> <p>*BM</p>
<b>16. Planning Applications</b>	JG confirmed no Planning Applications received this month.	
<b>17. Treasurer's Report</b>	CM confirmed NQCC had a balance of £917.81 but committed funding of £969.69 – negative because an outstanding grant is due.	
<b>18. Floral Enhancement</b>	<p>A member of the public, Ann Gordon requested that there is a cleanup of Mount Hooley overgrown area. This is an ongoing issue – the area is the responsibility of Fife Council but Health &amp; Safety issues prevent maintenance. JS had planted 36 tubs, the Boat at Ferryhills Road entrance to the village but confirmed the dwindling number of volunteers to maintain the flower displays. JS is stepping down from the Community Council after 9 years. IGM did try to persuade JS to revise her decision. The Community Council wish to record their thanks for Jan Short's hard work and commitment. JS has prepared a folder of all paperwork relating to the Floral Enhancement of the village (including the completion of application for Grants) to be passed to the next person responsible. LC said she would take responsibility temporarily. JW queried if local garden maintenance companies could take responsibility. MF confirmed that she has identified a list of village issues which could be assisted by funding from organisations. MF will forward this information around Members.</p>	<p>*LC</p> <p>*MF</p>

<b>19. Correspondence</b>	BM confirmed that correspondence to date had been posted to the Website and asked for Members to let her have event or news information to keep the website updated.	
<b>16. Any other competent business</b>	LC will follow up with SQ for a follow up meeting LC will circulate meetings to the Community Council members relating to what needs to be done/requires assistance for the meeting on 10 September 2014.	*LC

Next Meeting: Thursday 11 September 2014, North Queensferry Community Centre 7.30pm

There will be no meeting during the month of August 2014

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#### Addendum 1

North Queensferry Community Council Meeting Minutes 100714

Source: Mike Low note to the Secretary, North Queensferry Community Council

1. The name of the campaign group is Hands Off North Queensferry or HONQ
2. The objectives of the group are as follows:

to focus on the protection and preservation of the character of the village

to support existing businesses in the village

to resist developments throughout the village of North Queensferry which threaten residents' peaceful enjoyment of village life.

to ensure that residents are consulted and informed of changes which may be proposed for the conservation area, its immediate surroundings and the village as a whole.

and to make representations on behalf of residents to those, officially or otherwise, involved in making development proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts on the village.