

North Queensferry Community Council

Minutes of Community Council Meeting on Thursday 13 March 2014

Members Present: Chair- Iain G Mitchell(IGM), Christina McKenzie (CM), Lin Collis (LC), Barbara McKechnie (BM), Jim George (JG), Jan Short (JS), Mary Finlayson (MF), J J Lawson (JL) Councillor Mike Shirkie (MS)		
Agenda Reference	Description	Action
1. Apologies for Absence:	Marisa di Fillipo Ferrier (MdFF), Simon Tate	
2. Minutes of previous meeting.	Approved with addition of the note from LC on archiving	*LC to provide note to BM
3. Matters Arising	<p>i) LC will follow up with Network Rail again re responsibility for repair of the Battery Road wall</p> <p>ii) IGM updated the NQCC on the joint meeting held with the representatives of the (South) Queensferry Community Council (SQCC). IGM and LC commented on 1 or 2 inconsistencies and IGM will forward comment on same to the SQCC Secretary and query possible date for next joint meeting. LC to put together a list of groups with activities affecting the village (eg Forth replacement crossing) with their purpose and contact details..</p> <p>iii) MdFF to forward website invoice to CM</p> <p>iv) Responsibility of Data Controller is to be passed from Brian Armstrong to BM who will reply to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and inform them of the change.</p>	<p>*LC</p> <p>*IGM</p> <p>*LC</p> <p>*BM</p>
4. Forth Bridge World Heritage Steering Group	MF advised that the meetings of this group will continue in the present format for a further 15 months. This means the Community Councils would continue to be involved rather than an 'inner circle' making decisions. IGM suggested that in cooperation with SQCC, once the World Heritage status is granted, there should be a prepared proposal for the community admin of the site. A copy of the World Heritage application has now been received by NQCC and is available for review. MF advised that a visit from UNESCO representatives may be expected in mid to late September. MS emphasised that local interested groups should be prepared to answer questions and 'present their case' at this time and advised urgent contact with Fife Action Plan – LC will contact Sandra Montador-Stewart, Service Manager - Strategic Policy & Tourism to invite her to the	*LC

	<p>April Meeting of NQCC with a view to receiving an update on the envisaged transport and tourist plans. It is to Sandra's group that MS believes local projects with a business plan should be presented eg environmental cleanup, signage and railway station. SQCC have indicated to IGM that they do have concerns that local groups are not working together to a common goal. MF indicated that in the Steering Group meetings, it was raised that funds may be available for the NQ projects but it was stressed that these funding requests must be logically presented in a businesslike manner. JLL outlined signage and possible environmental projects. MS advised that a consultant had been engaged by Fife Council prior to the World Heritage Application to advise on issues to be considered. MS recommended that NQCC review a copy of these recommendations prior to Sandra attending the April NQCC meeting.</p>	*MS
5. Forth Bridge Forum	<p>This is the over arching group over the WHSG and it was recommended that Pat Callaghan again be invited to attend an NQCC meeting.</p>	*LC
6. Forth Replacement Crossing	<p>LC and MdFF attended the most recent meeting. It was confirmed that the group were unable to help with funds or resources in kind for the MUGA (latter due to insurance issues). LC advised that there had been well attended successful public education meetings on the South side of the Forth and hoped that a similar large attendance would happen on 25 March 2014 in North Queensferry. Publicity notices have been circulated in the village including The Albert, Rankins, newsagent at the railway station, the community centre and will be put on the notice boards around the village plus Carol Dean's notice area at the bottom of the Brae.</p>	
7. Forth Bridge Festival	<p>As per the event organisers' request, JLL has completed event detail forms in respect of walking tours of North Queensferry which will be able during the festival period. The starting points for these walks will be the North Queensferry Hotel for those with cars and the NQ Railway Station for those using rail. Volunteers will be required to guide the walkers to the War Memorial starting point. Traffic flow concerns were expressed by the NQCC and it was noted that during the Forth Bridge Centenary celebrations, the village was closed.</p>	

	MS confirmed Police Scotland was still not visibly involved in the Festival discussions. BM will write to the Festival organisers, copying Police Scotland, quoting previous arrangements for the Centenary and raising concerns for specifically 3 nights of - the Fireworks, the Flotilla, the Torchlight Procession and the lunch	*BM
8. Fife Councillors Reports	<p>MS advised in respect of the Harbour administration, Fife Council Executive Committee would meet on 25 March and final decision will be made available prior to 1 April 2014. MS outlined £500k budget available to SW Fife and other Fife communities for projects – so more Councillors will be being asked about projects and consequently in touch with Community Councils for information. Business cases will be scrutinised for benefits and discussed in the April meeting. Projects with ‘match funding’ would appear favourable compared to those without. In NQ, the MUGA would be included. The NQCC was asked to contact local groups in March and bring ideas to the April 2014 meeting. Many groups are represented on the NQCC through cross membership but, in first instance, the PTA and the Youth Club should be consulted. Pat Callaghan, MS and Douglas Chapman will review the wish lists and decide which projects have potential to find favour.</p> <p>MS advised also of an extension to the Community Payback scheme providing £1million for environmental improvements engaging unemployed youngsters, with a view to eventual full time employment. In view of NQ potential environmental benefits eg Mount Hooley area, MS will forward details to NQCC Secretary for information and possible action by JS.</p>	<p>*ALL</p> <p>*JS</p> <p>*MS and BM</p>
9. Planning Applications	JG advised of: external and change of use applications for the NQ Railway Station to which there was no further comment; application for replacement windows on Whitehouse, Main Road, NQ – this house is in the village designated conservation area and in this respect, BM to send neutral comment on the planning application in respect of asking Fife Planning Dept to be sensitive to conservation issues in the village.	*BM
10. Police Matters	No Council representative was able to attend the latest Community Engagement Meeting but	

	the Police Community Officer forwarded a note on the meeting to BM – this was circulated to Council members.	
11. NHS Fife Area Therapeutics Drugs Committee	Nominations had been requested. No volunteers were forthcoming.	
12. Treasurers Report	No change from sums reported in February 2014.	
13. Floral Enhancement	JS reported 6 volunteers had recently worked on The Brae garden area. LC reported a resident's concern about the state of the garden between the car park and Battery Road. It was agreed that this could be dealt with along with the Brae and Mount Hooly if the village were offered a Fife Council young people's squad.	
14. Rights of Way	LC will confirm with the Fife Council Countryside Access Team relating to a query on a North Cliff Right of Way.	*LC
15. Correspondence	BM had posted all correspondence to date on the NQCC website, forwarding those of specific interest or with a deadline to the members of the Council.	
16. Any Other Competent Business	<p>i) Responsibility for gardening in front of Battery Road Car Park was discussed. Recurring comment throughout meeting was that the effect of the World Heritage Application and the Network Rail visitor centre could mean significant changes in the Battery Road area.</p> <p>ii) CM drew the Council's attention to rising water levels on Spring high tides in River Forth on small pier adjacent to Forth Bridge.</p> <p>iii) MF gave apologies for April and May NQCC meetings.</p> <p>iv) MS recommended letter to Fife Council re review of Battery Road car park opening hours. NQCC noted that it was Fife Council who determined the opening hours and gave the key to nearby residents. BM to ask Fife Council if they have reviewed hours in respect of winter/summer. See also November 2013 Minutes</p> <p>v) JFG queried, in view of the village traffic flow concerns, if additional parking had been included in the MUGA planning application.</p> <p>vi) LC asked if BT could be contacted by the CC re repainting the telephone box in the village.</p>	<p>*BM</p> <p>CM/IGM (Community Trust) qto check</p>

Next Meeting: Thursday 10 April 2014, North Queensferry Community Centre 7.30pm