

Kingsbarns Community Council

Minutes of meeting held

6th November 2017

at 7pm

Kingsbarns Memorial Hall

Present: Margaret Harkins (Chair), Martin Dibbs (Secretary), Eileen Brown (Treasurer), Sue Jenkins, Shona McIntosh, Ulrike Weiss, Fiona Ramsay, Kate Holy (Minutes Secretary).

Councillors: John Docherty.

Community Police Officer: PC Gillian Tetlow.

Approximately ten members of the public.

1 Apologies: Calla Cobb, Cllr Bill Porteous, Cllr Linda Holt.

2 Community Police Officer: Gillian Tetlow told the meeting that nothing of note had been reported to her since the last meeting – simply matters relating to pest control and debris in the road. She brought the attention of residents to a matter of online fraud which is prevalent in the area where scammers are pretending to be BT staff solving problems relating to the recent upgrade and obtaining access to residents' computers by remote access. They pretend to solve a non-existent problem but in fact gain access to passwords and bank accounts. She asked everyone to be aware that BT does not contact people in this way. She has been aware of complaints about aircraft flying overhead and that the University Air Club has undertaken to change their route. A resident pointed out that the sign forbidding dogs from entering the playpark had faded and it was suggested that Fife should follow Glasgow's lead in forbidding dogs and smoking in playparks. Cllr Docherty said he would investigate replacement notices and whether additional bye-laws would be required.

3 Rosie Scurr and Ewan Walker proposed Forth wind farm Neart na Gaoithe: The Chair welcomed Ms Scurr and Mr Walker who had offered to attend the meeting to discuss NnG's new application for a windfarm in the Firth of Forth. He had attended a meeting 5 years ago to discuss a previous application which has been through many appeal processes and was presently the subject of an appeal by the RSPB. Mr Walker gave a very full talk on how

technology had advanced over the past 10 years in the field of wind energy. As a result fewer, though higher wind turbines were now proposed – a maximum of 54 – and much more was known about the movement of birds and sea mammals which he felt would help in mitigating harm. They have a lease on the sea bed for 50 years and so far there is no experience to show how long the turbines will last. The sea bed off Fife Ness (the direction of the turbines) is very hard so drilling will be needed to erect the piles required. There was a long and interesting discussion concerning 1) noise and vibration of construction; 2) danger to birds – Mr Walker said that this would mainly be to kittiwakes and gannets, although the increased height of the turbines may help here; 3) techniques to ‘frighten off’ sea mammals during the construction process to avoid harm; 4) importance of green energy; 5) discussions with the fishing industry and mitigation protocols to make sure there is no loss of income with disruption payments and day to day management necessary. The Chair thanked Ms Scurr and Mr Walker for their very interesting presentation.

4 Minutes of the Meeting Monday 4th September: These were read and approved. Proposer: Shona McIntosh, Seconder Ulrike Weiss.

5 Treasurer’s Report: Eileen Brown reported that KCC had a balance of £2018 in the bank. Two small bills were waiting to be paid.

6 Planning Report:

Phase 2: The Community Council has been asked by the Reporter to comment on 3 possible conditions for the Phase 2 development. These are: (a) windows to be removed from the houses adjacent a West Neuk development site (b) pedestrian entrance to be removed at one edge of the site to discourage parking on Station Road. (c) two affordable units to be conditioned. The Planning Subcommittee met and has drafted out a response which states is that we agree with conditions (a) and (c) although we would like additional conditions on the affordable units to prevent their early sell off on the open market. We do not agree with condition (b) as the poor design of the site, the large footprint of the houses and the inadequate visitor parking will result in parking along Station Road. It was agreed that this comment could be sent on behalf of KCC.

The School Park

As no maintenance or factoring has taken place on School Park despite a condition being imposed by the Reporter and signed off by the developer in 2013 by Fife Council. The residents pay a factoring fee but the only thing that appears to be done is very intermittent mowing of the green, which most of

the time is a disgrace. 6 lights are not working and both Ogilvie and Fife Council deny responsibility. Under the condition the factor is responsible and the proposal agreed by Fife Council relating to the factor was submitted by Ogilvie. The lights are a safety hazard and Kate has drafted a letter to the MD of Ogilvie asking for clarification of how this condition is being fulfilled.

North Quarter Steading

A new site plan has been placed on the planning website showing where the soakaway will be placed. As a result, Cottage B, which is the one nearest the existing houses, will be moved further towards the back of the site, Kate has written to George Knox, the developer and Alex Laidler, the Planning Officer, asking for confirmation that the condition we agreed with them relating to the floor level and ridge heights will not be altered. It would be if a further metre of land was not excavated. If it were to be altered, we would then need to ask for further consultation both for KCC and the residents of the existing development.

7 Gardening Group: The Gardening Group would like to apply to Fife Council for a Floral Enhancement Grant of £300. Martin Dibbs has checked with FC and the application needs to be in by March 2018. There is likely to be a shortfall so the Group were invited to apply to KCC for any shortfall. The Group also stated that it would welcome new volunteers.

8 Any Other Business:

(a) Kenly Windfarm: Ian Mayo asked about the status of the Kenly Windfarm application, since the Reporter recently declined to decide on the grid application. The KCC understands that this is a de facto refusal.

(b) Gutter sweeping: Ian Mayo stated that the gutter sweeping service never reached Barns Law. Cllr Docherty will make enquires about extending this service.

(c) 20 mph sign to beach. Concerns were expressed over the lack of 20 mph signs on Sea Road after the junction with Seagate. It was explained that this was regarded as countryside with no streetlights or road signs.

(d) Flashing speed alert signs on entrances to village: Fiona Ramsay asked if it would be possible to have signs at the entrance to the village indicating their speed to approaching drivers, as is seen in other villages. Cllr Docherty said he would investigate this.

(e) FC Winter Plan: Cllr Docherty passed a copy of FC's winter plans to the Secretary.

9 Date of Next meeting: Monday 8th January 2018. This is a week later than usual due to the holiday on 1st January.