

## Kingsbarns Community Council

Meeting - Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 in the Memorial Hall, 7pm

### Minutes

**Present:** Cllr. Elizabeth Riches.

**KCC:** Chair Kate Holy (**KH**), Vice-Chair Rob Moodie (**RM**), Secretary Kit Mc Mahon (**KMcM**), Raymond Hair (**RH**), Eileen Brown (**EB**), Cate Scott, (**CS**), Fiona Buchanan (Minutes Secretary) and 10 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Donald Macgregor, Cllr. Mike Scott-Hayward, Fiona Mitchell F.C. (East Neuk and Landward Area Manager), and KCC Treasurer Alistair Duncan (**AD**).

#### **1. Minutes of last Meeting of March 7<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Secretary **KMcM** explained that the Minutes had been taken by **Martin Dibbs**, (not Dibley), and apologized for the error, recorded on some copies.

The Minutes were read and approved. **Proposed Eileen Brown.**

**Seconded Raymond Hair.**

**Signed** – Kate Holy (Chair), Kit McMahan (Secretary).

#### **2. Matters arising from Minutes**

##### **(i) Memorial Hall – Open Day, April 27<sup>th</sup>.**

The event was the outcome of recent discussion joint meetings with the Memorial Hall Committee, Kingsbarns Community Council, Fife Council Community Education Worker Gus McKain, and Locality Support Team Leader, Fiona Mitchell.

The purpose was:

- to raise the profile of the facilities offered by the Memorial Hall
- to gather information on its current function within the village community
- to invite suggestions and consider possible activities /projects which might serve to promote and extend the use of the Hall facilities. Those who regularly use the Hall were invited to display and talk about their activities. Several Groups responded: Members of the Hall Committee, the KCC, and the various groups represented were kept busy with the general organisation of the various information tables visual display boards, discussions and in providing the free cups of tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. Idea boards and a Suggestion box were provided and there were lively discussions at each point of interest. Gus McKain, also set up and monitored a Suggestion Board. Groups represented included the Ladies' Work Party, the Annual Flower Show, the History Project, the SWRI, CHAS, the Art Club, the Monday Club and the KCC. Following the Event, Members of the Hall Committee and the KCC collated the information gathered from the suggestion box for discussion at the

next **Joint Meeting on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

**(RM, KMcM,EB)**

**(ii) KCC Budget.** It was decided to include this with the Treasurer's Report.

**(iii) Flooding.** Since the last meeting, Kate Holy has been in contact with David Smeaton, Lead Officer for Roads at Fife Council and Anne-Marie Dewar, Community Relations Officer with Scottish Water. A site inspection was arranged by David Smeaton and many of the road drains were found to be again blocked with silt from the fields. Arrangements have been made for clearance of these within the next two weeks. In addition, meetings are being arranged with the landowner of the fields.

Anne-Marie Dewar confirmed the area of Scottish Water's responsibility, which remains as outlined in response to previous KCC complaints / enquiries.

**KH** reminded those present that Scottish Water is responsible for water from sewerage pipes only, and is responsible for corrections, only where there is a problem with internal flooding. Maps showing the drains in the village have been supplied and copies will be made available. Neither Fife Council nor Scottish Water has maps of underground watercourses.

Scottish Water will also be arranging a visit by the Local Network Analyst at the end of May. Fife Council will also be in attendance with the intention of applying a joint approach to further investigations.

Attention was drawn to the appalling incidents when sewage back-flow caused flooding and overflows from internal pipes and fixtures. It would seem that this clearly falls within Scottish Water's area of responsibility. **(KH)**

**(iv) ENLEN.** Rob Moodie attended the meeting of the East Neuk Community Councils Group on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. It was reported that ENLEN, ( East Neuk & Landward Energy Network) had closed that afternoon, the Scottish Government funding initiative having finished, as predicted at the previous Meeting. The probability of funding being renewed and made available, albeit with altered criteria and focus, had not been realized. ENLEN had been successful in helping a number of residents in the East Neuk with advice on energy efficiency and grant availability. The website is still open and efforts are being made to seek alternative funding e.g. the possibility of a wind turbine to generate income for the project.

By way of further explanation, **KMcM** reported that, at a previous ENLEN Meeting, areas of focus, consistent with predicted Government criteria, had been discussed. In Kingsbarns, established as possible areas were - the Memorial Hall, the Church and possibly the School (less likely, however, in view of Dept. of Education over all responsibilities, etc.) Each community was urged to put ideas for a bid together as quickly as possible as any new scheme of funding would be competitive; first come, first served. As reported, however, ENLEN did not survive to promote any further bids.

**STANDEN**, (St Andrews Energy Network) is to continue, on a reduced basis, supported by both the St Andrews Community Council and the St Andrews Development Trust. An offer has been made to provide services to residents in Kingsbarns, in return for a donation from the KCC. This will be considered when we discuss the Budget/Treasurer's report. The contact person with STANDEN is **Sue Jenkins**, a Kingsbarns resident, a former employee of STANDEN and now a volunteer. With a view to preparing a bid, consistent with criteria, anticipated as above, Sue and a representative of ENLEN carried out an initial energy audit of the Memorial Hall. Sue has offered to take this further - if required - and has obtained agreement from the Project Co-ordinator at STANDEN.

Initially, it has been suggested that, as KCC Chair, **KH** is given a mandate to enter into dialogue with STANDEN. This was agreed. (Proposed: **RM**, Seconded: **EB**.) **KMcM** suggested making contact with the other villages in the East Neuk (formerly supported by ENLEN) to discuss options/joint endeavours, etc. **(KH)**

### **3. Secretary's Report**

• **History Project:** The Kingsbarns book remains on sale at various outlets and recent visits had succeeded in gaining some further orders. The display of some copies of old photographs drawn from members research collections for the book and displayed at the Memorial Day Open Day, drew a great deal of interest, conversation, and reminiscences. The need for storage and the search for somewhere to establish an Archive, accessible for those who are interested in history remains a concern.

• **S.W.R.I:** As in previous years, the **KCC** has been invited to put a team together for the Annual Quiz event. A team (of 4) has risen to the task and the invitation accepted. There will be a £10 entry fee.

• **The Fife Elderly Forum Newsletter (Spring 2011):** It was noted that this is available in the village shop.

• **Telephone Scam:** Attention was drawn to a warning regarding a telephone scam which informs the recipient that they are entitled to a Council Tax rebate and asks for bank details. The advice given was read out and noted.

(Copies to be placed in the Shop. A copy will also be made available on the website.)

• **The British Youth Council** are currently running an award scheme to encourage young people to become involved in community democracy. The current Award enables young people a worthwhile opportunity to 'shadow' a Local Authority Councillor in their work. Contact for information /details : Secretary, **KMcM**

#### • **The Green Gym Project**

The Project offers volunteers the opportunity to get fit and exercise in the open air, at

the same time enjoying and learning more about environmental and horticultural issues, by assisting the Cambo Estate with the maintenance of their woodland and other areas.

### **Open Day on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May from 10am – 2pm at Cambo Estate.**

#### **4 Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of **Treasurer AD**, a brief statement was presented by **Chair KH**.

The balance on April 18<sup>th</sup> 2011: £1,712.28. The Fife Council Annual Community Council Grant of £281.36 has been received for 2010-11. The Grant for 2011-12 will be claimed later in the year. Subject to confirmation of funds awaiting clearance, there will be an estimated fund of £1,250 available for eligible projects.

\* In addition, there is a donation is expected from Kingsbarns Golf Links. **See Item 9.**

#### **Budget Meeting of April 11<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Suggestions for the use of funds were:

- a notice board on the side of the bus stop providing information on community events/issues;
- making a contribution towards storage facilities in the Memorial Hall which would be available for all groups which use the Hall

**Further suggestions would be very welcome.**

#### **5 Councillors' reports**

**Potholes – Cllr.Elizabeth Riches** informed the meeting that repairs have been made to some of the potholes in the village. All potholes should be reported to :

**Fife Council tel:08451 555555 EXT.453348**

or by e-mail, to **Sara. Wilson @fife.gov.uk.**

**Pothole repairs should be carried out within 5 working days after they have been reported.** (It was observed that some potholes, reported in Back Stile, have been, to some extent, repaired.)

•**Weed killer** - It was brought to the attention of Councillor Riches that residents have become increasingly concerned about Fife Council gardeners use of weedkiller in the areas closely adjacent to residents' gardens. Elizabeth undertook to obtain information regarding the policy regarding the Council's use of weed killer, which type of chemical is being used and also the method of its dispersal. **(Cllr. ER)**

**On behalf of the KCC, Chair Kate Holy thanked Cllr. Riches for her assistance.**

## **6. University Wind Farm**

**RM, KMcM, and KH** attended the meeting of the Kenly Wind Farm Project Board at the University on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011. It was reported that, following the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessments, the University intend to submit a Planning Application for the Windfarm Proposal, to Fife Council, in May 2011. It was noted that the MoD (Ministry of Defence) are making a statutory objection on the basis of radar issues for RAF Leuchars. In reply, the University has submitted a plan of mitigation with the intention of overriding the objection. The MoD has not yet made any response. All residents should have received the leaflet : **Kenly Wind Farm Update Meeting.**

**Public Meetings** will be held by the University at

**Boarhills on Tues., June 14<sup>th</sup>** and **Kingsbarns Memorial Hall on Wed. June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Between 4 and 6pm**

Following these meetings, the **KCC** plans to call an **Open Meeting** in order to gather the views of the community, so that a formal response can then be made to the published plans. **CS** suggested that further publicity should be given to the Public Meetings. After a brief discussion, it was generally felt that the University have already made efforts to ensure interested parties are informed but it was suggested that perhaps more intensive efforts could be made to ensure that all residents are informed and aware, once a date has been organised, by the **KCC**, for the Open Meeting to discuss the Community's response. **(KH, KMcM, RM)**

## **7 Planning Committee Report**

As **Chair of the Committee RM** reported that there are currently **7** applications awaiting decision:

1. Land adjacent to "The Hollies"
2. Outbuilding extension at Kingsbarns Golf Links
3. Listed Building Consent. 6 Bell's Wynd to change door to window
4. Installation of replacement windows, 5 Kildinny Yards
5. Extension at West Lodge, Pitmilley
6. Conservatory extension. 6 Station Road.
7. Listed Building Consent 6 Station Road.

It was noted that the application re. "The Hollies" continues to cause concern among

some residents due to privacy issues for existing properties, together with the road safety issues surrounding the proposed access.

Responding to questions, **RM** confirmed these issues had been included in the objection which has already been submitted to Fife Council and that the **KCC** would expect a full response to each of the issues raised.

There are also **2 appeals** regarding the proposed housing on the land north and south of Station Road and west of The Square. The Reporter visited the site on 18<sup>th</sup> April and informed that a decision should be made by May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was noted that this decision **will be final** – Cllr. Riches confirmed that there can be **NO** further appeal, (unless this were to be based upon Legal Issues.)

There was a brief discussion concerning the status of Kingsbarns as a designated ‘conservation area’ As previously, the significance of ‘conservation’ status was raised, but some issues remain unresolved. It was noted that, with listed buildings, Listed Building Applications had to be submitted by Fife Council to Historic Scotland for approval, causing considerable delay in the process. Non-listed properties appeared to be more free to make alterations with or without any permission being sought e.g. satellite dishes.

Cllr Riches reminded the meeting that permission was required for any such actions and that if Fife Council were to be made aware of the situation, residents could be required to rectify/remove any alterations, for which proper application for permission had not been made. Arrangements could be made for a Planning Enforcement Officer to check out any reports /complaints from neighbours. If wished, requests for this could be done anonymously. This advice was noted. **(RM)**

**8. Energy Committee Report** . At its meeting held on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, it was noted that:

- The National Census 2011 would include questions on energy use, which could, in time, give valuable information on the situation in Kingsbarns.
- The Government Grant System ceased at the end of March but it is expected to be replaced by a new system with altered criteria.
- Information on energy saving could be placed on KCC website and a possible new notice board, as well as in the shop.

Consideration was given to:

- Energy saving devices suitable for installation at the Memorial Hall, Kingsbarns School and the Kingsbarns Church.
- Kenly Wind Farm Proposal – questions to raise at Project Board Meeting (see above)

- The importance of monitoring wind turbine proposals of adjoining communities
- **Sue Jenkins** has agreed to take over the Chair of the Energy Committee, as **RM** is already Chair of the Planning Committee. **(SJ)**

**The next Meeting is due to take place after the Environmental Impact Studies related to the Wind Farm proposal have been completed.**

### **9. Kingsbarns Golf Links**

On behalf of the Kingsbarns Golf Links, (KGL), the current General Manager, Stuart Mc Ewen, has offered the KCC a donation of £2,527.73 and, as Chair, KH has been invited to receive the cheque, on Tuesday, (May 10<sup>th</sup>). The KGL would prefer that the money be used as capital to finance local projects rather than as income for the KCC. **KMcM** and **KH** have made enquiries with Fife Council Legal and Administration Dept., in order to gain assurance that it would be in order for the KCC, as a statutory body, to accept a gift from the KGL. It has been affirmed that Community Councils are allowed to accept donations, provided these are not from a political source. Therefore, the KCC will be delighted to accept this generous donation. On behalf of the people of Kingsbarns, the KCC wishes to express its gratitude for the consideration shown for the village and its community. Many thanks to the Kingsbarns Golf Links and to Stuart McEwen.

(The School and other community organizations will be consulted concerning possible ways to use the money. **Other suggestions are welcome.**)

### **AOB**

- 1)**Village Tubs** – **Eileen Brown** informed that the tubs will be emptied on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>** and new planting will take place on **June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am**. All helpers welcome. **(EB)**
- 2)**Beach Area** - **Cate Scott** reported that the “No Camping” sign at the beach had been removed and burnt and suggested that strategies be adopted, to reduce the amount of bonfires on the grass in the picnic area. A brief discussion followed, to review camping the issues, current rules and guidance, etc. It was suggested that the provision of more picnic tables, in this area, might be useful and Cllr. Elizabeth Riches agreed to make this request to the Council. **Kit McMahan** also agreed to resume contact with the relevant Dept. Officers at Fife Council, to discuss what possibilities might exist to improve matters. **(Cllr.ER) (KMcM).**

**There being no other business, on behalf of the KCC, Chair Kate Holy thanked everyone for attending and brought the Meeting to a close.**

**Date of Next KCC Meeting: Monday July 4<sup>th</sup> 2011, at 7pm**

**K.McMahon (Secretary)**

**F.Buchanan (Minutes)**



