

KINGSBARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Monday 7th November 2011

Present

Kate Holy (KH)(Chair), Rob Moodie (RM)(Vice Chair), Alistair Duncan (AD)(Treasurer), Calla Cobb (CC), Eileen Brown (EB), Raymond Hair (RH)

Cllr. Donald Macgregor, Fiona Mitchell (FC Locality Manager)

Six village residents

Apologies: Cllr. Riches, Cate Scott (CS), Kit McMahon (KM)(Secretary)

Kate Holy opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SEPTEMBER 5TH 2011

The minutes were approved, proposed by AD, seconded CC

2. MATTERS ARISING AND CHAIR'S REPORT

Beach Area

KH has agreed with Robbie Blyth, Beach and Coastal Officer for Fife Council that

- the handrails will be replaced (early/mid-November)
- new sand will be put on the stairs (although this will blow away again eventually)
- the metal barrier will be fastened by means of a padlock with a combination code known only to the emergency services and a few other people.
- additional picnic tables will be placed on the grass by the fisherman's shelter to discourage camping

In addition, KH has contacted the Environmental and Waste Department to ask for a new dog waste bin to be installed after the last one disappeared. The comment was made that the dog waste bin on Back Stile was also missing.

Coastal Path

KH has been in touch with Deirdre Munro Coastal and Countryside Ranger for Fife regarding the disappearance of part of the coastal path to the left of the golf course, towards St. Andrews. Ms Munro is aware of this problem and last year stone steps were built down to the beach to avoid this area, but the beach is very rocky at this point. Ms Munro will reassess the area and determine whether any further action can be taken.

KM joined the meeting at this point.

Rights of Way

KH has been in touch with Sarah Johnston, Access Officer for Fife regarding Rights of Way in the village and surrounding area, and obtained maps of currently registered Rights of Way. There are currently only two in the village – one behind Torrie House and one alongside the Manse up to the old railway line.

Many people are aware that there were more Rights of Way and Ms Johnston advised KH to collect information from long standing residents of the village. This has been done and also maps have been passed to KH of past Rights of Way. For these to become registered Ms Johnston would have to take court action, but as an alternative she has put KH in touch with Ms Hobster of Scotways, the Rights of Way society.

Ms Hobster will come to the village early in the New Year and walk the claimed Rights of Way with KH and will, it is hoped, register these as 'claimed Rights of Way'. This means that if anything threatens these lanes, the local authority will be obliged to protect them. KH offered thanks to all who have helped to collect the necessary information, and will report on this in due course.

Association for Protection of Rural Scotland

KM reported that no contact had yet been established.

Kenly Wind Turbine Letter of Objection

RM reported that KCC had submitted an objection to Fife Council on 11 October 2011, based on:

- Public Opinion
- Fife Council's Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance (which limits any wind turbine development on this site to a maximum height of 50 metres)
- relevant Fife Structure Plan and Local Plan Policies
- the relevance of Student Support – It had been noted that the student population of St Andrews University had been circulated to lend its support to these proposals, but very few students and staff live in the affected area
- St Andrews has been protected from the sight and disturbance of the turbines, but not the communities of Boarhills, Dunino and Kingsbarns, and
- a quotation from Dr James Cobb on the potentially devastating impact the development could have on vast numbers of migrating songbirds from Northern Europe & Russia.

“The Hollies” planning decision

RM reported that Mr & Mrs Reid have received planning permission with eleven conditions, none of which deals with sight lines from the dangerous access to their site or the question of access to “The Hollies”. Further, representations to the effect that adequate off-street parking and turning space within the curtilage of the site cannot be established in compliance with standards without repositioning the proposed house, were unsuccessful.

It was agreed that the Community Council should take no further action.

Traffic Control Issue

KM reported that the possible installation of “countdown” signs on the approaches to the village 30 m.p.h. limit was still outstanding, and there was no up-to-date information on whether, and when, this might be carried out.

Bus Shelters

KM reported that the issue is continuing, and that no definite progress has been made on securing funding for repairs and therefore for programming the work.

Beautiful Fife Award

KM reported that she had collected the Silver Award the village had been given at the ceremony in Glenrothes. Competition is now fierce. This will be hung in the shop when the frame from last year's award has been returned to her.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Fife Council Forum for the Elderly. KM reported that she had attended an interesting conference, discussing how FC could improve services, the principal conclusion of which was that more communication and better and more appropriate methods of communication, were needed.

KM reported that she had received a letter from the Headmaster of the School advising that he wished to claim for support from the Kingsbarns Golf Links donation for equipment for the school.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented a written report. Draft accounts for 2010-11 show a deficit of £311.05 and there is a deficit of £619.07 for the seven months to October 2011. The deficit is due to two £500 Floral Enhancement Grants, for 2010-11 and 2011-12, having "gone astray" in the banking system, because incorrect bank account details were provided in the application forms.

Notwithstanding the shortfall in funds received, the current bank balance is approximately £2,700, largely based on the donation from Kingsbarns Golf Links, and to a small surplus brought forward from previous years.

The Treasurer, in consultation with Fife Council, has been investigating the situation, and trying to recover the missing funds. The Treasurer also reported his concern that payments due from history book retailers may have gone astray for the same reason, and that no direct bank deposits had been received from retailers.

Commenting, KM said that she was very concerned at allegations that payments had not been received, and that she disagreed with the conclusion that incorrect bank details had been provided either to Fife Council or to retailers, as the details used had not changed for many years. KM further stated that payments had been received from book retailers.

KM and CC left the meeting at this point.

The Treasurer reiterated that no direct bank payments had been received from book retailers, but that three sums had been received in cash or cheques in the past year, and banked as over-the-counter deposits.

KH suggested that the Treasurer should be instructed to continue the investigation, acting as the sole point of contact with Fife Council on the matter, to understand the reasons, ensure that the situation could not recur and also if possible retrieve the missing sums. This was proposed as a motion by EB, seconded by RM, and carried unanimously.

Further, KH suggested that the process for applying for grants, including signing grant applications and receiving and dealing with subsequent correspondence, and for providing bank details to third parties where appropriate, should be the responsibility of the Treasurer. The suggestion was discussed and it was agreed that this would not inhibit any individual or village group from identifying opportunities for seeking grant support, or from initiating applications to be directed through the Treasurer. The suggestion, as modified, was then proposed as a motion for agreement by EB, seconded by RM, and carried unanimously.

5. FIFE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

Fife is carrying out a Shoreline Management Review where they are looking at issues that affect the shoreline in Fife from Kincardine (roughly) to Newburgh (roughly) with a view to updating their Shoreline Management Plan. This is a non-statutory policy document for coastal flood and erosion risk management.

Fife is looking at areas that may be affected by these two issues over the next 100 years (divided into short term, medium term and long term risks) in terms of climate change, natural events and economic constraints, and has made a notional division of its coastline into different sections. The section that relates to us is Policy Unit 2a47, Crail to St Andrews.

The proposal for this area is for No Active Intervention as it has been judged that neither coastal erosion nor rising sea levels will have any significant impact on this area during the next 100 years. So, in essence, Fife's intention is to do nothing in our particular coastal area.

As most of the coastline around Kingsbarns belongs to the Cambo Estate, any necessary coastal defence repairs would have to be done by the Estate and negotiated between Fife and Cambo. It would seem reasonable that Fife should concentrate on areas where property and livelihoods are threatened by coastal erosion and the only risk in this area over the next 100 years is felt to be for the coastal path, which may have to be rerouted in places and the Crail caravan park, where caravans may have to be moved.

KH feels that the KCC may have no particular comment at this stage but feels that residents should be aware that there is public consultation on the draft Shoreline Management Plan until 28th November. Copies of the Plan can be seen at County Buildings Cupar or online should any individual want to comment.

6. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

As the Planning Committee has only one **new Planning Application** to consider, it had not been necessary to meet since 17 August:

I1/04580/FULL Erection of office/administration building by Kingsbarns Golf Links

It was agreed that no objection be raised.

There are a number of planning applications for **small wind turbines in our surrounding districts**, which KCC continue to monitor, and a pending application for 5 large turbines on Lingo Wind Farm, Largoward by West Coast Energy, recently the subject of a public meeting and exhibition. KH had requested a photomontage to illustrate the view from The Square, Kingsbarns.

Fife Forest and Woodland Strategy Consultation – This strategy will identify opportunities and priorities for future forestry & woodland planting and management in Fife’s rural & urban environments. It should thus provide a strong framework for the improvement of Fife’s environment, potentially offering opportunities to local land owners, the potential for visual containment of parts of the village, and a local source of fuel from coppiced timber. Consultants have been appointed to assist in this task which will provide a policy framework from 2011 – 2051.

It was agreed that KCC Planning Committee be tasked with the preparation of a response to this consultation, and that one or more KCC representatives should attend a consultation in Rothes Hall, Glenrothes, between 4 – 7.30pm on 16 November 2011.

7. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Macgregor reported that the annual budget round was underway in Fife Council, and that with cuts of £93 million expected over the next three years, the outlook was difficult. The approach being adopted was to develop simpler and more integrated (less duplication and overlap) approach to services.

Fife Council snow preparations for the forthcoming winter are well in hand, with salt stocks that reflected last year’s experience, and more recognition of the need to service secondary roads as well as primary routes.

FC Transportation Department will attend the next Locality Meeting to review future plans for East Neuk and Landward.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Communities Conference, Scottish Parliament.

KH attended the above on 29th October 2011. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce community organisations to the work of the Scottish Parliament and how their own work could be enhanced by aid from the Scottish Parliament. KH attended two workshops, one on the work of the Petitions Committee and one on Working with the Media, both of which were extremely helpful.

Cambo Request for support for their Application for a grant for the Woodland Walk

Catherine Erskine has written to KH to ask for KCC support of an application Cambo Estate is making to Fife. To quote the application – “The objective of this grant is to provide wheelchair access to an extensive area of the woodlands at Cambo Estate. This area is used for woodland arts workshops, bird watching, snowdrops by starlight (an illuminated woodland trail through the snowdrop woods) and will soon be used to provide badger watching. The paths throughout the woodlands at Cambo are coated with bark chips which is fine for the able bodied visitors but unsuitable for use by wheelchair users and for those people with mobility problems. The area identified could be made wheelchair accessible with a new bridge across the burn, flat paths with suitable surfaces for all weather use and would allow disabled visitors to be fully involved in all the activities provided by Cambo Institute.”

It was agreed that KCC would support the application, with the caveat that the KCC would be concerned about disturbing badgers, which were felt to be secretive and shy nocturnal animals.

Post meeting note: An email exchange with the Cambo Estate on November 8th produced the following comment from the Estate:

“I should have made it clear that this badgers' sett is one of many in various woodlands on Cambo. Viewing will be in guided parties organised by Scottish Badgers who are also suggesting CCTV to allow for viewing from the Stables when it is up and running. Do please pass this on to those concerned.

Scottish Badgers made the point that education and awareness raising is half the battle and actually helps stop illegal digging of setts.”

Solar Panels Grants

Sue Jenkins reported that there were various grant schemes available to assist people interested in installing solar panels and she would be happy to provide advice for interested parties. She will leaflet the village and put a notice in the shop to publicise her offer.

Cigarette bins at the bus stops

This facility had been requested to reduce the litter problem: Councillor Macgregor said that he would try to ascertain whether this would be the responsibility of the Council or of Stagecoach.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 9th January 2011