

## KINGSBARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES of Meeting Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2012

#### Kingsbarns Memorial Hall 7pm

**Present:** F.C. Councillor D. Macgregor. Cllr.M. Scott-Hayward.

KCC : K.Holy, Chair (KM), R.Moodie, Vice- Chair (RM), K.McMahon, Secretary, (KMCM), A.Duncan, Treasurer (AD), C.Cobb, E.Brown, C.Scott , and 9 members of the community.

**Apologies :** Cllr .Elizabeth Riches, Fiona Mitchell (Fife Council Area Locality Manager), Raymond Hair.

**Minutes of Meeting: November 7th, 2011** were approved as correct.

Proposed:RM

Seconded: EB

#### Matters Arising

##### **a)Association for Protection of Rural Scotland**

A cheque has been sent by the Treasurer to the Association to cover membership. Confirmation paperwork is expected in due course.

**AD**

##### **b) Kenly Wind Turbine planning application**

i) The Chair of the Planning Committee reported that Fife Council has advised St Andrews University that, if the proposed turbines are reduced, in height, to 80 metres to tip of the blades, thus below the sight line from West Sands, St Andrews, it will consider approving their planning application. This could necessitate the addition of more turbines to generate the proposed electricity supply of 12MW. It was observed that, in making such a recommendation, Fife Council Planning Dept. would appear to be going against its own published Guidelines of a turbine height of "... not above 50metres..." In response to questions, Councillor Macgregor observed that, for the moment, he was unable to offer any comment in the matter.

ii) A second issue has been raised by Fife Council, concerning the route and scale of the transmission lines while another issue we raised concerning the impact on migrating birds from Northern Europe appears not to have been considered significant.

In discussion, it was observed that studies by the RSPB did not appear to confirm the existence of such a hazard, although the turbines might present a potential problem for certain raptor species. During a recent meeting of the Kenly Landscape Protection Group it had been revealed that the Objections raised by a West Fife farmer to a similar proposal on the grounds of unsustainable noise of turbines and relative acoustic impact upon nearby settlements had been successful in the refusal of planning permission.

It was suggested that the currently lodged Objections from Kingsbarns might be reviewed and re-worded in this respect.

To date, the KCC has not received any formal notification of any amended proposal re. the height of the turbines. The understanding is that, at Kenly, the University is holding firm to its proposal of 100metres height . All information is available online.

**Fife Council's responses on this Issue will be monitored**

**RM**

**iii) University Update Leaflet (Every household should have received a copy.)**The University's declared intention is that, if planning permission is granted, it proposes to provide around £1. 2 million, over the lifetime of the turbines, to be shared by the local communities of Kingsbarns, Boarhills and Dunino.

##### **Establishing a Kingsbarns Community Trust Fund**

To manage such money would require the formation of a Community Trust. It was generally agreed, that it would be of benefit to establish such an organisation, irrespective of any outcome to proposals currently under consideration.

**It was agreed that a meeting to consider the way forward shall be arranged**

**KH**

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

**a) Road Signs** The speed 'countdown' road signs had been commissioned and completed. F.C. Traffic Management Dept. was in the process of detailing a road team to carry out the work of erecting these at both entrances to the village. It is hoped to carry out the work in mid-February.

#### **b) Bus Shelters.**

Both shelters have been inspected by Fife Council.

Estimates obtained indicated that repairs for stonework would be expensive. Concern remains that any repairs done should discourage any further recurrent vandalism and avoid the necessity for yet further repairs. Consideration will be given as to how best to do this.

The matter has been considered for attention, and will be as listed as priorities and Dept. Budget availability permit.

#### **c) Kingsbarns Primary School**

KMc reported Headteacher Michael Bissett had put forward a request to the community council for funding. This was postponed for discussion, as listed under **Item 7.**

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

The contents of the written report, were noted by the Community Council.

- In relation to the financial investigation, the Community Council endorsed the suggestion that the main objectives should be, first, to ensure that we recover the missing funds and second, that the problem does not occur again. If these are achieved, then it is unproductive to spend any more time exploring the history and original causes of the problem. The Treasurer and the Chair should use their discretion as to how much additional work should be done on this. **AD**

- The **StAndEn** contribution and the Memorial Hall hut refurbishment, totalling £365.98 should be charged to the Kingsbarns Golf Links donation, leaving a balance of £2,161.75 available for eligible approved projects.

- A full programme should be planned for **Floral Enhancement** of the village in 2012, with budget costs being provided to the Treasurer by late February, in time to enable any proposals to be included in an overall budget for Community Council expenditure. This will be presented for consideration and approval at the KCC March meeting.

- **The recommendations were Approved by the Community Council.**

### **5. Planning Committee Report**

The Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee reported that:

- Further information is currently awaited from Fife Council. regarding the *Fife Forest and Woodland Strategy Consultation* as presented. Upon receipt of this, the Committee will be in a better position to consider its position and give a response.

#### **Current Planning Applications:**

1. **11/06303/FULL** – Kingsbarns Golf Links. The proposed extension, to the farm building, to form a golf store would seem to be designed to integrate well with the present layout of annexe buildings and trees. **No grounds for Objection** **Agreed**
  2. **11/06437/FULL** – Installation of solar panels, by Kingdom Housing, to houses, numbers 7-14, The Steading, Kingsbarns. Plans, as received, indicate excessively large panels, not in keeping with the pan-tile roofs and ignore the established conservation status of the village. A formal consultation has been requested. **Objection to be lodged.** **Agreed**
- **Housing Development, West of The Square - Cambo Estate.**

Sir Peter Erskine has proposed a meeting with the Community Council to take place at an early date, to discuss the layout changes proposed by Fife Council. He believes that the original layout

more closely meets the views expressed by the community. This meeting would also give further opportunity for discussion on matters of concern e.g. the house finishes, proposed village green and the road junction of Torry Wynd, Station Road and Main Street.

Following a brief discussion and a résumé of previously voiced objections to the building of **any** houses, it was agreed to refer the decision to the Planning Committee. **Agreed.**

Enquiry – If Speed countdown road signs proved to be ineffective as a Control measure, will they be removed? Any available information/advice to be sought at - F.Council Traffic Management Dept.

## **6. Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. Macgregor reported having received a comprehensive outline of information concerning Fife Council's 'Snow Plan' provisions, with an outline of Roads to be gritted.

With regard to the recent wind storms, some 2,000 repairs currently required to be addressed by the Council. Expenditure to repair Lighting was also required. Meetings to determine a Budget and outline spending priorities would be ongoing throughout February, with energy companies such as Scottish Power involved in discussions.

(A brief discussion revealed that with power supplies, wind damage had been reported by residents in several areas of the village. Of particular concern to the community remains the derelict Shed. (See **AOB.**)

Cllr Macgregor reported that bins, with lids on which cigarettes can be extinguished, will be placed in the bus shelters.

## **7. Kingsbarns Golf Links Fund – Applications.**

### **a) Games for All.**

Organizer, Chris Moodie, gave a report on the Project and progress to date. (Vested interest voiced by Vice-Chair **RM.**)

Support from the Fund was sought for equipment for games and activities for both children and accompanying adults. Chris stressed that 'Games for All' was open, equally, to all, not just youngsters and their 'escorts'. Everyone in the community and surrounding areas was welcome to join in. To date, equipment had been purchased for table tennis, quoits and skittles as well as a number of board and floor games. Storage space had also been provided by Rob and Chris who had donated a shed, which had been installed by the Community Council, behind the Memorial Hall.

It was hoped to purchase a second table-tennis top and also equipment to expand the Games programme.

It was agreed that the Community Council should purchase the equipment already bought by Chris Moodie and make a grant towards the new table top table tennis table, once the KCC had been assured that these items could continue to be kept, in storage, in the Memorial Hall. KH will write to the Chair of the Hall Committee to ask about this and the money will be paid to Chris Moodie, as soon as a satisfactory reply is received, following the Hall Committee meeting in February. Payment will be made on production of receipts. **KH/AD**

On behalf of the community, the Chair thanked the Organisers for their hard work in helping set up the Project and wished the venture every success.

b) Kingsbarns Primary School. The Secretary reported on an Application from Headteacher Michael Bissett for funding to assist with a list of proposed projects. After a short discussion, it was agreed that £500 be awarded to the school to help in this respect.

KMcM agreed to continue to liaise with the school in community matters. Resident Ronald Sandford welcomed the community council's generous decision and intimated that he would pass on the news to the forthcoming Meeting at the School. He also volunteered to discuss possibilities for funding for cricket equipment from the 'Quick Cricket' organization.

**AOB**

**8. Farm Sheds**

The Sheds had been reported as being in a dangerous state after the recent gales by a number of residents to the Chair. Chair KH reported that she had contacted Scott Young, Lead Officer of Fife Council Building Safety Section. She had been told that a contractor was making the sheds safe but it appeared that in fact the owner of the sheds was removing sections of the roof. The sheds are now on the defective buildings list and will be inspected regularly. The Chair will continue to press this matter and keep it to the attention of Fife Council. **KH**

**9. Manse Road**

Mud on the right of way beside the Manse which spills on to the footpath and road continues to be a big problem for local residents. KH wrote to Fife Council on December 15<sup>th</sup> about this and has had no reply yet. She will continue to press for a solution. **KH**

**10. Parking at The Hollies**

KCC Member CC raised concerns about vehicles parked on the footpath at the bend in front of the Hollies. It was confirmed by RM that no further e-mails had been received from the Planning applicant concerning the problems which developed last year. Rob undertook to express the community council's concerns in this situation with the vehicle owners to attempt to better –and more safely - resolve the situation. Should the vehicles, thus parked, continue to be considered a potential danger to others and the owners feel unable to deal with the situation, the only option would be to contact the Police in the matter.

**D Back Stile**

The appalling state of Back Stile due to weather, farm and vehicular traffic was reported. Other stretches of road in the village are also completely unsatisfactory in terms of road maintenance. Fife Council is to be asked to address the situation as soon as possible.

**KMcM** undertook to contact the appropriate Department.

**Date of Next Meeting: Monday, March 5th**

**Chair**.....

**Secretary**.....