

KINGSBARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Monday 5th March 2012

Present

Kate Holy (KH) (Chair), Alistair Duncan (AD) (Treasurer, minutes), Calla Cobb (CC), Eileen Brown (EB), Kit McMahon (KM) (Secretary) Raymond Hair (RH)

Cllr. Donald Macgregor, PC Susie Martin, Simon James (Fife Council)

Six village residents

Apologies: Cllr. Riches, Cllr. M. Scott-Hayward, Rob Moodie, Fiona Mitchell (FC Locality Manager)

Kate Holy opened the meeting and said that the order of items on the agenda would be modified to enable the Police Community Officer and the Fife council representative to make their contribution and leave to fulfil other commitments.

Police Community Officer Report

KH invited PC Susie Martin to introduce herself and describe the scope of her responsibilities. PC Martin introduced the Community Speed Watch Scheme, under which local volunteers could be trained in the use of radar speed detection equipment to monitor behaviour in local communities. The necessary equipment costs £300, and the possibility of obtaining Fife Council grant support and/or sharing between communities was mentioned. In addition, following the decriminalisation of parking offences, enforcement could be dealt with by Fife Council employees rather than Traffic Wardens.

Fife Council – Use of New Waste Bins

Mr. Simon James of Fife Council reviewed the introduction of the 4-bin service for domestic waste in Kingsbarns, and the recycling objectives being sought by Fife Council. The service is described in detail in public information leaflets, but of particular interest were the ideas of bin sharing between households, and chances of flexibility on bin location for collection purposes, and concessions for properties with insufficient storage and movement space for bins.

I. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING January 9th 2012**

The minutes were approved, proposed by CC, seconded by AD.

Kenly Wind Turbine Planning Application

12/00129/EIA – West Coast Energy, Lingo Wind Farm

Updates on these two planning matters are provided in the Planning Committee Report, item 4 below.

Farm Sheds

KH reported that Scott Young, FC lead officer on public safety for buildings, had written to Mr. Laird, and the shed was now on the Defective Buildings “watch” list, to be checked every month.

Manse Road

The Cambo Estate has flattened and gravelled the lane, and the farmer, Mr. Laird, had undertaken not to use it with heavy vehicles. (It was noted that Mr. Laird had not consistently honoured this undertaking). The comment was made that the correct name is Barns Law Road, not the more commonly used Manse Road.

Back Stile

Cllr McGregor reported that FC Transportation Department had written to Mr. Laird requiring him

to use appropriate signage when the road was muddy, and to undertake cleaning.

The resurfacing of Back Stile would be investigated by FC, and rated as to priority. Works in Kingsbarns were provisionally listed to take place in 2013-14, but patching would be continued as necessary. The recent closure of Back Stile was initiated by Scottish Water, not by Fife Council.

2. Secretary's Report

Speed limit "countdown" signs on the approaches to the village had been delayed due to a backlog of works, but it was hoped that these would be installed by the end of March.

The bus shelters had been assessed but no decision had been made, due to budget constraints.

There had been no activity in relation to the Fife Elderly Forum because of retirements and difficulty in recruiting replacements.

KMcM advised the Community Council of her wish to relinquish the role of Secretary, after almost six years, as part of reviewing her future commitments.

KH proposed, and the Community Council endorsed, a vote of thanks to Mrs. McMahan for her devoted efforts, and noted with approval that Mrs. McMahan wished to continue to serve the community as a Community Councillor.

3. Treasurer's Report

AD tabled a written report, attached for the record.

The gardening group produced a budget for 2012 activity in two parts:

Spring/Summer

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Five trees | £175 |
| Compost | £ 50 |
| Feed | £ 10 |
| Stakes and ties | £ 50 |
| Plants for summer planting | £100 |

Total £385

Autumn

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Two new tubs (Back Stile and Seagate) | £700 |
| Shrubs | £ 50 |
| Bulbs | £ 20 |

Total £770

Approval of the Spring/Summer budget of £385 was proposed by AD, seconded by CS, and agreed unanimously.

The Autumn budget proposal of £770 will be considered later.

The approved grant payment of £240.98 for Games for All equipment is shortly to be made to Mr. and Mrs. Moodie. No claim had been received from Kingsbarns Primary School, with whom AD is in contact on this point.

Mrs. Sue Jenkins (village resident) commented that setting up a Community Development Trust (CDT) (see separate item below) could amount to £1,000, and the CDT proposers might seek financial support from the Community Council with this expense.

4. Planning Committee Report

A report from the Planning Committee was read in for the record in the absence of Mr. Moodie, and attached as part of the Minutes. A note produced by AD in relation to the application for modifications at I The Square was discussed and referred to the Planning Committee.

5. Speed restriction proposal on A917 Boarhills to Hillhead

The Community Council had not been consulted on the proposal, because of an error in understanding the boundary limits between Boarhills and Kingsbarns Community Councils. The meeting expressed general disquiet that the length of the restricted area might dilute the effect of safety measures required at the Hillhead Farm bend. However, it was acknowledged that the main danger at this bend was for traffic going from Kingsbarns towards St. Andrews, and the speed restriction would start at this point. Cllr. McGregor advised that the proposal was still open for consultation, the deadline being March 23rd, and CS advised that the matter had been discussed in the KCC Planning Committee.

It was decided that KH should write to Fife Council, supporting the speed restriction area from Boarhills to Falside Cottages, and opposing its extension from Falside Cottages to Hillhead.

6. Diamond Jubilee celebration proposal

The need for coordination between local bodies (Memorial Hall, the Church, and the Community Council) was acknowledged and EB and KMCM undertook to act as representatives of the Community Council.

7. Coastal Path Clean-up

Clean-up activity is planned for April 17th.

8. Community Development Trust

KH reported briefly on this subject. If the Kenly Wind Farm project were to proceed, the expectation would be that there would be funds available for the village, for which a managing body, such as a CDT, would be required. Further, a CDT would be eligible to apply for external funds in its own right. The Community Council cannot set up a CDT. A village meeting had taken place during the week of February 27th, and Mrs. Sue Jenkins was acting as the coordinator of people who might be interested in becoming involved with the establishment of a CDT.

9. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. McGregor reported that he and Cllr. Arbuckle had received an email from Sir Peter Erskine proposing a meeting at the end of March to discuss possible changes in the approved designs for the Station Road houses, and saying that the Cambo Estate had been consulting with the Community Council on these changes. Messrs McGregor and Arbuckle had declined the suggestion of a meeting, considering that it would be inappropriate.

For the record, the Community Council noted that notwithstanding the contrary suggestion by Sir Peter Erskine, there had been no consultation or meetings on variations to the approved plans, which the Community Council continues to oppose.

10. **AOB**

Beach Car Park

Sir Peter Erskine had emailed Cllr. McGregor on February 7th about the future of the Beach Car Park when the existing lease comes to an end in 2014. The email exchange is attached for information. The essence of the preliminary proposal is understood to be that the car park could be moved away from the sea, to be replaced by a new one to the west of the golf course, using the area by the sea to enhance the (golf) course and reduce the vandalism on the (fisherman's) shelter.

The matter was discussed briefly and generally, without benefit of maps, and the conclusions were firstly to note that the matter had not previously been raised with the Community Council, and secondly that no proper view could be formed at this very early stage.

New Bank Account

AD reported that in view of the difficulties with Santander, he wished to propose moving the Community Council banking to the Royal Bank of Scotland, and that a Community Council resolution is required to do this. The Royal Bank had provided two resolution texts, which appear, at least in part, to duplicate each other. AD recommended that both texts be considered and approved by the Community Council, to avoid future uncertainty or unnecessary work.

The texts of the recommended resolutions are attached for the record. The resolutions were proposed by RH, seconded by EB, and approved unanimously.

Village Notice Board

CS reported that a quotation had been received for the construction and erection of a village notice board on the bus shelter by the Church. The cost, including backing, would be £180 plus VAT for a lockable notice board with a laminated glass front.

The proposal to proceed with this acquisition was proposed by EB, seconded by AD, and approved unanimously.

Common land at North Quarter Steading

The gardening group was interested in the possibility of improving the appearance of this small piece of ground, and KH undertook to check the status/ownership of the parcel.

Date of Next Meeting – 7 p.m. Monday 30th April 2012,

Kingsbarns Community Council

Treasurer's Report 9th January 2012

1. Financial Investigation

The continuing investigation finally revealed that two payments of £500 each had “bounced back” to the Council, because the account details were incorrect, and the Council appears to have failed to react to this. The Council paid us £1,000 on February 8th.

The remaining £100 is still outstanding, but I am reasonably confident that the position of that is the same, and that eventually we will recover that also.

Although I have been reluctant to cross-examine and criticise the Council on this, I am now of the view that we should do so, because their accounting processes are incompetent, as a result of which we have had to do a great deal of work that should have been unnecessary.

As far as Santander is concerned, we have registered strong formal complaint, to which we still await a reply. I am recommending at this meeting that the Community Council should transfer its banking to the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The situation with regard to receipts from history book sales is clearer, and with the help of Waterstones, we have now received £147, being three payments of £49 each, of which the first two were received on the third attempt, the account details having been incorrect. I have not been in contact with other retailers, most, if not all of whom will pay by cheque or cash.

2. Payments and Receipts since 9th January 2012 (expenses in brackets):

| | |
|--|----------|
| Bank balance at 9 th January 2012 | 3,262.36 |
| Secretarial Expenses | (12.50) |
| Book Sales – Waterstones | 147.00 |
| History Project balance transfer | 434.20 |
| Missing payments – Fife Council | 1,000.00 |
| Bank balance at 2 nd March 2012 | 4,831.06 |

3. Financial Position at 2nd March 2012

Cash, Debtors and Creditors

| | |
|--|----------|
| Bank Balance 2/3/2012 | 4,831.06 |
| FE Grant 2012 | 410.00 |
| (Creditors and unrepresented cheque payments) | (283.27) |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Total | <u>4,957.79</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|

Represented by:

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Restricted Funds | 1,920.77 |
| Unrestricted Funds | 3,037.02 |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Total | <u>4,957.79</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|

Note that the transfer received from the History Project bank account has not been treated as restricted funds, as the project has been closed. I understand that if any activity were to be resumed, the Community Council has undertaken to consider the provision of funding such renewed activity.

4. Budget for activities to March 31st 2013

As a result of the recovery of the missing payments (and past underspends) the Community Council is in a very good financial position, and I would be keen to plan for the next thirteen months and to use this resource to the maximum effect. At the time of writing, known possible expenditure (from the unrestricted funds of £3,037.02) could be:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Hall hire costs | £ 60 |
| General/secretarial/audit expenses | £200 |
| Notice boards | TBC |
| Diamond Jubilee | TBC |
| Floral Enhancement | TBC |

I recommend that the Community Council consider possible activities, including those noted above, with a view to producing a plan.

REPORT

1 Kenly Wind Turbines Planning Application

- In response to KCC's query, Fife Council Planners have stated "that the applicants have only been asked to amend their plans in relation to landscape issues; the other concerns held by the Community Council would form part of any report on the whole application to committee." **Note**
- KCC representatives are to meet with the University, jointly with Boarhills & Dunino CC soon, to discuss current proposals, Community Benefit and the need for a Section 75 Agreement, on the chance that planning permission is granted. **Note**

2 Planning Committee Report

Fife Forest and Woodland Strategy Consultation – The Chairman of KCC Planning Committee attended a meeting, which provided an opportunity to examine analytical drawings prepared by the consultants, meet the personnel involved and ask questions. Not only were they identifying areas for forest and woodland expansion, but opportunities for related industries e.g. furniture making and fuel for woodburning stoves. There were also opportunities for local land owners and communities to plant trees for amenity and shelter. KCC Planning Committee agreed to prepare a plan for its area. **Note**

Amended Planning Regulations - It should be noted that the new planning regulations regarding a relaxation of householder developments, which no longer require planning permission, do not apply in conservation areas, such as Kingsbarns, or on listed buildings. **Note**

Current Planning Applications:

12/00129/EIA – WEST COAST ENERGY, LINGO WIND FARM – Erection of 5 wind turbines (100m high), anemometer mast and erection of ancillary works including substation building, internal access tracks and associated infrastructure, between Dunino and Largoward, north of the B940. Over the next two months, KCC must take a view on this planning application.

Community Benefit Forum. – RM reported on a meeting he attended of the Lingo Wind Farm Community Benefit Forum. Representatives of surrounding community councils attended the meeting, at which the nominated Independent Chair explained that she had decided to resign, due to criticism of her position on the board of Elmwood College. This was in view of the fact that East Coast Energy had provided scholarships to local colleges, wherever they developed a Wind Farm. The rest of the meeting, which was chaired by Martin Dibley, discussed potential replacement Independent Chairmen and agreed a way forward for an appointment to be made. KCC considers that only those community councils which bear the brunt of impact from the Wind Farm should receive community benefit, but meantime KCC should continue to participate, to learn from the experience, which had so far emphasised the importance of a Section 75 Agreement before planning permission is granted.

Note

12/00550/FULL & 12/00551/LBC – Mr & Mrs P Dean, 1 The Square, Kingsbarns: Formation of door and installation of roof window to rear of dwellinghouse. No drawings yet available online.