

Kingsbarns Community Council
Minutes of meeting held at Kingsbarns Memorial Hall,
Monday 6 March, 2017 at 7 p.m.

In attendance: Margaret Harkins(Chair); KCC members: Eileen Brown (Treasurer), Calla Cobb, Martin Dibbs (Secretary), Shona McIntosh, Ulrike Weiss; Councillors John Docherty and Donald Macgregor; PC Gillian Tetlow representing Fife Constabulary; 33 members of the public.

Also present: Peter Marshall, PAS Scotland;
Stephen McCarron, representing IMG; Kevin Smith, representing Fife Council.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Elizabeth Riches.

2 Presentation by PAS

Peter Marshall, a volunteer planning officer with PAS, outlined the work of the organisation which provides impartial advice and assistance to communities on planning matters although it does not write planning objections.

3 Ricoh Womens Golf Championship

Stephen McCarron, representing the organisers, IMG, set out their proposed plans and case for traffic management for this golf championship as they affected Kingsbarns. These were:

- 1. The check point at the top of Back Stile on the junction of the A917 has been suggested in order to minimise disruption to local residents. The check point would a) limit traffic on Back Stile and b) prevent fly parking along Back Stile although we intend to have 'no parking' cones along one side of the road to assist with this. This comes at a cost to implement and doesn't benefit the Tournament. The check point is very easy to manage involving a car park label displayed in windscreens and vehicles will be able to move freely and quickly through the checkpoint using this approach. We are happy to remove this check point if that is the wish of local residents, but we would caution against this with your convenience in mind.*
- 2. The road closure beyond Back Stile and Seagate will ensure that only the limited number of vehicles that need to access the small reserved car parks off the road can do so; that cars do not impact spectators as they cross the road and that the beach car park does not become unmanageable given it is small and some Tournament infrastructure will be located there for the week.*
- 3. IMG expect approximately 250-300 vehicles per day to use the route via Back Stile on each day [Thursday to Sunday](#) and less in the first part of the week. This is a small number when spread over the course of each day.*
- 4. To clarify, the beach remains open and local residents will be able to walk down Back Stile to access the beach as usual. This will not prevent anyone from walking on the beach.*

5. *The coastal footpath is not being closed. It is being diverted and those wishing to use the coastal footpath will be able to do so by following this short diversion.*

6. *We are applying to close the footpath on the grounds of a) wishing to secure the golf course and b) health and safety. I note from emails and the article in The Courier that health and safety is not an issue for the day to day running/tee times at Kingsbarns and I would agree with that, but we have a responsibility as organisers to look at this for the Tournament and we strongly believe that having up to 10,000 spectators per day on the golf course is a very different situation.*

7. *The road closures, restrictions and coastal footpath rerouting is at application stage only. We wrote to you in February, almost six months ahead of the Tournament, wishing to discuss our plans. We wish to engage Kingsbarns residents and involve everyone in the process.*

Kingsbarns' case was set out by Kate Holy:

1. *In terms of Back Stile, the original planning permission for the Golf Course stated that the only vehicular access to the golf course would be from the A918 (now A917) - the main entrance -specifically to address residents' concerns about traffic through the village. This has never been breached. Access for golf traffic via Back Stile and Sea Road would require a new planning application. Kingsbarns was a village long before there was a golf course next to it. Back Stile is a road through the village, leading to Sea Road which leads to the beach. Back Stile is neither a route to the golf course by car, nor to any golf club car park. It is not owned by the golf course but is a public highway. It cannot be used as a route to a golf event car park being specifically excluded by planning condition from being such. (I have a copy of the condition with me). There is no shortage of land available for car parks which are used by other tournaments which would be more convenient for the tournament and residents and agrees with existing conditions.*

2. *If the car park is not in the Sea Road turf nursery, there would be no need to check cars going down. Residents are absolutely not prepared to show ID or be questioned in going about their lawful business or for unexpected visitors to them being questioned and turned away. This is nothing to do with preventing parking in the village as stated by IMG. That could be achieved with one notice saying resident parking/access only. The checks must be concerned with ensuring that only those with tickets have access to the car park. If the car park were sited at Cambo Estate or other nearby fields, then the only marshals needed in Sea Road would be at the crossing point of the golf course. IMG's proposals are not only counter to current planning rules but intrude on the village in a completely unacceptable way*

3. *When Dunhill wanted to close the coastal path they had to submit a planning application and this was rejected in 2001 by Fife Council. Long and painful negotiations went on with Dunhill to achieve the agreement we have now, which just about works with tolerance on our side and the coastal path remaining open. The current attempt to close the coastal path is an attempt to close a core path in the height of the holiday season. This will in effect block the beach to the usual holiday makers who come to Kingsbarns year after year to enjoy the beautiful quiet beach. And why is there an application to close the coastal path? According*

to IMG's application to the Area Committee, the closure is on the grounds of safety. I would remind Fife Council that the North East Fife Planning Committee approved an application from Kingsbarns Golf Course only last year to extend the use of championship tees – those where the shot crosses the coastal path – to everyday use. The KCC objected to this on safety grounds but the Golf Club assured us that it would be even safer than the previous 100 per cent safety record and the councillors believed them and not us. Why then the need for closure? The Dunhill manages with marshals along the coastal path – why can't Ricoh?

4. IMG says that it contacted us 6 months before the event for consultation although they said initially that there would be no need for them to attend a KCC meeting before May. However, it appears that the North East Area Committee knew of these plans some time ago and have granted to central government the power to decide about the closure of the coastal path, removing the decision from where it should be taken locally, Fife Transportation has been in discussions with IMG concerning the closure of Back Stile, Fife Council and Countryside Trust have given agreement in principle to the coastal path being diverted. None of these bodies have contacted us for consultation. If we had indeed waited till May, clearly everything would have been done and dusted. We found out about the application to close the coastal path through an article in The Courier newspaper, not from IMG. This has been an abject failure not only on IMG's part but on the part of just about every part of Fife Council concerned. I am not sure how often we have to point out that consultation requires discussions before plans are prepared and if we are simply told about arrangements after the Council and the event organisers have sorted it out to their liking, this is not consultation. This is merely information after the event. There are two critical rules when you are about to run an event which will disrupt people's everyday lives. The first is, talk to the community before you start talking to officials and the second is, don't tell them that the arrangements you are proposing to benefit your project are for the benefit of the community. They know they are not and it just annoys them more.

Both Mr. McCarron and Mr. Smith took photographs of the planning condition supplied by Kate Holy for further scrutiny. Mr. McCarron said that IMG would be in touch with KCC regarding this.

4 Community Policing Matters

This was held over due to the over-run of the previous item. The Secretary said that he would forward any urgent matters to our community police officer.

5 Kingsbarns Church Restoration Appeal

Ian Ramsay representing Kingsbarns Church outlined the need to carry out repairs to the tower and the clock. The sum involved was £40,000. £25,000 could be found from various grants which left a balance of £15,000 to find. It was AGREED that KCC would provide a grant of £1,000 to the Church.

6 Proposed Joint Emergency Plan with Crail CC

Ian Mayo, who has recently moved to the area and is a former emergency planning officer, has been working with Crail Community Council and Fife Council to put in place a local resilience plan in the event of an emergency occurring locally. Crail CC suggested that Kingsbarns might be interested in becoming jointly involved. Following a short discussion, it was AGREED that Kingsbarns would become involved in this project and that the Secretary

would become the Kingsbarns contact person in the formulation of the plan which is currently in draft form.

7 Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were accepted; proposed by Eileen Brown and seconded by Calla Cobb.

8 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

9 Resignation of the Secretary and election of new Secretary

Because of increasing personal commitments the Secretary had decided to stand down from the post with effect from this meeting. He proposed Shona McIntosh as his replacement and this was seconded by Eileen Brown.

10 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave a brief report outlining KCC's current financial position.

11 Planning Report

Kate Holy, Convenor: Planning Sub-Committee reported that the application for the two houses at the edge of the village next to North Quarter Steading by George Knox is now with the planning department and can be viewed online by those with computers. Mr. Knox has reduced the houses to one storey in the application, but the lack of detailed measurements means that it is impossible to tell exactly how this development will fit in to the surrounding houses and how the various house heights will fit in with each other. The KCC Planning Committee has met to examine the application and recommend to the Community Council that it opposes this application on two grounds. First because there is insufficient detail to make a reasonable judgement and secondly because modern houses in this position would breach E4 of the local plan (which concerns fitting in with the local environment and conservation area). Objections needed to be lodged by 14 March and a vote was then taken in which it was AGREED that KCC would oppose this planning application.

12 Any Other Business

12.1 A vote of thanks was made to two of our local councillors, Elizabeth Riches and Donald Macgregor, for their long and dedicated service. They will not be standing again at the forthcoming council elections on 4 May.

12.2 The Secretary reminded the meeting of an event which was being hosted by the *Inn at Kingsbarns* on the afternoon of Saturday 12 March. He said that there might be a more than usual number of cars parked in the village on that day and that the *Inn* had advised participants to park sensibly

13 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of Kingsbarns Community Council will be on Monday, 8 May.