

Kingsbarns Community Council
Minutes of meeting held at Kingsbarns Memorial Hall,
Monday, 3 July 2017

Present: Eileen Brown (Treasurer), Martin Dibbs (Secretary), Margaret Harkins (Chair), Sue Jenkins, Shona McIntosh, Ulrike Weiss, Kate Holy

Councillors: John Docherty, Bill Porteous, Linda Holt

Retired Councillors: Donald Macgregor, Elizabeth Riches

Apologies: Calla Cobb,

Approximately 30 residents

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. and Chair welcomed everyone, congratulated our councillors on their recent election and introduced Robbie Blyth Team Leader at Fife Coastal and Countryside Trust, who had agreed to talk to the meeting about motorhome and caravan parking on Kingsbarns beach.

1 Robbie Blyth

Mr Blyth told the meeting that residents' concerns about overnight parking of campervans at the Beach carpark despite notices forbidding this, was not a problem just for Kingsbarns but for the whole country. If these vehicles have tax, insurance and MOTs and are not breaking any laws, then they cannot be moved on. There are health and safety problems – e.g. if vehicles are parked too close together there may be a fire risk, but there are no bye-laws covering Kingsbarns beach which permit any enforcement action in relation to overnight parking.

The reason that these caravans park here, apart from the beauty of the beach is that they do not have to pay the fees that would be required by any of the local caravan parks. However, there are also specific problems that result from this apart from the inconvenience. Chemical toilets need to be emptied in dedicated sites (i.e. caravan parks) and cannot be emptied in public toilets or, as a resident noticed, on the beach itself. In addition the amount of litter has increased enormously. Mr Blyth's team is responsible for emptying the bins at the beach car park and he has arranged for them to collect data on the numbers of campervans. He was able to give figures as follows to the meeting:

2015 - 13/06/15 – 15/09/15 68 overnight stays

2016 - 30/03/16 – 20/09/16 164 overnight stays

2017 – 03/04/17 – 11/06/17 110 overnight stays

As one resident pointed out, this is likely to be a slight underestimate. Mr Blyth told us these sites are advertised on-line as wild camping, but they are not wild camping – e.g. putting up your tent in the Highlands by a deserted loch – they are simply free parking in recreational areas not covered by bye-laws.

Mr Blyth suggested that possible options for KCC might be:

- a) KCC might try to get Kingsbarns covered by a bye-law from the local authority (as is the West Sands) although this is difficult and might not prove much use.
- b) Consider negotiating with Cambo Estate (the owner of the land) to have a small registered caravan site there for, say five vehicles, in which case the area would be protected by legislation.

A lively question and answer session covered topics such as why does no one park in the layby with a 'No Overnight Parking' notice (covered by a Road Traffic Order); could we have a barrier at night (problem for people needing to leave); laws relating to travelling community (same as for anyone else and contact would need to be made with the dedicated council officer for travelling communities); can notices be put up directing people to the nearest place to empty chemical toilets (authorised campsites not keen); public toilet opening hours (10.00am to 6.00pm June, July and August, the same in the Easter Holidays and weekend opening outwith those times between 1st April and 31st October).

The Chair thanked Mr Blyth for his extremely interesting and informative talk.

2 Minutes of the meeting 8th May 2017

The minutes were proposed by Sue Jenkins and seconded by Ulrike Weiss.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the annual accounts for the year 2016/17 which are attached to the minutes. She pointed out that although our grant had been reduced this year and we had made significant grants to local organisations we still have a current balance at the date of the meeting of £2203.27. The accounts were accepted with thanks to the Treasurer. Proposed by Martin Dibbs and seconded by Margaret Harkins.

5 Planning Report

Kate Holy, Convenor of Planning Sub-committee reported on the following:

a) RICOH British Women's Open. Towards the end of May KCC received a letter from Ross Hallett stating that he would no longer use Back Stile for vehicle access or the turf nursery. Instead IMG would use the same arrangements that pertain to the Dunhill. This was despite the fact that FC had decided that (a) Condition 20 restricting access did exist and (b) they were not intending to enforce that condition. (We asked for the legal justification of this from their Legal Officer which we received and we have ourselves taken legal advice on this). IMG's decision might have been because Mr Hallett had undertaken not to break a planning condition in *The Courier* so it was difficult to backtrack. We have not yet heard any information about the possible closure of the coastal path under Section 11 of the Land Reform Act which was sent for confirmation, or otherwise, by Fife Council to the Scottish Government.

b) Phase 2 Development. This came to the North East Fife Planning Committee last Wednesday 28th June. This was a meeting that was not listed in the Committee Diary and took us by surprise. On Monday 26th we emailed all councillors on the Committee, giving them our views and the reasons we thought the development should be refused. Nick, Margaret, Martin and I attended the Council meeting and we were very glad that all our own councillors felt the same way as the residents, particularly as two out of three of them had only been elected in May. Councillor Docherty proposed the refusal of the application and was seconded by Councillor Holt. The application was refused by 8 votes to 6 which is a tremendous relief. We are certain that Ogilvie will appeal to the Reporter but at least that is someone who will actually read our representations, unlike FC officials. So we wait to hear when the appeal is allocated to the Reporter and everyone who made a representation will be invited to make a further one, probably at short notice and within 2 weeks of that information as far as I remember from the last 2 times. In the meantime, it's another battle won in this unending war so very good news. Many thanks to all our councillors for listening to our concerns, voting to protect the conservation village and representing their constituents so well.

c) North Quarter Steading. Although the KCC withdrew its objection after the last meeting on the basis that a condition would be added and had been agreed with both the developer and the Planning Officer, the application has not yet been approved. FC is still not happy about the SUDS proposal. Residents might wish to know that Mr Know has told us that he might be doing the odd bit of drilling in respect of this problem.

6 Any Other Business

a) Drains at Kilduncan and Residents Parking notices for RICOH

It appeared that these had now been successfully repaired. The Secretary will write to Kevin Smith, Lead Professional Roads, to thank him and also ask him to arrange notices stating 'residents' access and parking only' at the ends of the roads leading to the A917 during the golf tournament.

b) Phase 2 development

A member of the public thanked the KCC for all the work entailed on getting Phase 2 refused.

c) State of village road signs

Ian Mayo commented that the road signs were looking tatty and some were hanging off the walls. Bearing in mind that they eyes of the world would be on Kingsbarns he thought it should be cleaned up. The Chair and Secretary will clean up where possible and Cllr Porteous offered to contact Fife Council to look at this.

d) Cars impeding bin lorry

A resident reported that a badly parked car was impeding access to the bin lorry and the Secretary said that he would ask the Community Police Officer to contact her to see if she could help.

e) Minutes Secretary

Kate Holy has offered to be Minutes Secretary which was accepted with thanks by the Community Council.

7 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4th September 2017 at 7pm at Kingsbarns Memorial Hall.

Presentation to retired Councillors Elizabeth Riches and Donald Macgregor.

At the local elections of May 4th, two of our local councillors retired. Elizabeth Riches had served 27 years as a councillor for the area and Donald Macgregor had served 10 years as a regional councillor for the area and previously 10 years as a district councillor. The Chair thanked them very much indeed for their service to our local community and they were also thanked by much applause from the residents. A presentation was made of cards and book tokens and the evening ended with a cheese and wine party in their honour which everyone greatly enjoyed.