

Kingsbarns Community Council

Minutes of meeting held 7 May 2018 at 7pm Kingsbarns Memorial Hall

Present: Margaret Harkins (Chair), Martin Dibbs (Secretary), Eileen Brown (Treasurer), Sue Jenkins, Fiona Ramsay, Kate Holy (Minutes Secretary) Shona McIntosh, Ulrike Weiss, Calla Cobb.

Councillors: Cllr John Docherty

Speakers: Gillian Tetlow: Community Police. Elizabeth Riches: East Neuk Emergency Plan. Approximately seven members of the public.

1 Apologies: Cllr Linda Holt, Cllr Bill Porteous

2 Minutes of the Meeting Monday 5 March: These were read and approved.

Proposer: Fiona Ramsay, Seconder Sue Jenkins.

3 Community Policing Matters: Concern was expressed over noise levels and poor driving from drivers attending Crail Raceway. Gillian told the meeting that there are sometimes police speed checks but drivers slow down in advance. She also said she would see if there were any machines locally capable of testing for noise and environmental pollution. Cllr Docherty pointed out that he was a member of the Regulation Licence Committee which covered this event and limited their event days but he was aware that events seem to be happening outwith the allowed days and will follow this up. Concern was also expressed about speeding down Back Stile. Gillian Tetlow invited concerned members of the community to join Community Speedwatch but Ian Mayo, from the floor, indicated that he thought that these had no effect. Constable Tetlow was thanked for her attendance and help on her day off.

4 East Neuk Emergency Plan: Following the Beast from the East, where a number of East Neuk Communities (including Kingsbarns) were cut off by snow. This emergency plan has been suggested by the East Neuk Community Council Forum to help all communities collate plans and help each other. The ENCCF would like to have a plan of each village showing useful information (eg grit boxes, water supplies, fuel supplies.) They would like the names of two volunteers to have their names on their register. They would like to know which building could act as a refuge (eg Memorial Hall) and the names of keyholders and who drives 4x4 vehicles and whether there is a supply of shovels. This scheme is the brainchild of Gillian Duncan of the East Neuk First Responders and Michael Bruce, Cox'n of RNLI. He will also map the entire East Neuk coastline. The KCC expressed their interest and wish to contribute and Ian Mayo offered to be Kingsbarns representative. Elizabeth Riches was thanked very much for her presentation.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a) Bus timetables: These have been repaired and corrected.

b) Defibrillator Training: This will take place on Tuesday 29 May between 4 pm and 7 pm. The village will be leafleted in advance.

c) Speeding signs: Martin Dibbs informed the meeting that Colin Stirling of Fife Council had informed him that Kingsbarns would be receiving Slow Down signs at the edges of the village in the foreseeable future. There will be a budget of £15,000 and the community will be consulted regarding design. Cllr Docherty will chase this up.

6 Treasurer's Report: Eileen Brown reported that KCC had a balance of £1961 in the bank. Two small bills were waiting to be paid. The accounts will be presented at the next meeting.

7 Planning Report: Phase 2: Kate Holy reported that after the decision of the last meeting concerning the affordable houses, a public meeting was held to see if residents wished to support the proposal that Fife Council should buy the allocated two affordable houses. If no local people wished to occupy them, as in the previous development, we should ask for Syrian, or other refugees settled under the governments resettlement scheme to be offered them. This offer was endorsed whole heartedly.

Kate sent out a press release to The Courier and The Citizen and both papers featured articles. She also wrote to our MSP, Willie Rennie and MP Stephen Gethins. Both have contacted the Council on our behalf. Willie Rennie wrote to John Mills, the Head of Housing and John Mills replied to him, much more fully than to us, saying that he was recommending the houses be bought by FC and had every hope they would and that they would be filled through the council house scheme. The Syrian refugee side he has allegedly referred to his colleagues in that Department. However, his tone was still conditional, no one has actually given any of us hard information and she asked Willie Rennie to ask Mr Mills for the date of the decision. Stephen Gethins has also written to Fife Council and has mentioned Kingsbarns' aspiration to help Syrian refugees to the UN Secretary, Antonio Guterres, who has asked to be kept informed – probably the first time the village has been mentioned at the UN. Martin and Kate have also given an interview to Billy Briggs, an investigative journalist, who is doing a feature on housing problems in the East Neuk – St Andrews, Kingsbarns and Elie - for an article in the national press. So the pressure remains on but FC is still silent.

Nick Lunan noticed on the Planning Condition Tracker that the developers are trying to negotiate the ridge heights of the houses upwards, so that they will in fact be as high or higher than the ridge heights of the houses that were rejected by the previous reporter on the grounds of visual amenity. Nick has made a formal complaint to the council on the grounds that this is a significant variation, rather than one which can be nodded through. The Planning Department has, as a result of this, made the developers put through a formal application for a non-material variation and as yet no decision has been shown on the website. I think that should FC decide to go ahead, Nick would be in a position to progress his complaint up a further level and potentially to the ombudsman. There has been a meeting of the Planning subcommittee to discuss this and KCC has written to support Nick's complaint.

There are 2 new applications online regarding the new development. The first is to put up a sales hut at the back of phase one, where the green box is. It looks like a Portacabin. The second is to put a board, V-shaped and visible in 2 directions with 2 flagpoles to advertise the new development while it is being built. This is to be on Phase 1 at the corner of the Village Green next to the junction with Station Road. Kate suggested that KCC object to both of these for obvious reasons and urged everyone else to object also in order to get these applications to committee. This was agreed.

8 Councillor's Report: Cllr Docherty stated how interesting he found the recent special service at the church.

a) A and E closure: He reported on the recent closure of A and E facilities at St Andrews Hospital and urged residents to sign an online petition against this. He pointed out that NE Fife has the highest number of over 85-year olds in Fife so demands for healthcare will be great, making this a particularly poor idea.

b) Cemeteries: Cllr Docherty reported that Fife has 115 cemeteries and it is estimated that 40,000 – 60,000 headstones are deemed unsuitable and dangerous.

c) Website for N E Fife: He reported that Fife Council have recently launched a new website on Facebook called Our North East Fife.

9 Any Other Business:

(a) Council house time left empty: Cllr Docherty was asked whether there was a limit to the time a council house could lie empty as has been the case in relation to a house in Bells Wynd and North Carr View. Apparently there is no set time.

10 Date of Next meeting: Monday 2 July 2018 7pm Kingsbarns Memorial Hall.