

# **Kinghorn Community Council**

## **Minutes of the meeting Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at Kinghorn Community Centre**

**Present:** - Fraser Ballantyne (Chair), Alex Cook, Marilyn Edwards (Secretary) Sadie Wilson, Martin Melvin, Rena Wallace (Treasurer), James Willis and Lynette Gray  
Cllr Ron Edwards,

Members of the Public – 13 people present.

**Apologies** - Sgt Potter, Cllr Susan Leslie Collett Salvona, Alex Gibb and Neil Chalmers

### **1. Chairman's Remarks**

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that the April meeting was also the AGM of the Community Council where the Treasurer issued the Annual Statement for the accounts and any changes to the constitution were discussed. The next Community Council elections were due to be held in October 2010

### **2. Minutes from the previous meeting.**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Alex Cook and seconded by Sadie Wilson

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer said that the statement showed that the funds were quite healthy. The end of year balance was £802.15. It was noted that a reserve sum of £700 for the Viewpoint project was held in this. The cost of yearly hall hire had steadily increased over recent years and took up a lot of the annual grant. It was agreed that the Treasurer should write to the Community Council Support Working Group outlining the high cost of room rental faced by some Community Councils and that this cost took an increasing proportion of their annual grant money. This cost varied depending on where Community Council's were able to meet.

The secretary proposed the annual donation of £150 for the Kinghorn Children's Gala and this was agreed. A donation of £50 for Kinghorn in Bloom and £50 for floral enhancement at the station was also agreed. Lynette Gray had previously declared an interest in the floral enhancement at the station.

Acceptance of the Annual Accounts was proposed by Sadie Wilson and seconded by Martin Melvin. The chairman thanked the Treasurer for all her work during the year.

### **4 Matters Arising**

- a) Harbour Toilets renovation – The secretary reported that following on from a meeting of the Harbour Toilets Group, a Business Plan to operate the Harbour Toilets had been submitted to Harry Byers, Fraser Thomson (Environmental Services) and Steve Grimmond (Head of Community Services) so far there had been no response from Fife Council and she said that she would follow this up. The Business Plan contains suggestions of how the facility could look at ways of raising some money towards costs. The secretary was asked to write to Harry Byers to request that the toilets on the ground floor be opened as soon as possible.
- b) Viewpoint and Cemetery Steps Project – The secretary reported that the Planning Application was being progressed along with grant funding for the project. The BDT Application was secured but not all grant funders had met yet. Phase One, The Cemetery Steps has been revisited by Menzies the company carrying out the work. Cllr Edwards said that a pipe blockage had been found and this had halted the work for further investigation to be done. It is thought that the problem of the water originates from several sources.
- c) Pathways Group – Rena (secretary) said that 30 Statement of Use forms had been sent in concerning the blocked pathway at North Overgate. The group was meeting with Sarah Johnston from the Access Forum to decide on the way forward to progress recognition for all the pathways within Kinghorn. The group had been on a site visit to the Myers path and was pleasantly surprised to find that it had been cut back and the group was able to walk all around it. Thanks were expressed to the mystery helper.
- d) Other Items

- Paper recycling bin for the Orchard Road Recycling Point. The secretary had contacted Paul Doherty from Environmental Services again who said that he will chase up Operations Services.
- Headstones in Kinghorn Cemetery – the secretary read out an email from Liz Murphy, Bereavement Services. It said that sandy soil caused the stones to be undermined but she has initiated a project to fill in and support the stones in situ in an appropriate manner. There is no timetable for the work as yet. A comment was made that the roadway into the cemetery needed repair with replacing chippings and concrete ramp. The secretary was asked to write about this.
- Ship to Ship Transfer - The secretary had sent a letter to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency about this application coming forward once more. She had copied the letter to MP Gordon Brown and local MSPs too. She said that Andrew Ferguson, Fife Council had put in a robust response on behalf of the council but community councils were not invited to be part of the consultation at this stage. Any oil transfer application would have to comply and demonstrate that the environment/wildlife will not be affected, as this is an E.C. ruling.
- Common Good Application from Kinghorn Lawn Tennis Club for £1,000 for maintenance to clubhouse – making it water tight and replacing damaged floor cladding. It was decided to support the application as it was a community facility.
- Notification that the Black Rock Race will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> June 7pm.
- Rockface at Pettcur Road – an investigation is underway by Mike Thorpe from Transportation Services to check out the stability of the netted rock face. This had been brought to the attention of the Community Council by a local resident.
- Dog dirt on The Braes and around Kinghorn – This had once again been highlighted by an email to the councillors from a resident and Cllr Edwards suggested that the Community Council consider the problem. The Green Dog Walking Initiative seemed to help last year and maybe another concentration on this could help. The chairman suggested that the problem could be taken to the next meeting of Community Policing at the Toll Centre on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
- People expressed concerns that since a new system of cleaning roads was introduced they were uncertain on schedules for cleaning or how it operated. The secretary was asked to write to Damian Woods, Operations Manager Environmental Services to come and talk about the new Street Cleaning Regime and how it worked.
- Recent storm damage at Kinghorn Beach and Pettycur Harbour – Cllr Edwards gave a report on this. He said that the rear wall to Pettycur Bay Harbour was in a bad state and repairs would be costly, the wall came under Historic Scotland and Fife Pier and Harbour Working Group, a meeting had taken place between the groups. There was also considerable damage to the sea wall at the caravan park. It was agreed that Fife Council had been prompt and effective in their response to clearing up debris after the storm and the secretary would write to thank the services involved in this.

#### e) **Planning Issues**

The secretary read out confirmation that Planning Permission was granted for a New Ecology Centre and Workshop on the east shore of Kinghorn Loch. The application was proposed by Cllr George Kay and seconded by Cllr Susan Leslie and approved by the Local Area Committee. Residents and members of the Community Council expressed their disappointment at the decision and asked if anything further could be done. The chairman said that under the new planning system only the applicant had the right of appeal.

#### 5. **A list of correspondence was circulated**

The secretary read out extras (items that come after the agenda is issued)

- a) Furniture Reuse Campaign containing letter and poster to circulate.
- b) Scottish Health Council – Connect Newsletter
- c) Enable Scotland are holding a Charity Family Ceilidh at The Bay Leisure Centre, Pettycur on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7 – 11 pm tickets £5
- d) The Kinghorn Loch User's Group are holding a "Come and Try Day", Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May between 1 – 5pm

#### 6. **New Business**

- a) The mess left behind by the travelling folk required uplifts from Environmental Services to clear. It was noted that there was a lot of fly tipping out by the roadside at the old tannery entrance. The secretary was asked to write to Damien Woods, Environmental Services for his help with this. The height restriction barrier had been repaired with a new padlock and this

was preferable to boulders placed across the roadway into the loch so that visitors could still use the car park at the loch side.

- b) Mr McIntosh from Lochside Stables gave a detailed explanation of the reasons why he wished to pursue planning permission for houses on his land at Lochside Stables. He told the meeting about the history of the site that the buildings he had removed had once been a working outlet for the tannery. He was frustrated with the present situation as he wanted to build the houses on his site to enhance his pension for the future. He hoped to submit the plans back to Fife Council.

The chairman said that the Community Council had supported his application for a large house replacement of the present one. The chairman respected that Mr McIntosh had taken a lot of time to prepare his report and assured him that any new application would be viewed afresh by the Community Council.

## **7. Public Question Time**

- A resident expressed concern about the contractor who is responsible for filling in the roadside dam at the head of the loch. Waste material was removed from the Whinnyhall site for the in-fill of this and there was concern about contaminated materials. Cllr Edwards said that he had been approached and had made enquiries about this. All residues were collected in tanks and pumped back so that there was no possibility of any contamination getting into the loch. He had investigated and concluded that most of the in-fill was burnt blaze, and ash from the oil shale workings of nineteenth century and is inert. SEPA were investigating the site and making a decision on it soon. It was decided that the Community Council would write to Alcan to let them know that this problem had been brought to its notice.
- A question was asked about the stones that had been washed up on the beach with the recent violent storm but it was felt that the tides would re-distribute sand and stones in time.
- It was agreed to write a letter to Transportation Services about the roadway at St James Place which had undergone a battering with the recent storm. The secretary would request that St James Place should have pedestrian priority but with emergency access.

**Date of Next Meeting – 7.30pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010**