

# Kinghorn Community Council.

## Minutes of the meeting Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at Kinghorn Community Centre

1. **Present:** - Fraser Ballantyne ( Chair), Alex Cook, Neil Chalmers, Martin Melvin, Marilyn Edwards (Secretary) Rena Wallace (Treasurer) John Lancaster Alex Gibb, James Willis and Collett Salvona, Cllr Ron Edwards, Members of the Public – 27 people present.  
**Apologies** - Sadie Wilson, Sgt Edith Potter, , Cllr Susan Leslie, Cllr George Kay
2. **Police Update** - No police update was available and there were no enquiries from the meeting to be passed on to Sgt Potter.
3. **Minutes from the previous meeting.**  
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Collett Salvona and seconded by Alex Cook.
4. **Matters Arising**
  - a) Update on Harbour Toilets renovation – Last meeting was 9<sup>th</sup> November and not many folk turned up. It was decided that the ideas created from meetings should go back to the individual groups to see if any wished to take on a community bid. The renovation of the building seemed to be making good progress and a viewing meeting to see inside will happen soon.
  - b) Viewpoint project at the Pettycur Steps Kinghorn – Transportation Services had visited the site and had put forward some innovative suggestions which has resulted in re-positioning the viewpoint to give a bigger view and a path with less gradient. Secretary to arrange a further site visit by the group, then it is hoped to get new plans to Community Services very soon
  - c) Pathways within Kinghorn – Rena gave a report to the meeting. The group had held its second meeting, Statement of Use forms were now available for people to record about any obstructed pathways and the Community Centre and The Glory Hole were collections points for return forms. It was decided to begin making a record of all local pathways used within Kinghorn. Also a site visit will take place in January to look at how existing country pathways might be maintained.
  - d) Lighting maintenance on the Braes – still waiting for cherry picker.
  - e) Update on changes around the War Memorial – The grant bid for the alterations around the war memorial was not successful but other funding is being sought.
  - f) Progress on the reinstatement of the local bus service to the Victoria Hospital – a meeting on behalf of residents by Ron Edwards, Marilyn Livingstone MSP and Transportation with Stagecoach has now taken place and the No.7 bus will go via the hospital at visiting times starting 6<sup>th</sup> December. Next Spring it is hoped a permanent solution will be found with Transportation Services lowering the road surface under the railway bridge at Inverkeithing. Then the No 7 bus can travel through from the Park and Ride Terminal via stops in Kirkcaldy and on to Leven.
  - g) Roof repairs for the Community Centre – It has been decided to reroof above the café and reception area at the centre.
  - h) Town Hall opening event for the Bob Page Room – A representation from the Community Council has been invited to attend. Some will remember that Bob Page was a former member of the Community Council, very committed to the restoration of the Town Hall and instrumental in getting the Railtrack to repair the platform on the Edinburgh side of the station.
  - i) Nethergate Recycling Point – Paul Doherty, Environmental Services has confirmed that this recycling point is for public use.
  - j) **Planning Issues**
    - The secretary reported that she has not been successful in managing to organize a Community Council/Public meeting with Cala Homes to discuss their proposed development for South West Kirkcaldy. It was agreed that the secretary write to Jim Birrell, Development Services to request his help to set up a meeting in Kinghorn.
    - **Planning Application 1 -3 High street Kinghorn**  
It was noted that the existing building has been granted planning consent and the new planning application applied to a proposed new house at the rear of the property, with vehicle access through the industrial estate.

Concerns were raised over vehicle access to the property through the industrial unit site with the Coastguard needing 24 hour access for emergency use. There would also be increased

vehicle access use through the industrial site where commercial vehicles may be loading. Also the house plan was large with limited outdoor space and overlooking of neighbouring properties.

The Community Council agreed to object on these grounds.

Collett Salvona retired from the meeting unwell.

- **Erection of Ecology Centre (class 11) and Associated Workshop**

Site position on east shore of Kinghorn Loch

Two members of the Community Council declared an interest.

Rena Wallace – an employee of The Ecology Centre

John Lancaster – a director of Kinghorn Community Land Association who have a Right to Buy order on the land proposed for the new Ecology Centre.

John Lancaster said that the secretary should declare an interest because of the proximity of her property to the new development. She replied that the site was a quarter of a mile away; she was not an immediate neighbour and was not eligible for neighbour notification.

The chairman explained that the planning application came under development in the countryside which was documented in the present Fife Local Plan and the emerging new Fife Local Plan. He read out some of the document statements as guidance for considering the planning application. The chairman said that he had received a letter statement from the owners of Craigencaft Farm saying that they intend to continue and develop the ecology centre on its land after 2014 when the present lease with The Ecology Centre runs out. This could result in two ecology centres at Kinghorn Loch and would be over development in the countryside. The chairman then invited comments from everyone in the meeting.

The Ecology Centre was asked about the arrangement with the landowner if the land “has been gifted” (as stated in the planning application); the reply was that they had a “letter of intent” at present and no gift has been made. Concerns were raised over the position of the building right on the lochside, the 2-storey height and large size of the building, and the large workshop area was not appropriate for countryside development.

An Ecology Centre Board member said that all the sports and leisure group users of the loch had been properly consulted about the new build centre. A member of Kirkcaldy Canoe Club said that he wanted it minuted that this had not been the case.

Following a full discussion the chairman asked the Community Council members eligible to vote to make their decision on whether to object on grounds that this planning application did not comply with the Fife Local Plan for development in the countryside; by way of need, location, size and suitability. It was unanimously agreed to lodge an objection (7 members voted to object, 2 members were not eligible and 2 members absent).

After the decision had been taken Cllr Edwards made two observations

a) Where might a suitable site for The Ecology Centre be located?

b) Try and resolve the issues at the present ecology centre location and perhaps the Community Council could help with this.

These comments were applauded by the meeting.

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

Items were noted but no actions required.

## 6. **New Business**

At the October meeting James Willis was asked if he would consider taking on the position of chair person. He thanked the community council members for their consideration but declined the position. Fraser Ballantyne was asked to remain as chairman. This was proposed by Alex Cook and seconded by Alex Gibb. The chairman pointed out that a vice chair person needed to be appointed. Alex Gibb was proposed by Alex Cook and seconded by Martin Melvin and agreed by

the members.

**7. Public Question Time**

- a) It was pointed out that the bushes in the Nethergate car park were overgrown and untidy. Cllr Edwards said that he would contact Community Services about this.
- b) A question was asked about what was happening about rail concession increases. Cllr Edwards answered that the Administration of Fife Council intended to scrap the rail concession but that the Labour Group supported a concessionary rate of £1 per journey. He said that he could not support an increase of any more than this.
- c) Cllr Edwards said that there had been notification from Stagecoach about operating a hovercraft service from Kirkcaldy to Portobello, Edinburgh. There was a consultation on this 15<sup>th</sup> December at the Philp Hall, Link Street, Kirkcaldy. There is also a proposal to run a fast ferry link from Burntisland to Granton, Edinburgh and consideration of this was progressing to a tender stage.

The local Scout Group, with Scout Master Paul Wibberley, came to give a short presentation about the celebrations in 2010 of their centenary year.

The Scout Group in Kinghorn has been traced back to September 1910 so next year is a special year to celebrate. The year will begin with an Active Challenge Event in January with everybody welcome and a Scout camp at Craigencait, Kinghorn Loch in September. The chairman thanked the scouts for coming along to the meeting and wished them well for their 2010 celebrations.

**Date of Next Meeting – 7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009**