

NORTH QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at North Queensferry Community Centre - 7.30pm Thursday 12th June 2025

In attendance: Iain Mitchell (Chair), Jim George (Via Teams), Rob Baker (Secretary), Gary Bald (via Teams), David Katic, Cllr Brown, Cllr Barratt, Cllr Dempsey, Cllr Neal (via Teams), Eileen Donaldson (Resident)

Apologies: Barbara McKechnie, Peter Selbie

Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were accepted as accurate and approved

Matters Arising: N/A

Forth Bridge: David Boyce (DB) - (Network Rail) shared an update for the Community Council, contamination testing continues and we will be advised when results are available. DB was unable to attend this meeting however would like to attend future meetings.

ORR have responded to say they will advise when a report is finalised but no further information. NR confirm they have responded to ORR regarding the question of Balfour Beatty checking the coastal path, NR have now confirmed they will now do so.

Compensation payments should now be concluded including a late application. NR letters advising of works and the (lack of) details has been picked up by DB. Complaint procedures also with DB, IM reiterated the issues with the current procedure.

IM had previously met with the local MP in Westminster who was to meet with NR, hoping for an update at the next meeting. RB mentioned the Forth Bridge management plan survey and recommended it was completed by as many people as possible.

The Albert Hotel: Procedural hearing due at the start of July. The business plan will likely need to be reviewed if the appeal is upheld due to the time it has taken to get to this point. Planning application for roof/guttering to be repaired, we will not be objecting as the request is for repairs.

Battery road car park: Potential vandalism at toilet will be pursued by Cllr Brown. Current running cost of £18,000 per annum is being looked at to see if costs can be reduced. Potential for cameras will be looked at as a deterrent. Barrier closing and being manually lifted by a trapped motorist has happened twice, the contractor will look at the barrier next time they are out and check if the locking mechanism to stop this is working. Ownership of the noticeboard is still in question.

Police Report: Report up to 31st May circulated. Police Scotland were not present at the meeting.

Fife Councillor's reports:

Cllr Dempsey: Bus survey in progress. Hedge trimming will be undertaken at a particularly overgrown part in the village. Pavement parking - impending activation of the new rules, discussion to be held at the end of August Exemptions being discussed, no planned exemptions for in the village. Brock Street parking is still moving slowly forward. Plans will be shared with us.

Cllr Barratt: Presented the plans for road signage as discussed and toilet signage at the bottom of the village. Brae spring - as Council owned this needed to be tested, it was tested and is confirmed as mains water. Previous testing confirming it was ground water was tested from the wall area rather than the Lion hence the mistake. Likely a mains leak caused when a new house was built approx 5 years ago, investigations to locate leak ongoing. When the leak is fixed the water supply will be tested again as it should then only be ground water.

Cllr Browne: Ferryhill Road narrowing issue, plan circulated for “Road Narrows” signage to be installed. PB will ask if the road is not wide enough for 2 cars then is different signage more suitable? Charles Black Lane - Robbie Blyth has contacted owners. IM clarified the possible history of the right of way however regardless of the original purpose if it has been used then it has become a right of way. PB will continue to speak to Robbie Blythe. Brock Street parking - PB has received complaints from residents regarding the parking and are concerned their young children may be at risk.

Cllr Neal: Pavement parking - public education important and there will be a ‘soft start’. It is requested that if any resident wishes to put forward a location for a pavement parking exemption they can contact a councillor or the community council to pass on. GB requested an update to roof repairs at old Kirk Road flats, SN will check up on this.

Review of Scheme for Community Councils: Survey still open if people wish to respond. DK questions if awareness of community councils is good and if there is a mechanism for feedback to Fife Council.

Treasurer’s report: Report circulated. £100 donation for station toilets complete. David Neill has requested to spend some of the ring fenced funds for the Brae project, £3,750 for groundwork above the spring - this was approved, BM can transfer funds to David. Zoom subscription paid by previous treasurer by mistake was refunded, DK will look into this. Scotways renewal - £30 (online) or £35 (postal) - NQCC has been a member for many years, agreed we will continue with this, RB to forward Scotways email to DK and BM. A contribution towards the Ferry news has been requested for 1 issue (£400) - this was agreed.

Planning applications: No additional applications other than the Albert.

Correspondence: Forth Bridge management plan was shared with all members.

Floral enhancement: Pots around the village have been planted out.

AoB: GB raised if the cemetery walls have any pending work after the ivy was stripped back and the walls were to be checked. DB will check & respond back. Train station steps reported by DD, also previously reported by RB. Request from ED for a seagull proof bin at West Sands to be maintained by Fife Council, DD will pick this request up.

Next meeting: Thursday 10th July 2025 - 7.30pm @ NQ Community Centre or virtually via MS Teams link available on our website

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