

NORTH QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at North Queensferry Community Centre - 7.30pm Thursday 12th March 2026

In Attendance: Iain Michell IM (Chair), Jim George JG (Vice Chair), David Katic DK (Treasurer), Rob Baker RB (Secretary), Gary Bald GB, Peter Selbie PS, Cllr Barratt DB, Cllr Dempsey DD, Cllr Bruce Neal SBN, Cllr Brown PB, David Boyce Network Rail (DBNR)

Apologies: None

Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted as accurate / approved

Matters Arising: N/A

Forth Bridge: DBNR shared an advanced copy of the letter from Network Rail (NR) regarding the recent work and noise issues. A number of complaints have been raised directly and with Fife Council. NR will complete works on span 11 for water management (other work on deck plates and wind fence will continue) then pause for a review before coming back to the Community Council for feedback on the options. NR acknowledge they should have communicated with residents on the extension of these works. JG asks that if the other work will continue, how noisy will this be, DBNR states this should be quieter and noise blankets will be used as well as rubber mats. NR believe that removing the bitumen removal was the cause of a lot of the noise. DK asks why bitumen was being removed if it was stuck enough to require such work to remove it. DBNR states the surface was inconsistent and needs to be uniform for the new protection to be applied.

NR cannot be clear on the extent of the impact this work will have on the dirty water, whilst paused they may be able to see if this helps mitigate the water issues. A decision may need to be made in the future if this works as to complete the works some noise will be unavoidable, DBNR states that options will be looked at including extending works with different/quieter tools perhaps. The review from NR should include options such as exploring opportunities around works elsewhere on the network that would allow greater access to the bridge, weep hole closure but no guarantees are made. Sound monitor readings are being shared with the council, DBNR will also share these with the Community Council.

ORR - A future meeting with the project team is due and should focus on assurance. A report on the recent incident with flaming debris from the bridge is complete and is being validated and finalised before being shared with the ORR, then it can be shared with the Community Council.

Edinburgh Airport: DK still attending meetings, feedback from pilots is that the larger/heavier planes may not be able to achieve the heights mentioned in the consultation document. New routes will be fed into a simulator for pilots to test.

Albert Hotel: The appeal from the NQ Community Trust was successful and has been shared in various ways including the Ferry News. IM will be completing the formal response primarily about the business plan. This is due to be done next week. Expenses will be covered by the Ministers so the Trust will be getting some funds back and will not need to rely on funds promised by generous donors.

Battery Road Carpark: No updates, works previously mentioned do not appear to have been completed.

Police Report: February report shared and is available on our website. RB to request attendance at the next Community Council meeting, and that M90 reports are not required unless relevant to the village.

Fife Councillors Reports:

Cllr Sarah Bruce Neal

Exam dates relating to bridge noise received however since work is being paused are no longer required. A review of attachments to street lighting is to be completed and could impact bunting, flags, Christmas lights etc Pavement parking should be enforced however exemption orders aren't formally agreed yet.

Cllr David Barratt

Following the fire in Glasgow the regulation of vapes is important. Trading standards have issued guidance to all registered shops.

Cllr David Dempsey

Brock Street parking has been assigned to a service manager but no further updates. The flexi bus scheme will run for another year with some changes due to feedback. PS raised a concern that large buses on the school service are using private driveways to turn. GB raised the issues of the path under the Road Bridge and the previously discussed crossing, RB mentioned an alternative option for path extension under the Forth Road bridge if the edges are cleared, DD will look into this. GB asks if there is an option for a Fife bus to the Gyle as it seems poorly served at the moment. DD will chase the tree surgeon re: branches overhanging the coastal path.

Cllr Patrick Browne

Ferryhills road narrowing was discussed at the area committee, a plan to add signage was discussed, responses have been put to the roads department as various issues could be looked at at the same time. New taxi fares were meant to be introduced last year, this will be done in the next few months, fares will increase approximately 5%-10% with some additional charges of 50p per fare. Town pier works to check the structure were completed, results have been shared with a consultant for the repair and expected to be available in the summer with funding and tender to follow.

Treasurer's Report: Bank charges & Community Council phone top up paid. ICO charges due next financial year, it appears we may be able to get this covered by Fife Council, SBN will look into this for us. Fife Council request for admin charge breakdown was responded to. Approval for year end accounts is required, DK will contact the person who has done this for us previously.

Planning Applications: 1 application, no comments.

Floral Enhancement: Volunteers have started for the year, some barrels will need to be replaced and some painted. Permission will be sought for costs.

Correspondence: Request for attendance at the WHMG on 31st March.

AOB: Adoption of the new scheme for Community Councils was proposed by IM, seconded by JG. Approved and adopted. GB asks while the speed limit near Jamestown is 60mph reducing to 20, PM will raise this with roads officers although mentions lower speed limits are preferred in certain areas. PS asked if a council road sweeper could come down to Battery Road as well as roads leaving the village to clear debris from verges.

Next meeting: 9th April 2026 - 7.30pm @ NQ Community Centre or virtually via MS Teams link available on our website www.nqcc.co.uk - scan the QR code for a link.

