

Fisherrow Waterfront Group

Draft Minutes of Meeting held in Yacht Club on Tuesday 15 January 2013

Present : Aileen Grant (taking minutes), Fiona McNeilly, Clive Andrew (Chair), Shirley Banks, Dennis Walton, David Wilkie, John McNeil, Fraser McAllister, Liz Johnston, John Williamson, John Banks, Laura Young

Apologies : Kaela Scott, Paul Edie , Gaynor Allen, Helen Bruce.

1. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 11th December 2012 were approved with minor corrections.

2. Matters Arising

Charitable status – following further discussions with Paul Edie and exchange of correspondence with OSCR, this has been awarded (letter from OSCR dated 10 January 2013).

Now ready to set up bank account and community engagement money (£340) can be banked asap.

Beach Bathing status – Scottish Government have now designated the water at Fisherrow Sands as bathing water. It will take effect at the start of the 2013 bathing season. Letter dated 10 January was received from Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Venues for community event – Paul E had advised that Brunton Theatre is an option, and a marquee is also available.

3. New Members

John Banks is only new member this month.

4. Setting up bank account –

Action: it was agreed that Laura Y would take the lead on this: others are to assist, as required.

- 5. Communication and Public Relations** – there was much discussion on this item. It was felt that there is an opportunity to send out some good news messages. Key messages relate to bathing beach designation and the charitable status of the FWG (both achieved through the Group). However, the Group must collectively decide what it wants to do strategically – should we issue a number of press releases, or a single release with lots of different messages (such as our short and long term ambitions, the forthcoming consultation event and calling for more members etc)? Should the main focus be on communicating with our members? Or spreading the net wider?

In terms of timing, the Council's budget day is 12th February – probably best to avoid this time as the press likely to be pre-occupied with Council business.

With regard to the 'consultation event', this needs a good name. It was suggested that the 'event' should be held in early May on a Saturday and Sunday. Potential venues are the Brunton Theatre Concourse (boards available and exhibition could remain in place all week) and The Quay. The Grammar School is another potential venue, but this may be more difficult (and difficult to staff). Council can offer assistance with printing. The event could be advertised at Tesco, in the school. Concerns were raised about how to handle the consultation event – there is a nervousness that people may get the wrong message, and that there may be conflicts between different stakeholders. It may help if we understood how regeneration was handled in other historic harbours such as Stonehaven and Anstruther.

A number of actions were agreed as a result of the discussion.

Action 1 : Gaynor A is asked to draft a press release focusing on our early successes and forward this to the office bearers for approval. Should include a quote from Clive and the Harbour Users (if possible) but not from elected members.

Action 2 : Fiona M to create a gmail account for the Group (fisherrowwaterfront@gmail.com, or similar). There are 56 members and all bar 7 have email addresses.

Action 3 : Paul E is asked to advise Ann Kivlin (Kaela's boss) in the interests of consistency etc.

Action 4 : Message to be sent to our members. Something along the lines of “We are now in the process of organising a consultation. Please let us know how you would like to get involved”.

Message to go out in Clive's name as Chair. Gaynor A is asked to draft this too.

Action 5 : Laura Y to update Facebook and the website, but only after the press release has been agreed. Others should do some 'liking'.

Action 6 : A Consultation Sub Group is to meet to discuss organisation and publicity for the 'event'. Sub Group to comprise David W, Liz J, David P and Aileen G. Fiona M to ask who else wants to attend the first meeting of the Sub Group which will be on Tuesday 29th January at 7.30 in the Yacht Club. The Sub Group are tasked with coming up with a strategy for consultation as well as key messages/exhibition text and other material.

Action 7 : All to try and find the plans and info. Clive offered to check usage of the car park (there may be survey info available in relation to the recent planning application for The Quay).

Action 8 : Stewart Baxter to be invited to the next meeting. Helen B to be asked to invite him.

6. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting for the Group as a whole is on Tuesday 19th February at the Yacht Club at 7.30 p.m.