

Fisherrow Waterfront Group
Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012.

Present - David Wilkie, Laura Young, Fiona McNeilly, Gaynor Allen, , Liz Johnson, Aileen Grant, Dennis Walton, David Purdie, Shirley Banks,

In attendance – Kaela Scott, Johnnie McNeill, John Banks, George Cameron, Helen Bruce

Apologies – John Williamson, Betty Ramsden

1, Minutes from the last meeting

Approved by David Purdie and seconded by Fraser McAllister

2, Matters Arising

East Lothian Council has decided not to site the new Tennis Club on Fisherrow Links and are now looking for an alternate site.

The Beach clean-up – organised by Employee Volunteering - took place on October 3.

David Purdie told the group about driftwood being piled up on the grass behind the beach. The council is aware of this.

3, Approval of New Members

Four new members have applied and were approved by Fiona and seconded by Dennis. We now have 50 members and need to discuss what to do with members and particularly how to communicate with them.

Action: move communicating with new members to next agenda.

4, Opening a Bank Account

It was agreed to open a bank account.

Dennis proposed the group open the bank account at RBS in Musselburgh and to have four signatories. David Wilkie seconded this.

Laura Young (treasurer), Fiona McNeilly (secretary), David Purdie and Gaynor Allen will all be signatories.

Action :The committee instructed Laura to collect the forms and start the process.

5, Future Plans – next steps.

After setting up the group properly, we need to look at our progress to date.

Dog Watch – look at making this an annual event. Very successful at the time, but David Purdie says the issue is getting worse again. The event raised awareness of the group. We still have leaflets which should be handed out.

We need to go back and look at what the group's priorities were from the start.

We looked at improving five areas, but the group agreed to reduce this to three areas and to have different teams looking into this and reporting back to the main group. Events and communications will be left to the whole group.

It was decided that the three areas would be:

- * the harbour (Dennis and David W will be in this group,
- * the area to the East of the area (David P and Fraser will be in this group)
- * the area to the West of the Harbour (Fiona and Laura will be in this group).

Any other members are free to join and should contact each other for details.

Harbour Users Group

The group felt that we may need a more formal link between the Harbour Users Group (HUG) and the Waterfront group. Jan said there was no need for this as there were four people on both committees.

Johnnie McNeil is now chair of HUG and said he has already got new benches around the inside of the harbour wall on the east side, he would like to see the sand pushed back on the West beach, he has secured an agreement from the council to get a JCB to remove the sandbank from the harbour itself, and he would like the lighting to be changed to give more light around the harbour.

It was said the two groups need to work together on improving the harbour area. Johnnie said that even though ELC did not have money, there was money out there that we could tap into for our projects and mentioned European funding, and the Common Good Fund.

Action: groups to meet up and look at a plan take the group forward. Work with HUG. Need to begin working on a development plan at the next meeting.

6, Proposed activities and Funding Possibilities.

A, ELC Civic Pride Fund

We had agreed to apply for funding to replace the existing benches at the side of the harbour, but this has now been done

The group agreed to apply for £5,000 to build a shower at the end of the Back Sands.

Action: Gaynor and Dennis will work together to fill in the form and Helen will help liaise with ELC.

B, Lottery funding

It was agreed to leave this until a later date as it is not time limited.

C, Community Engagement Scheme – closing date 1st Nov

It was agreed at the last meeting to apply to develop a “civic conversation” with the community on how to use the harbour area and everyone agreed. Kaela filled in this form and the group agreed with her recommendation and thanked her for her excellent work.

7, Communications

A, Website.

Laura agreed to set up a Facebook page which would be easier to manage than the website. However we need to keep and maintain both as facebook is only suitable for some purposes.

B, Newsletter

It was agreed to look at this in the next meeting.

Action: Laura to set up Facebook page and put communications back on next month’s agenda.

8, AOB

Eskmuthe Rowing Club – a group of residents are setting up a rowing club and are building a skiff at Prestongrange Museum. Laura asked if the Yacht Club could maybe store the skiff and David said support would be given. The group agreed to support the venture. They are looking for adult volunteers to help. – will add their link to our webpage and facebook.

Fireworks will be moved to the beach at Fisherrow Links between 7 and 8pm on November, 5th.

Fraser offered to join HUG as a representative from the Waterfront Group. The group would like to formally ask HUG if this is possible.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday, December 11 – 7:30pm at Fisherrow Yacht Club

