

Fisherrow Waterfront Group

Notes from meeting – 29th August 2012

Members Present –David Wilkie, Laura Young, Clive Andrew, John Williamson, Fiona McNeilly, Gaynor Allen, Betty Ramsden, Liz Johnson, Aileen Grant

In attendance - John McNeil, Kaela Scott, Helen Bruce

Apologies –Dennis Walton, Fraser Mcallister, Jan Wallace

1) Minutes from previous meeting

Approved as accurate – moved David, 2nd Clive

2) Representation and Membership

Kaela clarified the different roles people round the table were filling in relation to the newly constituted structure – eg Trustees (formal management committee members), ordinary members of the group as well as others in attendance either as ELC Elected Members or present in their job roles.

3) Appointment of Office Bearers

Discussion among the members regarding who was able and/or willing to take on the varying roles required on the committee.

Following the discussion the following appointments were proposed, accepted and agreed by all present.

Chair - Clive Andrew
Vice Chair – Aileen Grant
Secretary – Fiona McNeilly
Treasurer – Laura Young

The rest of the group noted their thanks to those willing to take on formal roles within the Group.

4) Approval of new members

The 8 nominated trustees for the Group are the organisations founding members. Membership was opened to the public in July 2012.

38 new membership applications have been received. The list of names was circulated and members 9 – 46 were approved.

5) SCIO application

Draft of the application was circulated – following a few changes to wording the application was approved for submission.

Kaela to make the changes, update it regarding committee membership details and organise for it to be signed and sent.

6) Application for bathing beach status – SEPA

Fiona presented the evidence that has been collected in a format compiled to send the SEPA to support the application for Bathing Beach status for Fisherrow Backsands.

There are still some gaps from June and David was to try and find photos from the regatta weekend to forward to Fiona before the deadline (end of the month).

The group noted their thanks to Fiona for co-ordinating this work.

7) Update from walkabout with Stuart Pryde (ELC L&C Amenities Officer)

Earlier in the month Dennis, Laura and Kaela met with Stuart Pryde to look at maintenance and repair issues across the area.

Key points

- access to the sand from Edinburgh Rd – currently a hidden and unsafe access at the Western end of the stone wall. SP to arrange to have this looked at. Discussion re creating a more welcoming / permanent entrance there would have to include consideration of it being another break in the flood defences. Also potential for signage / interpretation there to mark the beginning of the Fisherrow area and highlight the beach / harbour from the bus-stop.
- weeds and sand build up on the harbour piers – have now all been sprayed and are dying but need to be removed. SP will try and send a team down to get rid of the build up. Has suggested however that although spraying must continue to be done by L&C staff that the Harbour master may be encouraged to keep on top of removal – particularly if he was supplied with a blower (this could also help with sand build up particularly on the western pier)
- Removal of sand build up from the western edge of the Harbour – SP advised this was not his area.
- Showers at the toilet block – no progress
- Peeling paint on the Harbour Master's office – SP suggested this could be renewed soon.
- Community Noticeboard – discussion of need for a noticeboard – the ones currently available are either uncovered (at the toilet block) or seem to be for the exclusive use of the Harbour master. This could be something funded through Civic Pride funding or maybe the CC or Common Good Fund.
- Seating on the eastern pier - there was discussion regarding the state of the wooden plank seating attached to the stone walls along this pier. While some of this could be removed to 'make safe' the council is currently unlikely to replace it. Possibly this is something the group could consider for an application for Civic Pride funding.
- Clarification of road and walk-way areas at the western end of the promenade – again this is contentious with various claims on the area and some competing information received regarding its status. Suggestion that we need to either invite Stuart Baxter (ELC Transportation) to a future meeting or arrange for reps of the group to meet with him in working hours to seek clarification.

8) Communications

Website – now up and running but needs to be taken over by the group. Laura and David recently attended training and Laura has since posted one article.

- need to keep updating the site so that it appears 'live' – How are we going to manage this?

- need to think about an email address – currently all c/o Musselburgh LCP which is ok for now. No decision reached

- Question raised over whether the site could accommodate a private area for committee members to store and access documents – Kaela to follow up re this

Fisherrow Community Centre Open Day – group agreed to have a presence there, despite being unsure who could make it along to staff a stall. Leaflets re Dogwatch and membership forms would be available. We would use the presentation for SEPA as a display. Laura would do up a big version of the logo for us to brand the stall.

Discussion re newsletter or other ways of getting back to the wider public deferred to next meeting

9) Any other business

Aileen raised the Tennis Court debate which has been receiving quite a bit of coverage lately over proposals to re-site courts in the Fisherrow Links.

John agreed to forward relevant information for the group and we can discuss further at the next meeting.

Next meeting :

Wednesday 19th Sept. 7:30pm at Fisherrow Yacht Club