

Queensferry Business Association Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

at the Rosebery Hall, 7pm, Thursday 16 November 2006

Present: Paul Hart, Moira Cunningham, David Steel, L Scillitoe, Joanne McDonald, Kirsty Hodge, Dawn Carvisiglia, Andrew Edwards, Jock Blair, Kay Blair, Gerardine Durkin, Janette Anderson, Ben Brogan, Douglas Flett

Apologies: Jean Bryden, Rona Martin, Wil Tunnell, Charles Fletcher, Peter McKinney, Colin Hart

Welcome by Paul Hart, Chairman

Secretary's Report (N/A in her absence on holiday)

Treasurers Report by Kirsty Hodge. Printed accounts for year ending 31 October 2006 were tabled and distributed. The year finished with a credit balance.

Members Report We have the highest ever membership of 69 paid-up members. This is mainly due to the booklet "Essential Queensferry", its advertising and business listing.

Website Report by Dawn Carvisiglia whose husband, Simon, runs the updated site which is about to have a new home page. The meeting discussed links with other local websites and the possible counting of 'hits'.

Events Report by Moira Cunningham. The Christmas Pageant was very successful and is an event which involves many local groups. The Christmas Lights are dependent on City Council and other grants. This event is so large that it requires a separate committee and it was agreed to look into ways to achieve this.

School Awards These are now into their third year, having made the award presentations last month for the 05/06 school year. These awards are particularly appreciated by the schools as well as providing a link for them to the business community. We hope the High School will become involved in this coming year.

Roads and Planning Issues Dougie Flett reported several areas of ongoing action with the City Council and usually in tandem with the Community Council and other local groups. Road repairs, Promenade upgrading, Signage, Parking, Jacob's Ladder, Forth Tunnel instead of a Bridge and other ongoing matters were mentioned.

Ambition Queensferry is the plan to carry out a 'blue sky' all-encompassing report on South Queensferry. Wil Tunnell has made presentations to the Community Council, QBA members and to City Council Officers. Grant funding is being sought to fund the next stage of the build-up toward the goal of a forward vision for the town, covering planning issues, traffic, roads, parking, tourism, traffic flow, sport, recreation, amenities, environmental, architectural design, landscaping, retail and all businesses of the town. Some of the activity to date has resulted in South Queensferry becoming a part of the Waterfront plan by CoEC.

Chairman's Report by Paul Hart. The point about the **Christmas Pageant** was repeated by Paul, saying that the QBA adopted responsibility for this event from some on the Rotary, but the scale and success of the event necessitates a separate committee

Chairman's Report continued:

outwith the QBA. It attracted £5K Lottery grant in 2005. The '**Essential Queensferry**' A5 booklet for visitors was a success and was produced for the cost of the advertising. It also helped membership growth. We had two very social and successful **Members Meetings** in the year. The Social Night on the Maid of the Forth was a financial success. The thorny subject of **High Street Parking** was addressed during the year and representations made with the CoEC Roads Dept. **Business Rates** reduction for High Street closures was also addressed. And there was general **oversight** of matters related to business life in the area. We kept in touch with **Cruise Ships** visiting the Forth and continue to communicate with CoEC on related matters.

Chairman's Suggestions: These included the following –

- a. Maintain the level of the £40 membership fee.
- b. Hold at least two Members Meetings per year – these have been a success.
- c. Maintain the strong links with CoEC and the Community Council.
- d. Pass on the Pageant to a separate organising group.
- e. Continue steady pressure upon the CoEC for strategic planning for Queensferry.

Paul Hart intimated his intention to step down from chairmanship of the QBA but to serve on the committee if re-elected. He also reported Jean Bryden's intention to step down from the role of secretary but to also be available as a committee member.

Members Comments included -

- a. Suggested advertising and more news in the Queensferry Gazette, perhaps extracts from the website.
- b. Christmas Lights: Is there a cheaper way to provide festive lighting? It was noted that Kirkliston lights on lampposts are provided free by the CoEC. A meeting may be arranged of those interested.

David Steel chairs the Nominations

Nominations for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary - none

Nominations for Treasurer - Kirsty Hodge – duly elected

Nominations for Committee – Paul Hart, Douglas Flett, Gerardine Durkin, Janette Anderson, Moira Cunningham, Kay Blair, Joanne McDonald, Dawn Carvisiglia, (Jean Bryden?)

David noted that the number of members in attendance was poor (13 members present).

Next AGM: It was suggested that the next AGM is coupled with a Members Meeting or include a speaker and buffet for the evening. Another suggestion was to move the AGM to September or October, but this would involve adjusting the accounting year. It was noted that a larger / better venue would assist attendance.

Better engaging with QBA members was encouraged, perhaps including a speed networking evening. Other possibilities included a local news forum by email and regular input to the Gazette.

The website can have links to the History Group and other local websites like the Ferry Fair which had 160K hits over two years.

Paul Hart to announce the date for the first meeting of the New Committee.

Meeting Closed.

Those in Attendance

Paul Hart, 23-24 High St, SQ – Clan Albanach
Moirra Cunningham, 15 West Terrace, SQ – Hawthorne Guest House
Joanne McDonald, 15 East Terrace, SQ – Luma Interiors
Kirsty Hodge, 27 High St, SQ - Chiropody / Pdiatry
Dawn Carvisiglia, 28 William Black Place, SQ EH30 9QR – Sunshine Ceramics
Jock Blair, Kay Blair, The Bothy, Newton – Bosun’s Locker, Chandlery & Boat sales
Gerardine Durkin, 5 Mid Terrace, SQ – Picnic Coffee Shop
Janette Anderson, 19 High St, SQ – Jint’s Jools
Douglas Flett

Jean Bryden, 27 High St, SQ - Physiotherapy
Rona Martin,
Wil Tunnell,
David Steel,
L Scillitoe,
Ben Brogan,
Andrew Edwards,