

**Queensferry Business Association
Minutes of Committee meeting held 10th January 2008**

Present:

Douglas Flett, Kirsty Hodge, Joanne McDonald, Moira Cunningham, Kay Blair, Charles Blackwell, Fiona Christie, Gerardine Durkin

Apologies

Lucy Sillitoe Rona Martin

Previous meeting's Minutes

Agreed by all

Chairmans Report

DF reports that the Chamber of Commerce is keen to set up links with local business associations and believes there may be some benefit in this for us – initially due to them having an admin resource that may be available.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted.

Internet banking still in process of being set up at the bank.

MC reports that an internet banking letter has been sent to her address – will check this to see if it is part of the QBA application.

Queensferry Ambition

DF reports that the project is up and rolling, with press releases being made. Local papers have taken up the story but at present nationals are not interested – DF is looking for an angle to interest them, as coverage there will increase the profile of the project and perhaps attract more funding.

An A4 flyer is being produced.

The regular meetings have started running now and public consultation will start.

KB to find out the contact for the Queensferry Vision initiative to allow efforts to be coordinated.

Suggestions for stakeholder group still being sought. All to email suggestions to DF.

KB suggests a representative from the Port Edgar user group. Also Donald Dewar from the Forth Belle could be approached.

The QBA committee acknowledge the input of Will Tunnell to this project and wish to thank him for his contribution so far. Ideas for a 'thank-you' for Will to be emailed to JM.

MembershipReport

Discussion took place following the information that several members have not renewed, to examine how the Association may better serve its members.

Regular newsletters and letters to go out to membership, as discussed before. Letters when written to be forwarded to JM to email out. Email addresses for all members to be improved – FC/JM/RM to work together on this (JM to lead). Letters to be sent to all members to ask them to include QBA in their address book to avoid our emails being rejected by their spam-filters.

Web Site Report

FC to research free/low cost customer management database applications with a view to using one to store member data. Ideally one where ex members and prospective members could also be held, to allow us to make approaches here.

Web hosting is coming up for renewal – it is at around £50 level for one year, FC suggests going up to the next level to allow us to have database facilities on the website.

FC to research to see if there is a provider that can give us a better price.

FC remuneration discussed – all agreed £20/hour.

Community Council Report

Issues of roads, parking and transport were discussed at the CC meeting. Please refer to Community Council minutes.

Funding may be available for local transport improvements.

KB to ask Laura Sexton to give ½ hour talk at the end of next months committee meeting.

Events

Further review of the QBA offering to its members, the subject of members meetings was discussed. One members meeting every two months is being considered. Format to be guest speaker (1/2 hour followed by Q&A) then 1 hour of open networking. Occasional social only format for these. Increased frequency of these meetings to give the members more of a chance to get to know each other and therefore derive more benefit from the networking aspects. Committee meetings to occur on the same night as the members meeting (possibly beforehand) to minimise additional time spent by committee. It was suggested that the meeting should be on the same evening at the same venue each time to allow members to book the date ahead in their diaries.

GD/CB to meet to drive this forward, and discuss possible speakers.

JM to contact Andrew Watson (Scotland on Sunday article) to invite him to speak at a future event.

Next proposed members meeting 28th February, with a speaker giving an update on the Forth Crossing.

MC to contact Dundas Castle and/or Bella Vista (upstairs lounge) to book for this. DF to approach a suitable speaker for this.

MC to organise salsa social evening for September

ALL to send ideas for names of speakers to GD.

Items from Agenda

New Forth Crossing – some discussion was had regarding the recent decision by the Scottish Executive for a new bridge.

KB/DF suggesting that QBA should review the plans that are available to put forward our suggestions for the way that the construction will affect the local area, in an attempt to protect the interests of the local businesses. DF to request site map and plan of bridge route from consultants.

KB reports that the Port Edgar development appears still to be going ahead and the contractor is to be selected by Sept/Oct of this year.

Cruise Liners – GD keen to see some type of welcome for the liner passengers as they disembark.

Anything from a simple permanent map on the railings to a pipe band.

GD to ask Donald Dewar from the Forth Belle how he went about getting the notices he has on the railings done. Also to speak to Jim Anderson to discuss/progress ideas re the tourist welcome.

Date of Next Meeting

7th February, 5.45pm at Picnic