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Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Agenda - January 2001

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm Monday 8th January in the Burgh Chambers of the Town Hall. There will be a short break at about 8pm.

0. Honoured Citizen Award

To Mr Gordon Christie.

1. Attendance

Apologies:

2. Minutes of December 2000

(read for accuracy in matters of substance - harangue the secretary for minor (spelling etc) errors outwith the meeting)

3. Presentations

(For anyone wishing to address the meeting on a matter relevant to St Andrews. Please contact the Secretary or Chair before the meeting. Priority will be given to those who have been invited to speak or have given advance notice)

3.1. Community Policing

3.1.1. Car Parking on Pavements

- this was raised by a member of the public in December (item 3.3 in the minute). What is the current legal and enforcement situation?

3.2. 2001 Census

Alastair Robertson, Census Area Manager for Fife, to speak about the 29 April 2001 Census. Sample copy of part of the census form attached.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville (West)

4.2. Jane Hunter-Blair (Central)

4.3. Sheila Hill (South)

4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South-East)

5. Matters Arising from previous meetings

5.1. Scenic Map

Are looking at unveiling the new map week commencing 29 January, Jane Hunter-Blair as local councillor to cut the ribbon (or whatever). Suggestions of suitable day/times and invitees to the ceremony (and the tea & biscuits afterwards) are sought.

Following items for information

5.2. Burgh Chambers display case

(Dec 3.4.) Paul Marshall, Community Services, was very positive about the proposal to use the display for St Andrews and community council related material - specifically Mr Christie's heritage material. However he has to check with various other council services before he can give permission.

5.3. GNER Services in Scotland

Appendix A - Reply from Rail Passengers Committee (Scotland).

As suggested in this letter a copy of the original letter has gone to the Strategic Rail Authority. Copies of our original and this reply have also gone to Ian Smith MSP and Menzies Campbell MP - PL.

6. New Business

6.1. National Representation of Students

The Parliament's Higher Education and Lifelong Learning Committee has decided not to hear verbal evidence from the Universities which are not affiliated to the National Union of Students. This affects all St Andrews students whom we represent. The other Universities involved are Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. This according to the report (*The Courier*, 12/12/00) represents 30%+ of Students in higher education. I think we should back them totally and try and get the CCs of the other cities involved to lend their support.

Ken Crichton

6.2. Association of Scottish Community Councils local meeting

Following the ASCC forum for community councils in the West of Fife Douglas Murray, ASCC Secretary, has contacted us to say an East/Central Fife forum is under consideration, and asked for possible subjects for discussion. The Acute Health Service Review was raised at the recent Dunfermline meeting. (I have suggested that the general matter of Common Good Funds would seem to be a concern worth airing - PL)

Following items for information

6.3. Fife Health Council Open Day

Noon-7pm, 26 Jan 01 at Hayfields Clinic, Hayfields Road Kirkcaldy - See Healthwatch newsletter, copies distributed at meeting.

6.4. Trading Standards newsletter

December issue covers: Animal Health & Welfare; Forfeited Goods; Counterfeiting; Motor Trade Approval Scheme.

6.5. Rural Strategic Support Fund

Application form and guidance notes for 2001-2 received.

"The Rural Strategic Support Fund assists in setting up Local Rural Partnerships - partnerships between local people, local agencies, voluntary organisations and the private sector operating in a particular rural area to agree the way forward to meet local needs within that area."

6.6. Volunteering Fife - December newsletter

New website <http://www.volunteeringfife.org.uk/>; 4th Annual Fife Conference - 20/22 March, Rothes Halls; UN International Year of Volunteers; Fieldfare Millennium Awards; Volunteers' safety; Fife Society for the Blind; Accreditation for Volunteers; @dvance - women's economic advancement in rural Fife.

7. Reports from Officers

7.1. Chair

7.1.1. Hogmanay Ceilidh

- tremendous success, with a full house. Accounts will be circulated at the meeting.

7.1.2. **Students' Association license** - discussions are ongoing in the working party formed last year.

7.2. Treasurer

7.3. Secretary

7.3.1. Email address

- over the last couple of months the number of official contacts with email has increased dramatically (Fife Council has just noticed the last decade of the 20th Century). As a result the number of emails I send to outside bodies as Secretary is now exceeding the old fashioned letters. I am therefore investigating the costs of a specific community council email address, web-site *etc*, and will report in due course.

7.3.2. Community Council elections

- Morag Wallace informs me that with the possibility of a May Westminster election ours might be delayed until October. This is still subject of discussion, the earliest date for a decision would be at the February Policy & Resources Committee meeting.

8. Committees

8.1. Planning

8.2. Recreation

8.3. Millennium

8.4. Publicity

report in Appendix B

9 AOCB

If members intend to raise items under AOCB please let the Secretary or Chair know before the meeting. Remember, unless it is urgent, placing items on the agenda for next month's New Business would be more effective...

Appendix A - GNER Services in Scotland

Reply from Robert Samson, Deputy Secretary of the Rail Passengers' Committee (Scotland) dated 05 January 2001

I am at last able to send you a reply to the e-mail you sent on 5 December. Naturally we are deeply concerned that it has taken so long for us to be able to do so, and I must thank you for your patience meanwhile. The simple explanation is that a backlog of work has arisen in consequence of a change in office accommodation, staff leave, the introduction of a new complaint handling database and recent events in the rail network. I can only apologise for the situation that only now we are beginning to get a grip of.

Perhaps it would be useful if I sketched in the background to our recent involvement regarding the provision of GNER services.

The Committee readily understood the problems faced by GNER and the premium that the situation placed on diesel trains such as the HST sets that normally serve Aberdeen and Inverness. In the circumstances it would have been accepted that the loss of several of these services was inevitable. However, the complete severance of direct links to London was wholly unacceptable.

RPC Scotland, representing strongly expressed passenger views in this matter, informed GNER that the Committee deprecates the complete withdrawal of Scottish services and believes that at least one service north of Edinburgh should have been maintained. It is crucial to recognise the East Coast Main Line as an entire route from Kings Cross to Aberdeen and the northern section must be regarded as an integral part of the route - not an inconvenient add on. The Committee was concerned that the decision to suspend direct GNER services north of Edinburgh was taken for commercial and geographical reasons and asked GNER for a full explanation behind the decision.

Christopher Garnett, Chief Executive, GNER informed the Committee that since the Hatfield tragedy they have been unable to utilise fully their fleet of electric trains and the much smaller number of diesel trains they operate. By having to operate a diversionary route around the Hatfield site, they are limited to the number of trains they can operate on this much more restricted route. In particular there is not enough overhead electrical supply there to feed the system, which means that to operate any sort of robust, coherent and deliverable emergency timetable across their 1,000 mile route, they had to substitute electric 225 services with 125 diesel trains.

Therefore in looking at the service GNER provide, they have run trains on routes where there is no alternative operator. This means that between Edinburgh and Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow and Edinburgh and Inverness ScotRail do provide an alternative service. Equally, from Doncaster to Hull and from Leeds to Skipton and Leeds to Bradford there are alternative operators who can provide the service.

There is no alternative operator via Leeds to Doncaster to London and at the southern end of the East Coast Main Line itself. It is for this reason that they very reluctantly had to use the sets where they could provide the greatest benefit to passengers overall.

The decision temporarily to suspend direct GNER services north of Edinburgh was not taken lightly. It was made purely to deploy the fleet where no alternative service existed, and not for any commercial or geographical reason. It would be wholly wrong to interpret this difficult decision as a reduction in GNER's commitment to Scotland.

The Committee considered the response made by GNER and although welcoming the hard work GNER has undertaken over the period of the franchise particularly in the realm of customer service, it is disappointing to note that much of the hard work may have been undone in recent weeks and may influence the Franchise Replacement process currently being undertaken.

As for the pertinent points raised regarding the Franchise Agreement the best person to contact would be the Franchise Manager, responsible for GNER at the SRA as follows:

Jo Phelan
Franchise Manager
Strategic Rail Authority
55 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EH
E-MAIL jo.phelan@sra.gov.uk

However, the Franchise Operator shall not be responsible for any failure to perform its obligations, if such failure is caused or is due to any *Force Majeure* Event. This includes the Franchise Operator being prevented or restricted by Railtrack from gaining access to any relevant section or part of track for a period in excess of 12 hours.

Furthermore GNER consulted SRA prior to amending the timetable plan.

I hope the above information is of use and again may I regret the length of time it has taken to respond to your letter.

Appendix B - Publicity Committee Report

Meeting on 12th December 2000

Pete Lindsay, Frank Riddell, Lindsay Murray, Chris Lesurf, Murdo Macdonald

1. Bulletin

Preparation was needed for the next edition of the CC Bulletin. Articles for consideration included a new one from Lindsay Murray about the proposed changes to the A91 entrance to the town, and from Murdo Macdonald and Ken Fraser about the Senior Citizens' treat. Frank Riddell would photograph the treat and the Hogmanay ceilidh for possible inclusion. Other things for inclusion were an advert for "Event", prior notification of CC elections, report on Honoured Citizen award and report on new notice board.

2. Notice Boards

(i) Frank Riddell reported that 3 quotations had been sought for installation of the notice board in Church Square, from T Livingstone and Sons Ltd, Fife Council DLO and Fife Council Roads. The lowest quotation received was from Fife Council Roads and the work has been placed with them. The board will be installed at the same time as the scenic map nearby on South Street. Possibilities for unveiling of both boards were discussed.

(ii) Pete Lindsay agreed to purchase the A boards that had been agreed by the CC some time ago. He was also asked to investigate and report back on the possibilities of internet domain name registration etc.

(iii) Frank Riddell would purchase some marine varnish to repaint the existing notice board on South Street.

Frank Riddell

December Correspondence

Date	in Who	Subject	
4/12/00	I Env Health	Contaminated Land Strategy	F
5/12/00	o Railtrack, Passenger Council	GNER complaint	
5/12/00	o ScotRail	Leuchars 8.xx service	

5/12/00	I	Planning	Finalised Fife Structure Plan	
7/12/00	I	ScotRail	Leuchars 8.xx service	
8/12/00	I	Supplies	Ordering procedures	f
8/12/00	I	Locality Roads Programme	meeting cancelled again	LM
9/12/00	I	East Local Services	agenda 13/12/00	f
10/12/00	I	Planning	Jubilee Starters Box	IG plan
11/12/00	I	CVS Fife	Newsletter Dec 2000	F?
12/12/00	I	Tay Estuary Forum	Minutes 1/12/00	F
14/12/00	I	Tricia Marwick MSP	December newsletter	F
18/12/00	I	Celebrating Fife	Dec-Mar issue	Event
18/12/00	I	Volunteering Fife	Newsletter - Dec	F
18/12/00	I	Scottish Exec Rural Affairs	Rural Strategic Support Fund application form	F
19/12/00	O	Fife Council Local Office, Hall keepers (Town & VMH), Planning Service, Police, St Andrews Socs	Xmas Card	
21/12/00	I	Trading Standards	December newsletter	F
21/12/00	I	Rubbish Free Zone co-ords	Xmas card	F
21/12/00	I	East of Scotland Water	Xmas Card	F
22/12/00	I	VONEF	Newsletter - dec 2000	F
22/12/00	I	Fife Health Council	Healthwatch newsletter	Distrib
28/12/00	I	Mrs Podzorska	Ladbrokes betting office	IG plan
29/12/00	I	Planning Service	Customer Survey	IG plan
29/12/00	I	Planning Service	Plans for consultation	IG plan
5/1/01	I	Rail Passenger Committee (Scot)	GNER Services in Scotland	F
6/1/01	I	APRS	Newsletter - winter 2000	F
6/1/01	I	Entrust	Landfill Tax Credit Scheme Achievements Event 6/2/01	F

St Andrews Pothole Watch

List: Potholes (40mm/1.5in) in the road, damaged pavements (20mm/.75in), missing or damaged toby covers, blocked drains, floods, defective streetlights etc.

Identify the location (Street and number on closest house or streetlight for instance).

Hand to Cllr Jane Ann Liston or to Fife Roads Service.

Defect & Location