

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – 2nd April 2018

0. Members

Mr McLeod welcomed the new Student Community Relations officer, Mr Morgan Morris who has taken over from Hannah Raleigh.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Iain Munn, Greg Newman, Iain Munn, Patrick Marks, Jamie McLeod, Penelope Fraser, Alistair Newton, Howard Greenwell,

Students' Association Representatives

Morgan Morris

Co-Opted

Emma Shay

Lindsey Adam

Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Brian Thomson, Dominic Nolan, Ann Verner

Apologies – Dita Stanis-Traken, Izzy Corbin, Lewis Wood, Ann Verner, Judith Harding, Neil Cunningham-Dobson, Niall Scott

2. Minutes of Meeting – March 2018

Minutes agreed as a correct record. Mr Greenwell noted a spelling error in 6.3. which Mr Marks agreed to correct.

3. Presentations

3.1. Police Report

PC Robert Crawford was in attendance. He apologised for the lack of recent Police attendance due to operational commitments/shifts. He acknowledged that the recent weeks had been taken up to a great extent with the search for the missing student. He informed the meeting that he'd been made aware by Councillors of issues in the Lade Braes and said the police would endeavour to get more patrols in the area on foot or bikes to try and reduce episodes of anti-social behaviour. Speeding in the town continued to be an issue, which they also planned to tackle, by various means.

He concluded by saying that the local force had lots of ideas they were developing as part of the community Police strategy. He advised that the local area also had a new Inspector Jane Coomb and a new sergeant. The former he said was from a safer communities background and had lots of ideas. He reminded members about being able to contact the police locally about any concerns.

Mr Greenwell asked if the local police would be able to cope with two large events taking place in the town the coming weekend, a large event at Craigtoun and a Gay Pride March in St Andrews Town Centre. PC Crawford didn't foresee any problems. He would be policing the Gay Pride march and police from outwith the area had been drafted in to deal with the

Craigton Park event. He thought that traffic issues might be the only issue for the Craigton Event.

4. Fife Councillors.

4.1. Jane Ann Liston.

4.1.1. Building work at Leuchars Train Station

Cllr Liston had received confirmation from a Scotrail official that Caledonian Sleeper Services had undertaken to provide accommodation/shelter for their passengers at stations served by the service.

4.1.2. Traffic Survey – St Andrews

Cllr Liston reported that she'd received about the middle of March information about a traffic survey. The reason for this survey to be conducted 22-28th March in Abbey Walk wasn't clear. Cllr Liston pointed out to officials that the chosen date was not a good one as the University was on holidays and there wouldn't be the normal traffic flow. Officials agreed and will be rescheduling this survey for some later date. She still wasn't any the wiser about the exact reason for the survey.

4.1.3. Fishermen's Stores

Cllr Liston had received information from Fife Council Estates that they were going to do some maintenance work on these Common Good buildings used by local fishermen. Most of the work will relate to guttering and removal of a tree growing on one roof and replacement of a window in one unit. Work will take place within a month and will take about a week. The Common Good Fund will pick up the costs.

4.1.4. Mini Golf Proposal – East Bents

Cllr Liston had recently had correspondence from the young gentleman about this proposal. It had been discussed a year ago by the Community Council with Councillors meeting the proposer, to discuss whether it might be something the CC could support or felt the community might support. Cllr Liston had agreed to raise the idea again with the CC to be raised. Mr McLeod commented upon the past contact with the proposer and his colleagues and thought it had been left that the proposers would get back to the CC and relevant authorities to either progress or not the idea. Cllr Liston added that the Fife Countryside and Coastal Trust had been unaware of the idea and that the CC had been consulted. She hinted that an official from this Trust had expressed some reservations about the idea.

Mr Greenwell had looked at the email forwarded recently on the idea. He was concerned that the proposal was now going to encompass the whole of the East Bents and would have chipping as well as putting. He commented that he saw no evidence in the plans of fencing to reduce the risk of a member of the public being hit by even a lightweight golf ball. He added that the extended area covering the idea was also a concern, as it didn't leave much of the area for public use.

Miss Fraser reminded members that there was a children's play area near the toilet block adjacent to the proposed mini-golf. She was concerned about the potential risk to children from a golf ball.

4.1.5. Tay Cities Deal

Cllr Liston reported that this body was working up a transport model. She thought that this might be because of what happened to the Edinburgh Cities deal, when the Scottish Government had not supported any funding to progress the proposed renewal of a rail link to Leven. The Tay Cities body in order to have a better-prepared argument are undertaking surveys at Leuchars and Cupar Railway Stations and eventually other places in North East Fife.

4.1.6. Rail Feasibility Studies

Cllr Liston informed the meeting that as a result of the recent Scottish Government budget negotiations a sum of £2 million had been put aside for rail feasibility studies. Several workshops are to be held across Scotland in relation to this funding and Cllr Liston will be attending one taking place in Kirkcaldy.

4.1.7. Church Street Crossings

Miss Uprichard noted that Councillors had approved the crossings in this area. She thought that any traffic survey should look at the impact. Mr Newton added that this would be even more pertinent when Queens Gardens became one way. Cllr Liston replied that a private company not the Council was undertaking the only survey she'd heard about and that was in Abbey Walk. Mr Greenwell commented briefly on the gridlock, which stretched from the town centre to past his garage exit on Abbey Walk. He acknowledged that it was a holiday period but felt that traffic was generally getting worse.

4.2. Dominic Nolan

4.2.1. Licensing Issues

Cllr Nolan announced he'd taken on a project in relation to St Andrews after he'd heard that the Licensing Board were considering whether there might be an oversupply of licensed premises in the town. His first question was to ask the CC members for their views on this matter. He wanted St Andrews to be a special case in such matters because of its position as a major tourist destination. A bit like a green flag for the environment the purple flag designation he was seeking related to demonstrating that St Andrews had a safe and yet vibrant nightlife. This idea was organised by the Association of Town and City Management. He then asked CC members if they had any views on the amount of alcohol licences issued? If that was acceptable would the CC support this application for the city to be designated through this association as having a safe and vibrant nightlife as mentioned earlier?

Mr Newman said that in principle he had no objection to the issuing of alcohol licences. He was more concerned that the pubs and restaurants were often spilling out more on to the streets. He was much more concerned about the idea of the purple flag and whom it would be benefiting. He didn't feel that the town needed to attract visitors in this way. He still had questions about the whole idea. Cllr Nolan in his reply said that local people knew the current status of what were considered the benefits of current provision. He acknowledged that such a status would be advertised throughout the country in recognition of its good nightlife. Mr Greenwell said that in a viewing of the purple flag website was seeing people safely home. He wondered how visitors from outwith town would be seen safely home? He thought like Mr Newman that such a scheme might be driven by BID and if it was the businesses that were benefiting they should in his opinion be paying the cost.

Cllr Nolan thought that this might be an appropriate time for the town to reflect on local policies and how town safety could be improved etc.

Miss Uprichard reminded Cllr Nolan that the town attracted in the order of 65000 visitors a year. She felt that this was quite a burden for a town of only 8000 permanent residents. Cllr Nolan thought that the numbers reflected the world-class status of the town and this couldn't be changed.

Dr Shepherd cited the problems with tourist numbers, which cities like Barcelona and Paris were trying to tackle and he didn't feel that St Andrews did well enough for visitors.

Ms Adam asked Cllr Nolan what specific aspects of the purple flag might benefit St Andrews? She reminded the meeting that she was a member of the BID board so had an interest. Cllr Nolan replied that the town could either see how it could improve safety policies itself but thought that the designation would also bring new business to the town if it were viewed as a safe place to socialise. He felt that the improvement in nightlife was only fitting given all the other world class aspects of the town in areas such as golf.

Cllr Thomson commented that at the previous week's North East Fife Area Committee they'd had a presentation from Dr Margaret Hannah, the Director of Public health for Fife. Her report

had been on the provision and effect of alcohol. He added that a couple of statistics had come out of that talk. The first was a statistic showing that the central area of St Andrews had by far the most licensed premises in Fife 103.4 per 10000 population. Another sobering statistic was the number of anti-social behaviour interdicts, which had been served in St Andrews compared to the rest of Fife, 33.3 per 1000 population. The majority of the interdicts had related to drink related offences. He felt in conclusion that such statistics needed to be taken into consideration when considering the issue of licensed premises.

Dr Shepherd described the situation in Aberdeen and how this had been tackled and in conclusion felt that there were enough such businesses in the town.

Miss Fraser asked Cllr Nolan to consider the health effects of imbibing alcohol when considering the purple flag status application.

Mr Greenwell acknowledging that there might be a generational difference of view made it clear he didn't think that the quality of the night life was one of the unique selling points of the town to promote. He added that the quality of those visiting was in his view more important not the amount of alcohol provision, which might supposedly still allow a safe evening out. He didn't think that promoting the nightlife should be an excuse for bringing in more visitors.

In conclusion Mr McLeod said that on a slightly more conciliatory note he was sure that Cllr Nolan had sensed that there wasn't any strong desire in the CC to promote more drinking establishments. He reminded the meeting that a part of the purple flag process was an audit of current activity. He didn't think there was any harm in having a look at what was happening and was certain that night life was not all about drinking but included a wide range of other experiences. He asked Cllr Nolan what he wanted the CC to do? In reply Cllr Nolan acknowledged the less than overwhelming support for his project, which he said, was mainly recognition of safety and excellence. It was not he added a means to increase alcohol intoxication more to bring people into the town. He felt that bringing more business to the town was beneficial. He appreciated the opportunity to hear the CC concerns of his project. He didn't think that pursuing this would rank up a level of anti-social behaviour, poor health or intoxication in the town.

Mr McLeod asked members if they wanted to support Mr Nolan in his project?

Mr Jardine said that he couldn't go for or against as he felt he didn't have enough information. He wondered what the broad definition of entertainment might be?

Mr McLeod drew the discussion to a close by suggesting that members should look at the purple flag website and establish their views and he also suggested that Cllr Nolan could report on any progress at the next meeting. A more formal position by the CC could be considered at the next meeting.

4.3. Brian Thomson

4.3.1. Changing Places Toilet

Cllr Thomson reported that this was being seriously looked at by officials with the Bruce Embankment toilets being considered for adaptation. Officials are pulling the costs together and should have an idea later in the summer.

4.3.2. Road Improvements

Cllr Thomson announced that in the new budget a number of road improvements for St Andrews had been announced. The road up to Brownhills, Largo Road from Tom Morris Drive to John Knox Road, Nelson Street, South Street and City Road. Several footpaths were to be resurfaced as well. There will also be various lighting schemes, much of these in the conservation area. Traffic calming might also take place in Buchanan Gardens but this may depend upon the new Madras School developments and the potential need for a drop off lay-by.

4.3.3. Car Parking at junction of Union Street/Market Street

Constituents have been contacting Cllr Thomson about the car-parking situation in this area. Problems are arising because of people parking while getting take away meals in one or other of the local takeaways. He'd had a look at the area himself and commented that the situation was in his words "abysmal". Cllr Thomson contacted PC Crawford and Fife Transportation in an attempt to have more patrols in the area and clamp down on illegal or bad parking.

4.3.4. Town Hall Flag Pole

Cllr Thomson reported that the flag was flying again. Officials had advised him that it had been snagging issues and the caretakers were reasonable happy. If problems started again there might be a case to replace it.

4.3.5. Madras College Planning Application

Cllr Thomson confirmed that this application had gone live. He had checked out a concern expressed by Miss Uprichard that the building will have a flat roof and established that there will be pitched roofs.

4.3.6. West Road Planning Application

Cllr Thomson informed the meeting that this application is due to be determined at North East Fife Planning Committee this week.

4.3.7. Vandalism in Lade Braes

Cllr Thomson reported that some bins in the area had been vandalised. The police may put additional patrols in the area to try and reduce opportunities for vandalism. Mr Munn suggested moving the bins from the Lade Braes. He thought that people should be capable of taking their rubbish home. Cllr Thomson wasn't averse to the idea and commented that one of the problems was the laziness of some people who might drop litter if there wasn't a convenient bin rather than take their litter home.

4.3.9. HMO Report

Cllr Thomson advised the meeting that this report is due to be seen by the North East Fife Area Committee in May.

4.3.10. Cycle Racks

Cllr Thomson reported that two of the planning applications were due to be determined in a couple of days by NEF Area Planning Committee. The application by the West Port had been delayed following a need to get agreement from Historic Scotland about the location. It will now be further out from the West Port by the flats and with 7 spaces now not 9 as originally planned. This will be determined in due course.

4.3.11. Tree Felling in Lade Braes

Cllr Thomson reported that the conifer plantation owned by Newpark Educational Trust is to be felled with native trees planted in its place. A survey to determine whether red squirrels are using the plantation is to be carried out before felling. Mr Greenwell thought he'd seen red squirrels in the area. Mr Marks commented on the potential for confusing red and grey squirrels saying he'd seen a photo of one taken in the Lade Braes, which was a grey squirrel, but with a reddish tinge to its fur. He was aware of red squirrels being reported in the Botanic Gardens and they might be further along the woodland to a limited extent.

4.4. Ann Verner – apologies

4.4.1. Overhanging Trees Hepburn Gardens

Cllr Verner contacted officers regarding overhanging trees on Hepburn Gardens heading west out of the town towards Craigtoun. The trees are actually in the grounds of Lawhead school, and she was been advised that they have been added to the work programme, to be completed during the school holidays.

4.4.2. Cycle Racks

At the last meeting, a question was asked regarding the cycle racks etc around town. The application for the installation of new stands and bollards is coming up at the Planning committee on Wed 4th April.

4.4.3. Church Street Crossings

Cllr Verner commented that the CC had also asked about the Church Street crossings, and reported that the application went through. She voted against it but the vote went against her views 6-9. And whilst she is concerned for people's safety, she did not think it was the right thing to do and can certainly thought of many other places where 35 thousand pounds could be better spent.

4.4.4. STANZA

Last month Cllr Verner attended the official launch of STANZA 2018. It was the start of an amazing few days with such a wealth of talent.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Committee Reports

5.1.1. HMO Report

Miss Uprichard said she'd attended the meeting at which the HMO Report was discussed by officials, councillors and members of organisations such as the CC and interested members of the public. Miss Uprichard said that those attending had time to make comments or ask questions on aspects of the report. She informed the meeting that while those attending could ask questions there were no answers given at the time. She had asked a couple of questions and is going to write to the Housing Manager who'd chaired the meeting asking for answers to her questions. Some discussion followed in relation to how the CC views on this report would be progressed if the Planning Committee circulated the outcome of the next planning meeting for comment so that it could be submitted in time for the North East Fife Area Committee in May where the report would be on the agenda. Cllr Thomson explained the process from the point of view of the local Councillors saying that the North East Fife Committee would express its own views but the report would then go to Glenrothes and a higher-level committee dealing with strategic issues of this scale. Mr McLeod concluded by suggesting that the CC Planning Committee should email their views to the whole CC for their consideration and the to Fife Council to add to the North East Fife Area Committee meeting agenda.

5.1.2. Housing Plans Craigtoun Road

Miss Uprichard brought up the issue of the plans by the Mount Melville Estate and partners to build nearly 400 houses in fields off the Craigtoun Road beside the last estate built in the town. She was concerned by a statement from a Fife Council official in relation to this application in relation to the Western Extension generally, "an uplift in numbers across the SDA could be considered appropriate providing it can show that each site can adequately accommodate the number of units proposed". Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting that the Mount Melville Ltd proposal was for 370 units and the Western Extension was 1090 units and the university was applying to significantly increase the number of student beds by 1100. What it didn't say in the report was who would decide upon any uplift. She suggested that with the way things were proceeding a further uplift in numbers could be expected but it wasn't clear who would decide on this uplift. She thought that the situation was very worrying and reminded the meeting about past comments by the Planning Committee sent in June 2015 in which the CC commented on the master planning – 'it will be an onus on developers to brief CCs and representative groups on what the scope and format of the engagement would be and the public consultation on the Master Planning process. Miss Uprichard continued by saying that the CC and others were told by the developers that there was a Master Plan but there had been no consultation with the CCs or any other local organisation as far as she knew. Miss Uprichard also commented upon the statement in the documentation for this

development about the dismissal of the fact that it would be on prime agricultural land but because it was zoned as having development potential the agricultural value was disregarded.

Dr Goudie added that he thought Miss Uprichard was correct to highlight the statement that numbers on the site of the SDA could be uplifted provided it could be shown that each site could cope with the number of units proposed. He felt that this showed a serious failing of officials in understanding the seriousness of the size of the issue facing St Andrews. He said that the capacity limit was not so much on site but what the town could take in terms of traffic. He felt that the problem needed to be seen in that much broader context. His own view was that Fife Council was mistaken in neglecting the Craigtoun North application as in his view it would be much the best site for development within the SDA area. He felt that Council should have a more finely differentiated position and make it clear to the planners the CC would want development to go ahead there. He thought that this application might deliver more in the area of affordable housing but he was concerned that Fife Council's record had not been good in ensuring that such housing was built in any significant numbers over many years.

Mr Greenwell commented on a statement in the Courier article that there would be a cap of 40 a year residential properties built until there was a Primary School solution amongst the many conditions. He asked if the cap applied to Craigtoun North or to both the latter and the western development. He wondered if it was the second scenario could the development be 90 -100 units a year between both sites? Miss Uprichard replied that as far as she knew the Western Development group had stated they were aiming at 60 units a year for 20 years. Otherwise she said she didn't know how the situation would develop. She knew that the Western Development group had objected to the Craigtoun North plans.

5.1.3. New Madras Application

Mr McLeod reminded members that at the last meeting the recommendation of the Planning Committee had been to make no comment. He asked for confirmation from members that they were happy to go along with the Planning Committee's recommendation?

Dr Goudie reminded members that he'd emailed them with some comments about the traffic situation in relation to issues such as the current lack of a drop off point for pupils in Buchanan Gardens. He felt that Fife Council needed to come up with solutions to the possible traffic problems, which he thought could arise after the opening of the new school. Mr McLeod wondered if members would be willing to include Dr Goudie's work on potential traffic problems as part of the CC response to the application.

Mr Greenwell commented that he'd read Dr Goudie's paper and was supportive of everything it said. He reminded members that when he'd attended the consultations on the new school the consultants were aware of possible issues. He felt that the way the CC should submit its note of support should be carefully thought out and he suggested that perhaps it would be best to put in the general letter of support separately from the comments on traffic issues to prevent the CC views being misinterpreted in public. Mr Greenwell proposed that the CC should send in a letter of support and this proposal was accepted by the meeting. Mr Greenwell added that he felt officials were very aware of the drop off lay - by area and had been told that it would need another agreement with the University. He acknowledged that this wasn't a priority at present for officials and would be dealt with at a later date when pressure had eased on the main project.

5.1.4. Western Extension Update

Miss Uprichard said that the Planning Committee would be looking at the application at its next meeting. Once the Planning Committee had sent out its views, which other CC members would receive by email, they would have a set period to reply before the comments were emailed to Fife Council.

5.1.5. Licensing Application

Mr McLeod reminded members about the licensing application sent out to members to comment upon before it was submitted back to Fife Council. The application according to Mr Greenwell was for Pizza Express to extend its external seating area giving it extra capacity and this would allow alcohol to be served outside of the premises. He was concerned about

this application as was Miss Uprichard particularly given the location. Mr Newman was concerned that there was no financial recompense to Fife Council for using the external space. Cllr Thomson acknowledged that this would be the case. Mr Greenwell suggested that the CC should vote to object to the application. Mr McLeod asked members for their decision and it was a unanimous decision to reject the application. Miss Uprichard to write into Fife Council to make the CCs views known. Miss Uprichard asked about the actual ownership of land outside a property and Cllr Thomson thought that most would be Council owned. Mr McLeod thought that there was a case for charging properties using the outside area.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Financial Rules

Mr McLeod asked if the rules he'd circulated by email could be approved. He was happy for these to be reviewed if they were proving to be problematic in implementation. There was further discussion on the best way to manage financial expenditure to ensure members were realistic and had sought advice on purchases made to assist them in their CC work.

6.2. Microphones

No further progress reported by Dr Shepherd

6.3. Town Entry Signs

Mr Greenwell reported back on this project. Mr Greenwell reported that he was developing a specification as to where he thought there should be new signs so he could begin to get quotes. He assumed that seeking funding externally would be necessary; as he didn't think there would be any support from Fife Council. He would however be putting together a study of his proposals to Fife council Transportation to establish if they accepted the new signage.

With regard to costs he had a feeling that it would cost about £10000. He wanted the CC to confirm it was willing to donate towards this project possibly up to £2000. If this was acceptable he felt he could look for match funding from other funds. The meeting agreed to this expenditure.

Mr McLeod informed the meeting that the Loches/St Andrews Alliance already had plans to promote the twinning and would be organising their own twinning signs for the town.

6.4. Cathedral Anniversary – 700th

Mr McLeod had been informed that this year is the 700th anniversary of the cathedral. He asked the meeting if anyone was aware of celebrations being organised. The date is the 5th July. Mr McLeod said he'd look at a possible CC contribution and would bring back his thoughts to the next meeting.

6.5. Any other matters arising

6.5.1. World War One Centenary

Mr McLeod mentioned some proposals to commemorate the end of the First World War on 11th November. He mentioned that there was a national website called BATTLE OVER if anyone was interested in seeing what ways the event could be commemorated. He thought that the CC could look at some form of activity on that date and proposed having a sub-group to discuss possible activities.

6.5.2. Changing Places

Miss Uprichard suggested that the CC should contribute towards the cost of providing this facility. Mr McLeod reminded her that Fife Council was looking at the possibility following last month's CC meeting. Cllr Thomson explained that Fife Council was looking at the Bruce Embankment as part of the refurbishment of the whole toilet block so the whole thing is being costed. Officials might have completed their feasibility study by late summer. He thought that

there might be some capital funding available for large projects and he and Cllr Liston would be pushing for such funding to be made available for that to happen. Miss Uprichard queried the location but Cllr Thomson said that based on feedback he'd got the location at the Bruce Embankment was suitable. Mr Jardine reminded the meeting that as these severely handicapped people and their families would have specially adapted vehicles so would benefit from easy parking close to the facility.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Recreation Committee

Mr Jardine reported that the committee had had a meeting on the 7th March. The main discussion point had been the bandstand which Mr Roberts is to project manage with the time needed for the full refurbishment about a couple of years. The first year will be to set up the project including securing funding and finding a firm to undertake the work.

Mr Roberts also has the bands in position with the concerts starting the 1st July. Mr Jardine requested that £1500 be transferred to the bandstand account to bring the funds up to the required amount to pay the bands. Concerts will be announced through the local press and on media.

Mr Jardine then asked for permission to buy a portable PA system to allow the bandleaders to be heard by the audience. This will cost around £200 according to Mr Roberts. It was decided that the funding for this might be best to come from the 200 Club. Dr Shepherd thought that when the bandstand was being refurbished there should be more speakers installed to increase the volume of the music so that the public could hear the music from further afield and also to use additional microphones to help enhance the listening experience.

Mr Jardine advised the meeting that the committee were going to review the timing of the Putting Competition to determine whether it should be at a different time of year.

The Gardens Competition will also be reviewed. It was unclear how people put their names forward to be judged. Mr Jardine thought that it would be better if there were a form, which people could ask for to complete to enter the competition making the event more transparent.

Mr Jardine thought that the last Civic Reception had been quite successful and would carry on but the guest list would be looked at and revised as appropriate. He also asked for suggestions about a speaker for the coming year's reception.

The final event of the year was the Senior Citizens Treat. The last one had been quite successful. Mr Jardine then mentioned that one of the problems in the past year had been that there hadn't been the second Senior Citizens Treat in January, which had been organised by a past senior CC member Mr Crichton. The senior citizens who chose to attend the January event would not have had that opportunity this past January so Mr Jardine thought that the guest list should be reviewed taking into account those senior citizens on the January list in case they would want to be considered for the December event.

Miss Uprichard asked whether the G&S Society had been invited to the forthcoming CC Coffee morning? Mr Jardine acknowledged they hadn't and went on to say that the Recreation Committee had agreed to drop the book and white elephant stall in the forthcoming event. He thought that the format was looking very tired and needed rethought if it was to continue. He suggested that the CC should offer a local organisation an opportunity to use the time with the CC having a presence. Miss Uprichard suggested that members should be given copies of a flier about the event and spread it around anyone they knew who might be interested in attending.

Dr Shepherd said he liked the idea of having a musical accompaniment at the coffee morning and he was still keen on the format.

Mr Jardine concluded by saying that they'd review the timing of the Coffee morning after this forthcoming event to decide whether 9.30 was too early and start the event at 10 if appropriate.

7.2. GP Meeting

No meeting

7.3. 200 Club

1st Mrs Bentley 2nd Reverend Moffatt 3rd Catherine Rowe

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No report

7.5. Rail Committee

Dr Goudie's main comment related to Starlink's rejection for funding from the St Andrews Community Trust and the lack of feedback as to why they were refused, whether it was due to the terms of reference or not? Mr Greenwell's said that his understanding was that applicants usually received a notification from Thorntons about the decision with the Chair of the Community Trust giving a reason for the decision. He acknowledged that there seemed to be a failure in the process of communicating with applicants at the present time. He agreed to send a note to the Chair, Mr Griffiths to try and get a response to the Starlink application refusal. He added that there might also be some difficulties because of a change in the support the Trust receives administratively with a different admin assistant who he thought might not be as familiar with the Trust procedures.

Dr Shepherd who is a CC rep on the Trust said that in his opinion it wasn't practical to expect applicants to get detailed feedback for a range of reasons if they were refused.

Dr Goudie said that he wasn't expecting a detailed essay on the reasons for refusal but felt that apart from accepting that the Trust had limited funds it would be good for an applicant to have a brief outline of the Trust's views on the application and whether it was a good one and regretted it that they couldn't fund it or that it was a lousy one which they would never fund.

8. New Business

8.1. Community Council Election Rules

Mr Newman reminded members that an email had been received detailing possible changes in election rules for CCs. He briefly outlined the changes as he perceived them, mainly administrative but he cited examples of a couple of other rule changes to discuss. One related to the election of the CC as a whole body (20). He commented that if there were only 20 candidates the public didn't see anything happening at all and then often viewed the CC as self appointed oligarchs. He thought that there should be a system apparently theoretically possible of having a third of the CC stand down each year and hopefully there might be more chance of getting more candidates to allow for a real election. He thought that Fife council could change the election set up or even the Scottish Government.

His second idea was to have a different election system not just first past the post but a form of PR.

He thought that the changes would make the CC seem much more relevant to local voters.

Mr Greenwell thought that the system of members retiring would substantially increase the cost of running the CC by three times as on each election the Council might have to produce election materials if there were sufficient candidates to make an election necessary. Each election would require the Council to send postal vote material to every elector so in Mr Newman's suggestion the Council would have 3 times the expenditure because of the annual nature of the elections.

Mr McLeod pointed out that many CCs were much smaller with only a handful of members so this idea wouldn't work for a CC with a handful of members.

Dr Shepherd wondered what Mr Newman's aim was with this suggestion? Mr Newman in reply said that with this idea there would in theory be an election relatively frequently and this he thought might raise the public profile of the CC. He also thought that it would allow the

public to feel that they were represented by the members elected and that it wasn't just people who volunteered about whom the public might know little. Mr McLeod in response to ongoing uncertainty expressed by Dr Shepherd thought that it would give CC members more legitimacy if elected.

Mr Newton felt that this was a small part of the problem of the Community Council as many people didn't know we existed and others had no idea of the function of the CC. He thought that elections might give the CC a little bit more visibility but that would be all. He felt that we needed to communicate with the community and actually find out who they are, what they need and what they want and then try to apply that knowledge through our responsibility here.

Mr McLeod asked if there was any support for Mr Newman's idea? The general mood of the meeting did not favour this idea.

Dr Shepherd reminded the meeting that he'd asked the Fife Council Communities Engagement Director to give a presentation at the next meeting and he thought that this might be relevant to Mr Newman's concerns about the need to improve our public engagement and improve our profile with the public.

Dr Goudie supported Mr Newman's suggestion about STV for the CC elections. He saw the basic problem as being much more fundamental than anything that had been suggested. He thought that there was a definite correlation between the number of people who turn out and vote and the number of people who stand as candidates and the amount of influence that the CC had. Since local government reorganisation in 1996 the amount of influence, which the CC has had through no fault of its own, has waned considerably and when the development plan was being developed between 2007-2012 the public became aware that Fife Council was ignoring the CC's comments. He added that Fife Council was prepared to consult with other major organisations within the town but ignored the CC. He felt that CCs needed to increase their level of influence.

Mr McLeod asked the meeting to vote on a motion that the CC write to Fife Council to ask that STV be used in the next CC election. Ten voted in favour and 2 voted against.

8.2. Visit by Mayor of Loches to St Andrews

Mr McLeod announced that the mayor of Loches would be visiting St Andrews in September 2018. He had written to Mr McLeod and Mr McLeod asked if the CC would be willing to take part in a reception in the Burgh Chambers? The meeting agreed to this request.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Mr McLeod reported on his activities of the past four weeks. He had written an article for St Andrews in Focus for the next edition and had attended the Holy Trinity Action Group twice. Some decisions had been taken as part of the preparation for alternative uses including decluttering the church and removing some pews to allow more space for musical performances. He also had a meeting with the new BID manager, Jane Kennedy and the Events manager, Stephanie. Mr McLeod reminded the meeting that the previous BID manager had Rhonda had moved on and he wished her success in her new venture.

Mr McLeod had also attended the East Fife Sports Awards Ceremony and had awarded the CC Trophy. He commented that it had been a very successful evening now held in the Younger Hall with some 180 people attending. He was interested to hear about the various sporting achievements being recognised. He commended the CC to continue supporting the award.

He will be meeting with Jerry Beaulier about the beach wheelchair project and informed the meeting that some £17000 has been raised towards the project.

Other events and activities he'll be attending include the Pride March and the Give Back reception.

Mr McLeod announced that he'd been asked to play a character in the forthcoming Kate Kennedy Procession as a theologian George Buchanan.

9.2. Treasurer

See website for March transactions. Six cheques are however still outstanding. Amount in the CC account is about £5200, slightly less than the previous year. The Community Trust Cheque will arrive mid April.

9.3. Membership Secretary

No business

9.4. Secretary

See agenda for emails/letters received - comments welcomed.

10. Any Other Competent Business