

[\[2002 index\]](#)

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Minutes - April 2002

Approved

Chair: Murdo Macdonald

1. Attendance

Community Councillors: George Davidson, Richard Douglas, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Joe Lamb, Chris Lesurf, Pete Lindsay, Murdo Macdonald, Donald Macgregor, Callum Macleod, Lindsay Murray, Gordon Pay, Joe Peterson, Frank Riddell, Archie Strachan, Cynthia Tero, Penny Uprichard.

Nominated/co-opted: Bill Sangster

Fife Councillors: Bill Brooks, Sheila Hill, Jane Ann Liston

Apologies: Frances Melville, Ken Crichton, David Reid, Jean Thompson

2. Minutes of March 2002

Gordon Pay did not describe cooperative housing schemes as “continental”; they have a long British history.

Amended minutes accepted

3. Presentations

3.1. Mrs Johnstone

Expressed further concern over the role of community council in representing tenants of council properties. Raised community council's support for homeowners of Winram Place over the John Knox Road development. Ian Goudie recounted the history of community council's opposition to this development over many years and long before the Winram Place delegations. Frank Riddell cited occasions where community council had supported tenants who had spoken to community council about issues affecting them. Murdo Macdonald reiterated that community council intends to represent the interests of the town. It does not ask nor care if someone is a homeowner, tenant or anything else.

Asked if community council would hear a delegation on the matter of housing allocation policy she was assured they would be as welcome to speak as any other group.

4. Fife Councillors

4.2. Sheila Hill (South)

4.2.1. Cycle Lanes A number of concerns were raised over the part-completed cycle lanes though the

town. These included the amount and colour of paint used to mark the lanes, felt to be of particular concern in a Preservation Area of St Andrews; the slope at either end of Viaduct Walk; the road markings at Greyfriars Gardens being left in an intermediate and confusing state over the holidays exacerbated by a new traffic island. On the other hand it was suggested that the problem with roads in St Andrews is the growth in numbers of cars and that community council should support efforts to divert people from car use to public transport, walking and cycling. Ian Goudie pointed to the problem of lack of adequate consultation over the cycle lanes project. While there had been consultation with the community council it was some 5 years ago and had largely been ignored as community council had raised local issues and the cycle ways project was aimed to cater to tourists at that time. Without properly timed consultation it the possibility of addressing concerns the sorts of issues raised above before they appear on the ground is lost.

A meeting (mention of which had triggered this item) is scheduled with transport officials, Fife Councillors and community councillors. Those attending are to raise the concerns.

4.3. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

4.3.1. Arising from March

Housing Allocations Policy Isn't available in the in council offices because it has changed recently; the appropriate documents are being reprinted.

Asylum Seekers Dispersing and housing asylum seekers around the country is national government policy.

House turnover and vacancy periods Housing allow 4 weeks to clean and refurbish properties between tenants.

4.3.2. Fife acute hospital after the announcement of the acceptance of the Kirkcaldy option backed by community council she heard that an early preferred option by senior medics was for a new-built hospital on a green field site located outside Glenrothes, which would have centralised all hospital facilities – there would have been no new hospital for St Andrews.

4.3.3. Park and ride has run over the Easter holiday weekend and will run on May weekend, but will not resume full operation until the summer.

There were calls from members of community council for better signs to the Park & Ride at Petharam Bridge car park, and a longer and continuous park and ride service period.

4.3.4. Paramix traffic model this computer model of St Andrews traffic was demonstrated at the Tourism Forum. What was shown was a basic traffic flow simulation which needs more data to be able to model changes before trying them out on the ground.

4.3.5. Chartered Institute of Housing Conference Attended this as an official Fife Council delegate; raised affordable housing in St Andrews; noted homelessness provisions in Inverness; asked Housing Minister why money for homelessness facilities had to be spent so quickly.

4.3.6. End of term rubbish collections Details for the special end of year uplifts from student flats etc have been circulated and will go out to students nearer the time.

4.4. Bill Brooks (Central)

4.4.1. Lammas market Recommendations from the working group go to Area Services on Wednesday. As outlined before they suggest changes to financial arrangements, but that the Market

remain in the centre of town. Murdo Macdonald still has some concern about effect on the Common Good Fund but happy with health and safety aspects.

4.4.2. Central Environmental improvements Meeting later this month on progress of renovation works

Murdo Macdonald was concerned at the number of simultaneous works in the town centre at the moment. Ian Goudie commented that much of this was driven by end of financial year. He also expressed concern at the lack of democratic accountability of Fife Enterprise who could arrange works as they like with little concern for local feeling, unlike Fife Council.

4.4.3. Concern at Bow Butts - someone has raised the question of parking damage by cars to grass by the Sealife Centre. Pete Lindsay recounted the recent history of improvement works about the bandstand from a couple of years ago, when action was promised on this matter by Fife Enterprise, though nothing was done in fact.

4.5. General issues

4.5.1. Town Library Ken Fraser asked for an update on the progress of the refurbishment proposals?

4.5.2. Standard of road repairs Chris Lesurf asked what steps were being taken to improve the quality of temporary/small repairs and patches to pothole, which seem to break up a few days or weeks after being applied.

5. Planning Committee Report

Report was circulated at the meeting

Ian Goudie noted that Planning Committee was not commenting on recently announced university development plans to the west of town. As there are no plans yet it would be premature.

1.i Craigtoun Road Gordon Pay noted the original planning brief for this site includes passive solar heating design. This condition has not been enforced by Fife Council. He will raise this with Planning Service.

1.iii Sign at Albany Place Frank Riddell reported a smaller sign is now proposed.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. Byre & CGF

Archie Strachan suggested community council should acknowledge the response and make clear general support for the Byre.

Pete Lindsay to write

6.3. Strip the Willow

[March 7.3.] Callum MacLeod reported that he had been contacted by St Leonards school who are already organising for this same idea. In outline this will involve 1000 dancers on the West Sands. Propose we support them.

Callum MacLeod to offer CC's support

6.4. Bandstand

[March 8.1.2.] Archie Strachan reported that the cheque from the Common Good Fund has been received and asked if we have an organiser. Pete Lindsay has heard of a possible volunteer but has not been able to make contact yet.

Meeting agreed to hold on to the cheque until next month.

6.5. Co-operative Housing

[March 4.4.3.] Gordon Pay expanded on his comments about co-ops. These are supported by the Scottish Executive, feature in Local Plan, etc. They are not something new. They are the prime method supported by local plan for affordable housing, to help keep prices affordable in perpetuity - a bottom up rather than top down approach to affordable housing. Community council is the sort of level that should start pushing for co-ops. This also ties in with Local Agenda 21. He asked at Fife Council Local Office for LA 21 plan for Fife/St Andrews but they could not find one. Instead he noted that community planning, which includes many aspects of LA21 is soon to be a duty of local authorities as a result of the new Local Government bill which requires it. This will cover development of all sizes.

Ian Goudie warned that there were difficulties with unconditional support for affordable housing of whatever stripe - the main designated affordable housing area is currently John Knox which CC is opposed on other principles. He was also concerned about the new university proposals in relation to the local plan development process.

7. New Business

7.1. 200 Club Administrator

Callum MacLeod volunteered

Youth Committee

Archie Strachan also added that as the oldest community councillor it was perhaps ironic that he should be running community council's Youth affairs. He is giving Youth up now that he is in his 80s...

Joe Peterson volunteered

7.2. Golden Jubilee Gala

No information to pass on.

7.3. ASCC Executive Member for Fife

Meeting decided not to vote as we know neither of the candidates.

7.4. Friends of the Earth Scotland

There was some discussion as to whether FoE was too directly political to be suitable for support or whether they pose a valuable counterbalance to 'industry' and an information source. On an informal vote it was decided by a substantial majority to support them.

Pete Lindsay to arrange

8. Reports from Officers

8.1. Chair

8.1.1. The Citizen [March 6.1.] Murdo Macdonald met with Mike Rankin, the new chief reporter for The Citizen at Greyfriars Garden. He will be happy to hear from us with stories we feel should be covered. We can have a 'bullet points' column of CC matters if we can supply it. Perhaps Publicity could prepare such in coordination with the Secretary for the week following CC meetings.

8.1.2. Coat of Arms Contract is nearly agreed, the current draft to be reviewed by General Purposes committee before being presenting to CC for approval.

8.1.3. Golf memorial Outstanding

8.1.4. Ceilidh Proposal Murdo Macdonald has spoken with the lady promoting this. In view of some of the issues raised he asked if this could be remitted to GP committee for further discussion of some issues to come back with a recommendation?

Meeting agreed.

8.1.5. General Purposes committee meeting on Thurs 7pm at MM's home. Any interested members welcome to attend, as always.

8.2. Treasurer

Accounts closed 31st March. Audited accounts will be reported at May AGM.

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1. AGM Pete Lindsay announced that he would not be seeking re-election. He will be pleased to discuss the rôle of Secretary with any potential candidates.

9. Reports from Committees and Representatives

9.1. Publicity Committee

Penny Uprichard expanded her suggestions for a golden tree for planting in forecourt Madras to commemorate the Golden Jubilee: a golden ash will grow to 30', cost £428+. This will include a bench. Other suggestions were made regarding possible tree species. Not known if Madras will accept a tree - find out before taking further decisions.

Donald Macgregor to approach Madras

9.3. Representatives

St Andrews-Loches Alliance Lindsay Murray reported she had been in Loches as part of a school exchange and had met a very good reception there for the St Andrews party.

Donald Macgregor Chaired the recent Tourism meeting referred to earlier. Noted the talk of the new Branding Manager of Tourism Scotland.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Death of Queen Mother

Community council agreed that a formal letter of condolence be written on behalf of St Andrews.

Murdo Macdonald to write