

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes – October 2011

### For Approval

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### 0. Preliminary Remarks by Chair

Dr Goudie took the Chair in the absence of Mr Roberts. Dr Goudie explained that Mr Roberts was unwell and expressed the hope on behalf of the Community Council that he would soon be better. Dr Goudie asked that the meeting be Chaired after the first half by another member as he had preparation for the Local Plan Examination, which would be taking place the following day.

On a more positive note Dr Goudie thanked the Community Council members and helpers for the success of the recent Coffee Morning. He felt that this was help in publicising the Community Council to the community.

### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Ronnie Murphy, Izzy Corbin, Andy Primmer, Robert McLachlan, Howard Greenwell, Ken Crichton, Keith Cordrey, Penny Uprichard, Carol Ashworth, Judith Harding, Meg Platt

#### Students' Association Representatives

Patrick O'Hare

Chloe Hill

#### Nominated

Stuart Foulkes

#### Fife Councillors

Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville

#### Apologies

Callum Corbin, Audrey McAnaw, Ken Fraser, Kyffin Roberts

### 2. Minutes of September 2011 Meeting

4.4.2. Cllr Sangster pointed out that the figure for a fine was £5000 not £50000 as recorded.

The minutes were otherwise accepted as a correct record.

### 3. Presentations

No presentation

## **4. Fife Councillors**

### **4.1. Frances Melville**

#### **4.1.1. Water Quality Testing East Sands**

Cllr Melville commented on letters received in response to the enquires about the failure of both East Sands and West Sands to reach the Blue Flag status. Both responses received a week ago indicated a combination of the wetness of the summer allowing more pollution to run off from surrounding land. Cllr Melville confirmed with the secretary that Robbie Blyth, Coast and Countryside Ranger has been asked to speak to the Community Council on the subject. SEPA had concern about the adequacy of the Scottish Water sewage assets to reach required standards and indicated that more investment would be required.

#### **4.1.2. Common Good Fund**

Cllr Melville reported on the ongoing work by Fife Council in relation to the management of the Common Good Fund, which had been critically reviewed by auditors last year, the latter having set targets for Fife Council to achieve to improve management.

The auditors are to report back to Fife Council this week. They have given qualified support to the progress made by Fife Council but it is recognised that there is still a lot of work to do. Mr Melville of Fife Council has been working to identify Common Good Assets and has sought the assistance of St Andrews Community Council. Mr Melville had confirmed his belief that the West Sands were not Common Good and Fife Council held no title deeds to the area. He confirmed as well that premises like the Golf Museum and the Sea Life Centre paid ground rents to the Council and this went into the Common Good Fund.

Miss Uprichard had recently attended a Fife Council meeting at which the Common Good Fund had been discussed. The Bruce Embankment had been mentioned by Mr Melville. He had indicated that there were costs associated with the management of the Bruce Embankment but that any surplus funds would go into the Common Good Fund. She also thought that Mr Melville had also indicated that other planning matters in St Andrews could be paid out of the Common Good Fund. Cllr Sangster disagreed and indicated that funds might be used towards the expense of managing properties like the Town Hall. Miss Uprichard thought that all funds raised from the Bruce Embankment Car Park should be paid into the CGF and necessary running expenses paid out, rather than the current system of management, which she viewed as inappropriate.

#### **4.1.3. Constitution of Community Councils in relation to Planning Matters**

Cllr Melville asked if Fife Council had sent out a letter by Mr Ian Matheson, Chief Legal Officer in relation to the issue of the position of community councils as being statutory consultees in planning matters? He confirmed that under legislation if Community Councils request to be consulted within seven working days of receiving a planning application, Fife Council must respond and treat the Community Council as a statutory consultee. Cllr Melville promised to forward the email correspondence, which she said the secretary should have received from Fife Council.

Miss Uprichard added that she had written to Mr Matheson on a number of issues, including the one just discussed. She'd not received a response to the letter she'd sent in early July and wondered if the content of the email was part of the response to her query about the Community Council position as a statutory consultee. She was surprised that there had been no direct response from Mr Matheson.

### **4.2. Bill Sangster**

#### **4.2.1. Melville-Whyte Fountain**

Cllr Sangster had brought along details of a proposal to try and get the Fountain in Market Street restarted, once inspected to determine what maintenance might be required to make it functional. He was asking for Community Council support for this proposal. He said that there was no record why the Fountain had been switched off. There were possible problems with the piping in the Fountain which being lead, had deteriorated. He was keen to have it properly checked by engineers. He acknowledged that he would need to get an estimate for the cost of an inspection and possible maintenance if it was to be restarted.

#### **4.2.2. Common Good Fund**

Cllr Sangster had asked Mr Melville after the recent North East Fife area Committee meeting why the Martyrs Monument and the Whyte-Fountain weren't on the list of Common Good assets. Mr Melville agreed to check and rectify this omission.

#### **4.2.3. Temporary Road Closures**

The proposed temporary road closure in North Street is under review because of the closure of market Street.

#### **4.2.4. Challenge 25 Policy**

Cllr Sangster explained about this policy in which shopkeepers selling alcohol have to ask someone trying to purchase alcohol for proof of their age, if they suspect they are under the age of 25.

#### **4.2.5. Request for Bus Shelter**

Mrs Rowe on behalf of other elderly residents in North Street asked if it would be possible to have a bus shelter at the bus stop close to the Preservation Trust museum? Cllr Sangster agreed to get officials to check if the pavement was wide enough to accommodate a shelter.

#### **4.2.6. Scooniehill Road Pot Holes**

Mrs Denyer asked Cllr Sangster if she should report the holes and general condition of Scooniehill Road to Transportation Services? Cllr Sangster replied that the road was on the list for work. Cllr Sangster acknowledged that the surface would require replacing not just patching due to the extensive damage.

#### **4.2.7. Graffiti at East Sands**

Mr Greenwell reminded Cllr Sangster about graffiti which had appeared at various locations from the East Sands Toilet block towards the Coast Guard Station. This had been around for about three months and he wondered if any action was going to be taken to deal with it. Cllr Sangster replied that the graffiti had been reported, but he'd speak with Robbie Blyth and would speak to the appropriate Fife Council dept to sort out. Mr Greenwell informed Cllr Sangster that he'd seen the "graffiti" van around by the East Sands but it hadn't stopped to make any closer inspection of the problem. Cllr Sangster thought that this would have been just after he'd reported it earlier in the summer.

#### **4.2.8. Castle Sands Access**

Mr O'Hare asked Cllr Sangster about the access to the Castle Sands. Cllr Sangster explained that there was still ongoing assessment to determine if the area could be made safe, so access would be discouraged. If anyone did access the area it would be at his or her own risk at present. Cllr Morrison added that the Students Association should make students aware of the risks, as she was concerned that there could be accidents. Despite the Council's attempts to restrict access someone had been cutting the chain. Cllr Waterston acknowledged the frustrations people must feel at not being able to access the area, but added that it was a very serious situation with a lot of instability. Part of the area's use as a municipal dump many years ago has added to the instability according to Cllr Waterston.

### **4.3. Robin Waterston**

#### **4.3.1. East Sands Play Park**

Councillors had been thinking about ways to enhance the Play Park area at the East Sands. One idea might be to incorporate a form of out door gym, which could be used by adults as well. Mrs Rowe wondered if the former East Bents Putting Green could be incorporated into the proposal? Cllr Waterston didn't think that such a large area would be required for the enhanced Play Park/Gym idea.

#### **4.3.2. New Madras College**

Cllr Waterston informed the meeting about a meeting for parents/non parents later this week to discuss the plans for the new Madras School. It will be at Kilrymont at 18.30 on Wednesday.

#### **4.3.4. Local Development Group Meeting**

Mr Primmer asked Cllr Waterston for his comments on the meeting recently of this group. Cllr Waterston said that this meeting consisted of representatives of Community Councils and schools. They had discussed the criteria used by Fife Council for making decisions about future school developments.

#### **4.3.5. Market Street Query**

Mrs Ashworth asked if it was true that Market Street might be dug up for essential work by Scottish Water in a couple of years. Cllrs Sangster and Waterston denied this rumour. Cllr Waterston explained that Scottish Water had created additional access for the drains for normal maintenance. He acknowledged it would be a major piece of work to get through the concrete required to lay the cobbles. He was certain that nothing was scheduled for Market Street.

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

#### **4.4.1. Parking Management Costs/Bruce Embankment/Common Good Fund**

Cllr Morrison had recently spoken to a Fife Council official involved in the management of the parking locally. The issue of the Bruce Embankment parking area had been discussed. Cllr Morrison reminded the meeting that parking management in St Andrews did have a cost and that Fife Council could not afford to lose income, which contributed towards the broader management of parking costs in the town. Thus profits from the Bruce Embankment car park should be used towards the broader costs of parking management in the town, as Fife Council didn't have any spare money available from outwith the town for this service. Dr Goudie commented that Miss Uprichard when she had queried the way the revenue from the Bruce Embankment was managed had been suggesting that the revenue should perhaps go into the CGF and then be paid out for the purposes for which it had been used by Fife Council rather than being managed as at present. In the current arrangement it wasn't possible to see the total revenue generated as only the surplus went into the CGF. Cllrs Morrison and Waterston acknowledged that the accounting of the revenue was still to be properly sorted out and hoped that this would be eventually resolved and the revenue stream would become clearer to local people.

Mr Paul added that the auditors had picked up on the problems with the financial management of CGF income and had asked Fife Council to set up a better system, but this is over a year behind schedule. Mr Paul thought that the lack of transparency in the use of CGF revenue was for him the big issue. He also suggested that based on examples from other local authorities Fife Council should pay rent for the car park on what was called a Full Repairing and Insurance lease. He reminded the meeting; as well that CGF money should be spent within the area of the fund, namely the town. He wanted much more clarity about the costs of running the Bruce Embankment Car Park. He also cited inconsistencies in ground rent paid by the Golf Museum and the Sea Life Centre, with the former paying a very small amount for a much bigger ground area compared to the latter. He felt that there was a failure by Fife Council to achieve best value for the CGF. Cllr Waterston acknowledged that there were inconsistencies in the figures and these would need to be reviewed, but added that in some cases there would be contractual issues, which would not allow rapid change.

Cllr Morrison replied that she felt that Fife Council officials were going as fast as they could in what was a big area of work to untangle.

#### **4.4.2. Grange House**

The planned development for Grange House remains on hold, with the developer having talked about revising plans but nothing had happened in the past few months according to planning officials.

#### **4.4.3. Hepburn Hall**

Miss Uprichard was concerned that the University were not renewing their lease of Hepburn Hall. The agents for the property were planning to let out flats on an individual basis. Miss Uprichard was concerned that the building could deteriorate because of this change; citing examples of properties in the town, which she felt, had suffered because of the way they were managed.

#### **4.4.4. Ladebraes**

Miss Uprichard issued an invite to Councillors to walk with her in the Ladebraes to see the poor condition of much of the benches and the banking. Cllr Melville said that two of the benches had been replaced. There had also been a decision to put additional benches in the Ladebraes and according to Cllr Morrison three benches had been eventually acquired through the local budget. Mr Paul reminded the meeting that

the Ladebraes was Common Good land and suggested that perhaps an application to the CGF was in order to improve facilities.

#### **4.4.5. Street Lighting**

Mrs Ashworth asked about plans to reduce the level of street lighting at night. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that there were plans. She noted that in some places in England, Councils had switched off lighting completely at night, but Fife Council's plan was to reduce lighting to about 70% between 8 pm and 12, with a further reduction after that time when fewer people would be out. Lighting on main thoroughfares would not be reduced for safety reasons. Mrs Corbin expressed her concern about switching off streetlights as she'd heard that it could give rise to increased levels of crime. Cllr Morrison reminded the meeting that the lights weren't being switched off only dimmed a bit and the light emission with modern lights was quite high so even if dimmed the street lighting was still quite bright.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Planning Committee Reports**

Mr Greenwell reported on Planning Committee matters. He said that it had been generally quite quiet, though there had been a couple of highlights. Knightsbridge he said had managed to circumvent the process and their current SDF process by getting planning permission for the refurbishment of St Nicholas House as well as the modifications to the gateway.

The Greenbelt Forum has approached the Planning Committee with a view to asking the Community Council to take a seat on its steering committee. He personally felt that this wasn't an appropriate role for the Community Council. He had agreed to ask the Community Council whether it would consider this request. Mr Paul commented that he and Mr Primmer were already representatives from the Community Council on the GBF so he didn't see a need for further involvement. There was no strong feeling of support for this proposition.

### **5.2. Local Plan Examination**

Mr Greenwell acknowledged the considerable amount of work being done by Dr Goudie and Miss Uprichard in preparation for this meeting. Dr Goudie reminded the meeting that the meeting was only covering a small part of the Local Plan business compared to 1994 when there had been a full Local Plan Hearing, which had taken 6 weeks in total. Tomorrow's Examination would look at the Green Belt boundary and the St Andrews West Strategic Land Allocation. Dr Goudie acknowledged that he was doubtful about how much value the meeting would be following attendance for a short period at the same type of event in Cupar recently.

Miss Uprichard showed the meeting a diagram for the Strategic Development Framework for 30 years for St Andrews put forward by St Andrews Consortium, which consists of the University, Headon Developments, Montgomery Forgan Consultants and McDonald Estates. The diagram depicted two options for St Andrews, one with two hubs to the west, the other with a polycentric hub. She claimed that the size of the town could be tripled. She added that because this was not part of the Local Plan it would not be possible to comment on it at the Local Plan Examination.

Dr Goudie explained that each organisation participating was allowed two speakers though it didn't need to be the same two all the time. Fife Council he added was fielding a team of a dozen to speak on their specialist areas as necessary. Dr Goudie said that it was important to have as many members of the Public attending as spectators to show that there was a level of interest.

### **5.3. Wind Turbine Proposed Development at Kenly**

Mr Greenwell made the meeting aware of a request from objectors to the University's proposals to build wind turbines at Kenly for support from the Community Council. He acknowledged that the planned development wasn't in the St Andrews CC area but said that there would be an objection submitted by the Planning Committee. Dr Goudie cautioned against a knee jerk reaction and reminded the meeting about the CCs work with Mr Yarr one of the University Energy officers in the area of reducing energy consumption and climate change. He thought that the CC needed to think through what forms of alternative energy generation it was prepared to tolerate. He also added that in his personal view some sizes of turbines should be acceptable. He suggested that the matter should be fully discussed by the

Planning Committee at its next meeting and encouraged other CC members to attend if they had an interest in the issue. The meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October will discuss the application. Patrick O'Hare agreed that the issue needed fuller discussion and reminded the meeting that Dr Yarr and his colleagues had been working hard to reduce the University's energy consumption.

Mrs Corbin had brought a letter to the meeting expressing concern about the amount of traffic that such a proposal would generate on local roads, especially with very large vehicles required to transport the blades of large turbines.

Dr Goudie concluded that the issue wouldn't be resolved in the main CC meeting and passed it on to the Planning Committee to discuss at their next meeting.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Martyrs Monument Update**

The appeal has secured a large donation of £40000 from the R& A. The Community Council has submitted an application for £30000 to the Fife Environment Trust.

Mrs Corbin announced her resignation from the Martyrs Monument Committee. She detailed her reasons for her resignation to the meeting. Mr Paul acknowledged Mrs Corbin's decision

Mrs Ashworth queries the need to send two representatives to the committee meetings? Mr Paul explained that one reason was to ensure representation if one member was unable to make it.

### **6.2. Craigtoun Update**

A meeting is to be organised to establish a Friends of Craigtoun group. There was some interest from the Coffee morning but more interested persons are sought to attend a meeting on this possible way forward. Ideas are still sought to get a feel for the future use of Craigtoun.

### **6.3. Botanic Gardens Update**

Mr Paul reported a successful Apple Day at the Botanic with around 1000 people attending. He is keen to get more locals to make use of the Botanic Gardens as he'd noted that a large percentage of the visitors on Apple Day were from outside St Andrews. There is no update on the plans for a Trust.

### **6.5. Reports from Representatives**

#### **6.5.1. St Andrews Trusts Reorganisation update**

Mr Paul and Mr Crichton had enquired about the Cantley Clock with Rolex but had received a similar reply to that received by Cllr Sangster. Rolex claim to have no idea about what happened to the clock, but did comment that the workings might be behind the electronic façade. There is a couple of thousand pounds in the Fund for the maintenance of this clock. Fife Council want to know what the Community Council would like to be done with the funds in this Trust. One suggestion is to use it for the Harbour Clock, which needs restoring. Mr Paul felt that this would be a good exchange. Mrs Ashworth suggested getting a new Harbour Clock with modern workings but with an old appearance, as this would reduce maintenance costs. Cllr Sangster informed the meeting that the Harbour Trust was considering this possibility.

The Hay Fleming Trust is in the process of transferring to the responsibility of the University.

### **6.6. Any Other Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Recreation Committee**

#### **7.1.1. Recreation Committee Report**

Mrs Denyer spoke to her report. She thanked members for their contribution to the Coffee Morning before going on to the Garden Competition, which was awarded recently.

Future business will include the Civic Reception and the Art and Photographic competition-taking place in November.

### **7.2. General Purposes**

The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> August Committee Meeting had become available and Mr Paul asked for comments on the matters raised, if not already discussed under other agenda items. These will be published with the minutes on the web site. No queries about the content of the minutes were raised.

### **7.3. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup>: Flora Selwyn 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dorothea Morrison 3<sup>rd</sup>: Patrick Marks

### **7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee**

Mrs Corbin reported that the Committee was still looking for new projects and more members.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. St Andrews Festival**

Mr Paul reported that the difficulties with the setting up of the St Andrews Festival had been resolved. The Festival will be run by Madras College and Holy Trinity Church. There will be a marquee on the green area in front of Madras South Street for most of the festivities. A Continental Type market might take place. A lot of the events will be free, including the Ceilidh. Volunteers are being sought to assist in running the event and also participating.

### **8.2. Jubilee Wood**

Mr Paul reported that this wood would be located below the Western Cemetery in land bordering on the Kinnessburn. Gordon Moir from the Links Trust assisted with clearance of part of the site overgrown with willow and vegetation not deemed suitable for the site. The Links Trust will continue to maintain the site for ten years to allow it to develop as planned. Mr Paul made an appeal for volunteers to help in the clearance of the dead wood from the site and on the 30<sup>th</sup> November planting of 500 trees constituting the approved species for the Jubilee Wood.

### **8.3. Request for Use of St Andrews Crest**

A representative of the St Andrews Harbour Trust had written to the Community Council secretary asking for Community Council thoughts on whether it might be possible to use the St Andrews Crest on the St Andrews Harbour Trust website. Mr Paul felt that it was a matter best remitted to the General Purposes Committee for more detailed discussion. He thought that one possible solution would be to use the CC Coat of Arms as a hyperlink. He added that this matter needed to be resolved carefully given the past history with the CC Coat of Arms. After further discussion it was decided to ask the CC Chair to write explaining why the Coat of Arms couldn't be used and suggesting possible alternatives.

## **9. Reports from Office Bearers**

### **9.1. Chair**

No further items to discuss.

## **9.2. Treasurers Report**

Mr Paul reported on the Coffee Morning. About £370 had been raised, but after expenses around £200 had been added to CC accounts.

## **9.3 Secretary**

### **9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.**

The secretary reported that a request had been received for a meeting between Knightsbridge and the Community Council to discuss the Strategic Development Framework. Mr Greenwell reported that the Planning Committee didn't feel that it wasn't appropriate to meet with Knightsbridge at this time. He'd relayed this view to the representative from the company who had been in contact.

Mr Marks also noted the decision to invite Robbie Blyth to attend the Community Council on the water quality issues following the failure of local beaches to reach Blue Flag status.

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **10.1. New Street Signs**

Mrs Ashworth reported on the putting up of new signs by the St Andrews Partnership, which were replacing old direction signs for local attractions.

### **10.2. Community Council Social Event**

Mrs Ashworth reminded the meeting about the successful lunch event, which she'd organised the previous year for Community Councillors and their spouses etc. She was proposing to have a similar event this coming November and had circulated details and asked members to get back to her to indicate their interest. Possible dates she suggested were the 6<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Paul asked members to respond as soon as possible to this so that numbers and interest could be gauged for one of the dates.

### **10.3. St Andrews in Bloom**

Mr Paul informed the meeting that this organisation is desperately requiring members/volunteers to assist them with their work. Mrs Denyer reminded the meeting about her involvement with St Andrews in Bloom and her frustration at poor communication about a role she'd been given to try and recruit volunteers etc. Mr Paul suggested that Mrs Denyer contact Mr Pead. Mrs Ashworth informed the meeting that St Andrews Partnership was giving the organisation a lot of money. Mrs Denyer also queried the provenance of the plants being purchased informing the meeting that these came from Yorkshire. She thought that it should be possible to get plants locally. Mr Paul put out an appeal for volunteers and wondered if the students might be able to assist.