

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – July 2011

For Approval

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0. Preliminary Remarks by Chair

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Catherine Rowe, Ronnie Murphy, Izzy Corbin, Andy Primmer, Robert McLachlan, Keith Cordrey, Howard Greenwell.

Students' Association Representatives

Sam Fowles – Director of Student Representation

Nominated

Lindsey Adam

Co-Opted

Fife Councillors

Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison

Apologies

Penny Uprichard, Carol Ashworth, Kyffin Roberts, Niall Scott, Andy Primmer, Keith Cordrey, Frances Melville, Audrey McAnaw, Meg Platt, Callum Corbin, Ken Crichton, Dorothea Morrison, Patrick O'Hare

2. Minutes of June 2011 Meeting

3.1. Spelling of speaker's name - Stephen Magee not McGee

4.4.3. Sentence should start "This"

3. Presentations

3.1. Starlink Update by Jane Ann Liston

Jane Ann thanked the Community Council for the generous donation towards the feasibility study undertaken by Corus in relation to Starlink. Jane Ann had brought along maps showing the possible route/s for a railway link into St Andrews. Her main reason for requesting the chance to present the information to the Community Council was to request that the Community Council make a submission to the Tayplan consultation before the 1st August. She added that the submission didn't need to be site specific. She reminded the meeting that the Starlink Campaign had started some 21 years and 10 months ago at a Community Council meeting!

Dr Goudie informed the meeting that in his understanding the main strategic plan of the Tayplan was a relatively short and general commentary, whereas the accompanying Action Programme was more detailed and in his view the mention of the rail route should go into that part of the Tayplan material. Dr

Goudie asked Jane Ann about her hope of Fife Council support. Jane Ann indicated that she had had a relatively positive indication from Fife Council about the idea of including the rail link in the Tayplan.

After some further brief discussion, Dr Goudie thanked Jane Ann for her presentation and welcomed the prospect of a long needed objective and professional report on the matter.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville - absent

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Sandcastle Competition

The Cosmos Centre is running the competition this year along with help from the Community Council and Community Services. The competition starts the coming weekend.

4.2.2. Byre Theatre – Insideout Festival

This theatre event is to take place between the West Port and Bell Street from 28-31st July.

4.2.3. Pavements are for People Leaflet

Cllr Sangster asked Mrs Rowe to detail the progress in this scheme. Mrs Rowe explained that the leaflets are due soon and there is to be an inspection from Fife Council to ensure that businesses are complying with guidance.

4.2.4. Safety Railings – East Sands

Cllr Sangster reported that the old safety railings at the East Sands are to be replaced as they are past repair.

4.2.5. Rubbish Bins – East Sands

Mr Greenwell commented that the bins at the East Sands were overflowing with rubbish stacked beside them allowing seagulls to make the mess even worse. Cllr Sangster advised that anyone finding rubbish littering the area should alert Environmental Services so they could deal with the problem.

4.2.6. Vandalism/Graffiti in St Andrews

Cllr Sangster reported on an increase in the incidence of graffiti mentioning Crails Lane, the St Andrews Castle wall, St Andrews Football Club wall, and a telephone box in Pipeland Road. Cllr Sangster urged members to report any graffiti they discover to Fife Council so that it can be cleaned off as soon as possible. He also suggested reporting such discoveries to Crimestoppers. Mrs Denyer and Mr Greenwell reported additional graffiti by the old Coastguard station on the beach wall.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Botanic Gardens

Cllr Waterston reported that a sub-group had been set up to investigate the formation of a Trust to run the Botanic Gardens. Dr Goudie asked if the Community Council would be represented on the proposed Trust? Cllr Waterston replied that this would probably be the case.

4.3.2. Kinnessburn Flooding Management

An application has gone to SEPA to get permission to work on the berms. Preliminary clearance of undergrowth has taken place to facilitate the planned work, which is scheduled to take place in September.

4.3.3. Craigtoun Park Opening

Cllr Waterston briefly commented on the reopening of some of the facilities at Craigtoun Park, with the train now being run again. Frances Melville in her role as Provost opened the facilities for their summer season.

4.3.4. H.M.O. Policy

New policy is now in place to try and manage the licensing of HMOs in the centre of St Andrews. Cllr Waterston acknowledged that the whole issue was very contentious, but would be reviewed in a couple of years. He also acknowledged that the new policy didn't solve all the problems.

He added that he had been impressed by the balanced submission on the matter from the Community Council to the public consultation. He hoped that a long-term strategy to work towards an equitable solution would be considered with the Community Council helping to initiate such a process, given its role in the town.

Dr Goudie replying said that in one part of the Community Council submission, the importance of knowing the numbers of students outwith university accommodation was mentioned. He thought that it would be good if there were some form of long term agreement between Fife Council and the University on what that figure would be. Cllr Waterston acknowledged the need for the University and Fife Council to come to some agreement and believed that there were ongoing discussions taking place between the University and Fife Council on various matters.

Cllr Sangster described the HMO application process as it stands at present and added that because of the moratorium in the town centre outlying areas would probably take some more of the pressure given the demand for accommodation from students. He also briefly mentioned new housing legislation, which will come into place in September aimed at dealing with overprovision in some housing areas. If this will affect St Andrews only time will tell. Dr Goudie asked Cllr Sangster if he was seeing an increase in applications for HMO licenses outside the town centre since the moratorium? Cllr Sangster acknowledged that there were already large numbers of HMOs in certain areas outside the town centre and this might grow because of the moratorium. Dr Goudie thought that it would be an ongoing matter requiring continuing work to resolve without too much misunderstanding and animosity. Dr Goudie asked how the meeting wanted to take the matter forward. Mr Greenwell replied that the Planning Committee had already been having some discussion but hadn't decided on any actions. He added that statistics on various aspects of the matter would have to be gathered as well as looking at the potential impact of the new legislation.

Cllr Sangster reminded the meeting that HMOs weren't just houses with a handful of tenants but included places like Nursing Homes and hotels etc.

It was agreed to keep the matter on the Planning Committee agenda.

4.3.5. Craigtoun "A" site

Dr Goudie asked if there was any change planned for the upkeep of this site at the bottom of the road going to Craigtoun Park between Little Carron and the new estate? Cllr Waterston thought that the maintenance regime might have been reduced. Cllr Sangster agreed to check who had responsibility for maintenance, the Council or the developer.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison - absent

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Reports

Mr Greenwell reported on some of the recent applications discussed at Planning Committee. He highlighted applications to which the committee were going to put in objections and explained their reasons. He also mentioned that the Planning Committee had agreed to let Strathtyrum Estate to give a presentation on their proposed signs for the shop/restaurant at the next meeting.

He then mentioned the plans to submit comments to the Tayplan consultation and asked Community Councillors to send in their thoughts as part of this process.

Cllr Sangster reminded the meeting that the Cosmos Centre was available for meetings of committees.

Mrs Harding asked for confirmation about a suggestion that individual Community Councillors should put in their own responses to the Tayplan consultation. Dr Goudie wasn't certain but reminded the meeting about the date by which responses would have to go in, namely the beginning of August. He added that given the range of issues in the Tayplan it would take quite a lot of work for even a general response, so he calculated that the timing of any response going in would be nearer the end of July from CC. He reminded the meeting that any response sent in would have to be carefully put together to ensure

that the data would stand up to scrutiny and he acknowledged the difficulty in this process. He also acknowledged the benefit of getting as many responses in as possible as an earlier period of consultation had only seen over 130 responses from a large geographical area.

Miss Uprichard had produced a letter which contained some of the general points which could be made and added that there was a copy of the letter on the CC website as well as advice on how to put together a response. Dr Goudie explained how the Tay Plan officials would expect responses to be formatted, namely naming the policy, saying why one objected and what changes should be made. He wasn't very optimistic about how much could be changed by CC but felt that it was the CC's duty to try.

5.2. Hard Drive Purchase

Mr Paul reminded the Planning Chair about a plan to buy a hard drive to use to hold copies of plans for CC. Mr Paul proposed that a hard drive could be purchased for up to £100. The meeting agreed with this proposal.

Planning Chair to purchase a hard drive for Planning Committee use.

5.3. Naming of New Park School Development

Mr Fraser wondered if the Planning Committee had discussed the proposals for the possible name for the development on the Newpark site. The developer had proposed either Newpark Street or Road. Mr Fraser thought that while he had no great objection to using the name Newpark, he thought that street or road were not appropriate for the nature of this development. Cllr Waterston didn't think that the idea of street or road would survive and agreed that policy would ensure that local opinion would be sought on various options. He felt that there would still be time to voice a possible option in naming the development. Dr Goudie reminded the meeting that Mr Fraser was very knowledgeable on the subject of street names. Dr Goudie suggested to the meeting that the matter be left to Mr Fraser to deal with and consider possible alternatives to be brought back to the next CC meeting.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Climate Challenge Fund Update

Report in Appendix C of agenda. Mr Murphy reported that the Standen staff remain committed to trying to make a go and have received a grant from the St Andrews Community Trust, which will allow them to claim expenses. They have tried other sources for funding but with no real success to date. Mr Maclachlan proposed that the Community Council congratulate the Standen staff for exceeding their Carbon reduction target. Dr Goudie added that he hoped that Mr Murphy would express the Community Council appreciation to the staff.

6.2. Martyrs Monument Update

Mrs Corbin reported back on this matter as CC representative. She presented a copy of a letter drafted by Fife Council and St Andrews Partnership on the subject. She was seeking CC member's views on the letter in the next ten days or so. She also reminded the meeting that it was still possible to donate via the Preservation Trust website.

6.3. St Andrews Community Trust

Mr Paul reported back on the work now being done in the new Trust, which met on the 21st June and began to make more awards. He mentioned that the Trust were not wanting applications for assistance with travel, preferring to make awards for worthy causes working within the KY16 area. Mr Paul had written out to the contiguous Community Councils to make them aware of the eligibility of local people or groups for an award. The next meeting will be in October.

6.4. Craigtoun Update

Mrs Corbin gave an update on the Craigtoun situation. There had been a meeting of the Craigtoun Park Advisory Group on the 27th June. Fife Council had allocated £100,000 from its capital budget. Cllr Waterston explained the background to this money, which had nearly been lost if official advice had been accepted by Fife Councillors, but fortunately this was rejected and the money will be used on some work in Craigtoun Park. There may also be the possibility of getting lottery funding for the restoration of the Dutch

Village. Mrs Corbin also reported that the visitor numbers attending Craigtoun had increased with the car park full. Cllr Sangster added that visitor numbers had been excellent with 400 people using the train at the weekend. The man running the train had expressed a possible interest in taking on the boats if the lake area around the Dutch village could be made safe. He was also aware of local interest in supporting Craigtoun financially but Fife Council officials weren't prepared to go down that road.

Cllr Waterston added his view that the weekend had been a great success. However he acknowledged that Fife Council didn't make it easy to progress matters partly because of shedding staff in an era of financial constraints. He felt that the situation was still a very difficult one with no clear structure for the future of Craigtoun. He cautioned the need to be realistic about the challenges in the longer term.

Mr Paul asked if Standen would be allowed access to look at the potential for a renewable energy project in part of Craigtoun. Cllr Waterston confirmed that local Council officials would be happy to give Standen keys to check buildings.

Dr Goudie said that the St Andrews Community Council and Cameron Community Council hadn't ruled out the idea of a Trust despite concerns about the scale of the project. Cllr Waterston replied that based on the recent meeting there had been a decision to have further meetings on the possibility of a Trust.

Mrs Corbin said that she had brought up the need to press ahead with setting up a Trust at the recent Advisory Group meeting and thought that everyone had agreed that that was the best way forward at this time. She wasn't certain about the position of Cameron Community Council at the current time but she hoped they'd come back on board soon. Mrs Corbin reported that she'd suggested that a dedicated website should be set up to allow local people to express their views on the future of Craigtoun Park.

Cllr Waterston felt that a greater degree of urgency had to be injected into the matter and he wasn't certain that this was happening at the present time. He was keen to find out if there were local people with enough commitment to spend time in the process of setting up a Trust given the tight timescale before Fife Council support reduced. Cllr Sangster added his concerns to the need to get matters up and running for a possible Trust as soon as possible. Mr Paul thought that Fife Council needed to make clear certain matters such as the amount of core funding it would continue to give and if it would hand over the park to the Trust to fully manage. Cllr Sangster acknowledged some of the difficulties in getting decisions from Fife Council and acknowledged that it was a slow process. Cllr Waterston expressed the view that one of the major issues for Craigtoun was the need for capital to fix facilities and improve on what was already there. The park wasn't on the list for capital investment from Fife Council.

Dr Goudie acknowledged the need to get matters moving more speedily on the future plans for Craigtoun Park.

6.5. Reports from Representatives

No reports

6.6. Any Other Matters Arising

No matters arising.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

Mrs Denyer reported on the work of the Recreation Committee. Issues being tackled include the annual Garden Competition the status of which she reported to the meeting. This is progressing with posters going up and judges being organised.

The Bandstand Concerts are also being dealt with by the Recreation Committee, with Mr Roberts having obtained a charity collection licence for the period of the concerts. Mrs Denyer was looking for further volunteers to assist during the concerts in collecting and setting up the chairs etc. Mrs Denyer agreed to email around the copy of the schedule for the concerts which will be put on the CC website.

7.2. General Purposes

No meeting has been held in the past month.

7.3. 200 Club

Winners this month: 1st: Mr Tero 2nd:Mr McSeveny 3rd: Mr Humphries

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin reported that there hadn't been a recent meeting and the committee was still waiting for new members.

8. New Business

8.1. The Festival Committee

For information at this time. Mr Paul briefly explained some of the background to present issues, which have lead at present to two groups trying to set up a festival. This matter is still in the process of being resolved.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Mr Roberts had sent in a written Chairs report. This included issues including the Festival Committee situation as mentioned earlier and the fact that the Olympic Torch will be passing through St Andrews on the 13th June. St Andrews Partnership have announced that they'd hope to organise a day of sport and celebration throughout St Andrews. Mr Roberts hoped that the Community Council could be involved in helping to make this day successful.

Mr Roberts also announced a date for a meeting about the possible way ahead for Craigtoun Park to take place at the Cosmos centre on the Wednesday 13th July at 7pm. A Fife Council official will be present to answer questions. Fife Council has indicated that officials are available to assist in looking at the logistics of setting up a Trust.

Mr Roberts also mentioned details of the funding available for remedial work and park management in the coming year as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr Roberts also reported that the University and Fife Council hadn't reached agreement on the value of the Madras South Street site and land for new school. He also reported on the Martyr's Monument Project and the state of fundraising as well as the offer by Fife Council to manage the project and therefore take care of VAT reducing potential funds needing to be raised by 20%.

9.2.1. Treasurers Report

Mr Paul presented the CC accounts, which contained details of the Royal Wedding Breakfast costings. Over £7000 had been raised and Mr Paul added that all of it would be spent, with any surplus after costs going to Charity. Total funds raised for Charity were over £3000 with only a relatively small amount of that coming from the funds raised for the actual event. Mr Paul said that he was proposing to close down the Wedding Breakfast Account now that the event had finished.

The Fife Council grant had been paid into the CC account. Mr Paul gave the meeting the figures for possible expenditure and what he thought might be left as at the end of the financial year when all regular expenditure was taken into account.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. August Community Council Meeting

Mr Marks made the meeting aware that he wouldn't be at an August meeting if the CC decided to go ahead with one. Mr Paul passed on the Chair's view that he'd like to have an August Meeting and this was agreed by the members present.

