

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – July 2009

For Approval

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1. Attendance

Patrick Marks, Zoe Smith, Larry Reid, Ken Fraser, Marysia Denyer, Catherine Rowe, Ian Goudie, Derek Skelhon, Ray Pead, Kyffin Roberts, Penny Uprichard, Dave Finlay, Ken Crichton, Henry Paul, Ronnie Murphy, Izzy Corbin, Judith Harding, Jill Hardie

Students' Association Representatives

Nominated

Fife Councillors

Frances Melville, Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston

Apologies

Holly West, Fiona Kingston, Jude Innes, Carol Ashworth, Dorothea Morrison

2. Minutes of June 2009 Meeting

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as correct.

3. Presentations

3.1. Taxi Problem Learmonth Place -Kit Streatfield-James

Mr Streatfield-James gave a presentation on an ongoing situation, which he and other residents are facing in the Learmonth Place/Balrymonth Court area over the past 20 months. Their concerns relate to the business activities, which have started up at No.47 Learmonth Place, namely a Taxi business. In late 2007, Jay Taxis purchased the aforementioned property and set it up as their office with radio masts etc, applying retrospectively for planning permission. Residents objected on various grounds to this application. The firm according to Mr Streatfield-James owns 12 registered taxis, as well as other vehicles, many of which park in the area, on or off the street. In April 2008, following an appeal by Jay Taxis against a refusal of planning permission, there was a Hearing with a Reporter who visited the area to view the problem and hear residents concerns. The Reporter ruled against Jay Taxis, but it wasn't until July 2008 that the office was moved to another location and the number of taxis parked reduced. Fife Council's Enforcement Officer had hoped that a stop order would be in place by August 2008, but by June 2009 there was still business activity with taxis coming and going at No.47 Learmonth Place, causing annoyance to local residents. Mr Streatfield-James added that the owners of the firm also own two properties in Balrymonth Court, which are let out to private tenants, though the firm he claimed still parked taxis at these properties.

By 6th June 2009, the Enforcement Officer had reported to Sir Menzies Campbell MP that Fife Council was still awaiting a decision by the Procurator Fiscal as to whether there would be legal action against the firm. In the past month Mr Streatfield-James had received further indications that the Procurator Fiscal does intend to proceed against the firm for breach of the stop notice and was awaiting a court case. Mr Streatfield-James then summarised the reasons for the concerns of the residents, which had forced them to act to curtail the activities of the Taxi firm in a quiet residential area. He thanked Councillors and officials for their efforts in the matter, and hoped that the Community Council might be able to assist in some way. He finally informed the meeting that in checking the legal aspects of the right of a resident to conduct a

business from their home, that a previous restriction in the title deeds, which required the resident to obtain permission from the Feu Superior had been removed several years ago. This change meant that the only recourse for local people objecting to such activity might be an expensive court case if it couldn't be resolved amicably with the business causing the concern. Miss Rowe mentioned her own experiences with the same firm parking in the street in which she'd previously lived. Miss Uprichard queried why the Stop Order hadn't been enforced. It was acknowledged that there were limits as to how much Fife Council could enforce such orders if a recipient ignored the order. Prosecution would be the ultimate deterrent, but took time due to pressures on the courts. Mr Crichton raised the issue of the pollution and hazard from one of the vehicles owned by the business and asked whether it might be a matter for Fife Council and SEPA to address. Ms Harding asked Mr Streatfield-James what he thought the Community Council could contribute in this matter. Ms Smith replied that the most that the Community Council could do was to express its support for the Stop Order, but disappointed that it has been ignored.

Cllr Waterston explained his understanding of the Stop Order. He reminded the meeting that Fife Council could not do Police work or legal work. He said that the Stop Order related to the use of the radio masts and the visiting taxis, but not specifically the question of parked vehicles. He added that there was a grey area in the law relating to parking of business vehicles at a private residence, and acknowledged that the Taxi firm was pushing this to the limit with the number of vehicles parked. He added that the Enforcement officer from Fife Council, and the Planning Dept had been working to try and identify suitable alternative business premises, to which the firm could move all its operations.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1 Traffic Regulation Order for Lawhead Primary School

This order has now come into force following the resolution of some objections

4.1.2. Hamilton Hall

Cllr Melville reported of some ongoing problems, including illegal occupancy. The owner was requested to secure the building and has responded by asking McAlpine to deal with the security and related issues.

4.1.3. Brownhills Departure Hearing

This Hearing is to take place on the 19th August at Kilrymont.

4.1.4. Market Street Consultations

Cllr Melville commented upon the timing of the final workshops by Ironside Farrar, which would take place during the Holiday season.

4.1.5. Blue Flag Award

The West Sands has again been awarded a Blue Flag for the tenth year running. There are five beaches in Fife with Blue Flags. Cllr Melville thanked the local community for its efforts to ensure the ongoing award.

4.1.6. Local Plan

Cllr Melville commented upon the recent Planning Committee at which Councillors had strongly backed an amendment to the proposals presented by officials. There was also a proposal for members of the Planning Committee to do a site visit to get a feel of the impact on the town of development in the west before any consultation started. She thought that some of the sites currently identified for development could be changed as a result. Dr Goudie suggested that the Community Council's thanks to the local members for their work in relation to the Local Plan should be put of record. He felt that it had been a quite remarkable month not only on the Local Plan front, but also the rejection by Councillors of other controversial plans.

4.1.7. West Sands Road Works

Ms Uprichard asked about the work to be done at the West Sands. Cllr Melville and Ms Smith explained that the road up to the Jubilee Sheds would be resurfaced and the road after that would be patched. The

would also be work in relation to the Car Park. Cllr Melville reminded Ms Uprichard that the present scheme would not be able to include the work on the dunes because of the withdrawal of Scottish Enterprise funding.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1 Market Street Consultation

Cllr Sangster said he'd alerted the consultants about the possible problems for the timing of the meetings due to the holiday period. He was awaiting a response to see if these might be changed.

4.2.2 East Sands Leisure Centre

Cllr Sangster read out some details from the first report of the new Trust running the East Sands Leisure Centre. The number of visits both for swimming and using other facilities had considerably increased. He quoted some statistics about the increased number of users.

4.2.3 St Andrews/Loches Alliance

Cllr Sangster reported on this ongoing cultural contact with the French town of Loches. As part of the activities, six French teenagers are to come again this year to receive some golf coaching. An attempt to set up a competition is also being considered. A similar event took place last year, resulting in the participants continuing to develop their golf interest back in France.

4.2.4 Muttoes Lane - Refurbishment

The Pilgrim Trust has spent some money on refurbishment of this small pedestrian lane, and is now looking at Logie's Lane for similar work.

4.2.5. Black Bags

Concerns relating to this matter were raised by Mr Pead and discussed. Issues included the problem of the number of bags being left out as apparently Council staff will only lift up two, and bags need to be official Council black bags. Council workers will label excess black bags with labels saying why they've not been collected. It was pointed out that this practise was not appropriate for temporary residents such as students or holiday users of flats as they would not be returning to the accommodation. There was a feeling that the owners/agents for properties let out should have a responsibility to ensure that rubbish was put out correctly.

4.2.6. Garden at Corner of Greyfriars Gardens

Ms Rowe mentioned the green fencing put around the border of this garden. Cllr Sangster replied that the owner has been asked to take the fencing down, as it has not received planning permission. Cllr Waterston added that the owner had been contacted on numerous occasions in relation to the garden, most recently in relation to the fencing, which had been illegally erected. Cllr Sangster related that there had been an unsuccessful attempt in the past to purchase the garden for public use.

4.2.7. Grange Road Cottage

Mr Crichton mentioned that the cottage in the grounds of the Grange had been badly vandalised recently. Cllr Sangster agreed to find out who the developer was and alert them to the problem.

4.2.8. Pavement by Ladyhead Bookshop

Ms Lowe asked about the timescale for this pavement to be repaired. Cllr Sangster is still awaiting a reply from officials on this matter.

4.2.9. "A" Boards

Mrs Denyer asked about the ongoing concern about the way "A" boards are set out by shops. Cllr Sangster related how in the past he'd gone round with a Council official to ask shops to keep boards closer to the shop to reduce pavement obstruction. This worked for a while he said, but acknowledged that it had deteriorated again. In relation to "A" Boards, tables and other street furniture Cllr Sangster felt that there might have to be some stricter regulation to ensure that shop owners didn't abuse the opportunity to use

the pavement areas. Ms Smith suggested that Cllr Sangster should put that idea to the appropriate Council Committee.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Fife Access Forum

Cllr Waterston had attended a meeting of the Fife Access Forum last month. He'd heard a talk about the impact of the new Scottish legislation on access in Fife. He felt it was an extremely ambitious goal of making outdoor areas more accessible. Footpaths are one aspect of the access, with 845 paths being planned across Fife. Consultation has taken place on these core paths etc, with 200 representations made about aspects of path proposals. Any organisation, which has made a representation or objection, will be invited to meet with officials to discuss and try to resolve concerns/issues. There may have to be a Fife Wide Public Enquiry to deal with outstanding objections in 2010. He felt it was a very exciting ambition, albeit controversial in some areas. The Scottish Government will have a final say.

4.3.2. Local Plan

Cllr Waterston thought that the unanimous support of all Councillors in the North East Fife Area Committee and the Planning Committee, to amend the Local Plan to reduce the risk to the landscape, and environment of St Andrews was an exciting development. He reminded the meeting that there would be very important discussions ahead to sort out where development could take place. He also added that the representations from all interested parties would have to be taken seriously. Ms Uprichard asked about the Green Belt. She had queries about the boundaries, and about a provision about what development was allowed within the Green Belt. Cllr Waterston replied that the boundaries of the Green Belt would only be confirmed after the consultation and completion of the new Landscape assessment. He also understood that golf courses were allowed within a Green Belt. Cllr Waterston reminded the meeting that the consultation won't start until October and will last at least six weeks. Dr Goudie reminded the meeting that in the past the Community Council had issued a newsletter issued to the public detailing the issues of concern and encouraging public response during periods of consultation. Cllr Waterston reminded the meeting that the relevant documentation is already on the Council website. Mr Paul suggested that people would want to see a large scale map depicting areas of proposed development. Cllr Waterston also emphasised that the finalised draft plan only contained the suggestions by officials as to where the houses might be built, not necessarily where following consultation they would be built. Ms Uprichard doubted the appropriateness of the use of the term consultation, reminding the meeting that there were thousands of objections to the Structure Plan, yet these had never been published and there was no evidence that they'd been taken into account in the decision making process. Cllr Waterston in reply commented that this was a new consultation about a new plan, based on a new Structure Plan. He felt that the important thing would be to try and ensure that anyone interested, would be able to get the information and be able to put in their comments. He was certain that the comments would be taken into account as much as possible. Ms Smith added that for most people the important thing was to be shown the maps and have the proposals explained, rather than having to wade through a lengthy document.

4.3.3. Hospital Bus Route

Ms Rowe asked whether the new bus routes to the hospital had been finalised and hoped that they would be sufficiently close to the hospital entrance for patients with poor mobility. Cllr Waterston acknowledged that in his understanding these were still to be finalised, but hoped that there would be confirmation soon.

4.3.4. Hepburn Gardens/Buchanan Gardens Footpaths

Mr Finlay expressed concern about hedges overgrowing into the footpaths, which are heavily used by students walking into town. This growth is forcing students to walk on to the road in places putting them at risk. He'd reported his concerns to the Council, but nothing so far had been done to get property owners to manage their hedges. Cllr Waterston agreed that hedges needed to be trimmed and he'd follow this matter up with the appropriate Fife Council department. Mr Finlay also thought that the University should provide a safe walking route into town within its own grounds. Dr Goudie recollected that when David Russell was being rebuilt there had been a proposal for a cycle/walking facility paralleling Buchanan Gardens but said that the University had backtracked on this, upgrading the path from David Russell to Andrew Melville instead. He supported Mr Finlay's suggestion. Ms Smith agreed and added that it was a safety issue as well.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

On holiday

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Minutes - see Appendices in agenda

Ms Smith asked about the Planning Committee's decision to object to the viewing platform at the West Sands. Ms Smith read out the contents of the Planning Committee's letter as follows: "The Planning Committee of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council wishes to lodge an objection to this application.

The area where this viewing platform would be sited is supposed to be a wild area, bordering the Eden Estuary. Such a large and obtrusive man-made object is not appropriate. It would seriously hamper photographers who wished to photograph the sands and the Eden, except those who were actually standing on it.

At this time of economic constraint we believe that there must be better uses for the money that would be spent on this edifice, and the future costs of maintenance".

Mrs Denyer voiced her objection to the objection. She couldn't see any harm in the structure and believed it would be informative. Mr Roberts couldn't see the purpose for the structure. Mrs Denyer reminded the meeting that the plan talked about the informative aspects to be included on the platform. Ms Smith expressed her disappointment at the objection. She'd attended a meeting earlier in the year, when the platform was first mooted and had thought it a good idea. She added that there had been some talk that eventually sand would naturally bank up against the platform to partially mask its outline. Ms Uprichard added her expression of doubt about the value of a platform. Mr Pead felt the matter wasn't clear and before he could make a judgement he'd want more details about the proposals. He thought that the Planning Committee shouldn't have gone ahead with the objection, especially when opinion was divided until the full Community Council could discuss the details. Dr Goudie added that the objection was partly a concern about increasing urbanisation of the area. He felt that as this plan was a relatively minor matter, he was happy with a majority vote being taken, whereas in major planning matters unanimity would be more important. Ms Uprichard reminded members that they could attend Planning Committee and that plans were also online. Mr Crichton reminded members about their ability to object as individuals and cited a successful objection he'd put in on a planning matter.

There was some discussion about the issue of decision making by the Planning Committee. Dr Goudie reminded the meeting that there was often little time to bring contentious matters to the monthly meeting hence the use of delegated powers to make decisions. Mrs Denyer said they'd also considered the possibility in contentious applications of emailing other members on the matter concerned. Ms Smith replied that she'd have appreciated such an email at the time in relation to the viewing platform. Cllr Sangster added that other local organisations ask members opinions by email when appropriate. Mrs Harding and Mr Reed commented that they used email for Licensing application decisions where necessary. Dr Goudie felt that it was important to be able to have meetings to thrash matters out, feeling that referenda by email didn't allow for a full feel of the matter concerned. Ms Smith replied that email could be helpful at times.

5.2. Difficulties in obtaining Plans

Ms Uprichard expressed her concern about the ongoing difficulty of obtaining plans for the Conservation area. These often aren't coming automatically, but have to be requested if they don't come into the criteria used by officials as to what is considered appropriate and relevant. This creates problems with the timescale for objecting. Ms Smith asked for clarification of the issue. Mrs Denyer said that it was frustrating not to have copies of requested plans at the same time as the lists of plans and ideally she tried to get plans in advance of the meeting. She acknowledged that the plans were online.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Litter Problem – Madras College

Kate Hughes, Locality Officer and the Community Police are to start a project with Madras pupils to try and tackle the problem. Ms Smith had spoken with the Rector, Mr Jones. He'd pointed out the inadequacy of the catering facilities at the school for the numbers, though the quality of the food offered was good. She'd also observed the pupils with Mr Jones one lunchtime. She felt that on the whole there was little evidence of more than occasional litter deliberate litter dropping. She felt that the litterbins weren't always well placed and the design was poor with litter easily blown out on a windy day, as someone was throwing it into the bin.

She hoped that the initiative by Kate Hughes and the Community Police might help resolve the problem even further, counteracting the reduction in the litter collection by Council Workers. Mr Jones had also

pointed out the inadequacy of recycling facilities at the school. The school does frequently reinforce at Assemblies the civic responsibilities of pupils.

6.2. Legal Challenge to Structure Plan

Ms Uprichard sought the support of the Community Council, in relation to the legal challenge she has made about legitimacy of the Fife Structure Plan, following its approval by the Scottish Government. She reminded the meeting that Fife Council would view the Structure Plan as holding sway over the Local Plan and quoted a senior planner at the recent central Planning Meeting had indicated as much. She reminded members about some of the background concerns such as previous studies, which had indicated that St Andrews was at its Landscape capacity. She added that in her view there didn't seem to be much assessment in the Structure Plan of the impact on tourism and transport. She didn't think that the town would survive the impact of what was presently intended.

She was hoping for support by the Community Council in this matter in the form of a pledge of financial support if the case was lost. She reminded the meeting of recent expenditures, such as the flower tubs at £850. She was also hopeful of getting some financial support from individuals and organisations towards the costs should she lose the case. She estimated costs at around £60000. Dr Goudie urged the Community Council to give Ms Uprichard a pledge of support. He reminded the meeting of various questionable aspects to the whole Structure Plan process, which he felt should be challenged. He felt that if any part of the process could be shown to be illegal, it would be of huge significance.

Dr Goudie moved that the Community Council give a guarantee of £1000 in support of Ms Uprichard's challenge. He reminded members of the Community Council's strong history of opposing inappropriate development. He gave examples of the ills he said were afflicting the present process, citing the case of how an unfavourable landscape report could be abandoned and a new one commissioned to give a more favourable result for the purchasing body. He also commented on the fact that the Scottish Government hadn't appeared to have reworked the Housing figures, adopting Fife Council's earlier conclusion, but had started from a different set of premises. He felt that if a legal action was able to establish that what had taken place was illegal; it would be very much in the public interest to achieve such a result.

Mr Pead as treasurer advised against potentially committing such a sum of money, given the reduced state of the Community Council finances because of the legal costs of the Arms contract matter. Dr Goudie was critical of the way the Community Council had agreed some large items of expenditure in the past year, acknowledging that while worthy in a minor way, they could not be compared to the current issue. Mr Crichton suggested that any application for funds should be more structured. He was critical of recent financial management by the Community Council, and suggested that applications should not be dealt with in the main meeting, but referred to the GP Committee for detailed consideration. He also suggested that requests for money should be on an application form.

Ms Smith advised Ms Uprichard that she would check on the legality of using Community Council funds in this manner. She added that in her understanding, Ms Uprichard was asking the Community Council to pledge money, which was money given in a grant by Fife Council, to give to her should her legal challenge against the Scottish Government fail. Ms Uprichard asked if there was any restriction in the use of Community Council funds? Dr Goudie reiterated his plea that the Community Council should be making some gesture towards supporting Ms Uprichard, on what he viewed was an issue affecting everyone in St Andrews. Towards the end of the meeting, following further discussion about the state of the Community Council finances, Ms Uprichard requested that the Community Council support her request in principle, without financial commitment. This was agreed by the Community Council.

6.3. Climate Challenge Group

Mr Marks reported on this issue. He asked the Community Council for their agreement in allowing the Climate Challenge Group to progress its plans to apply for funding for at least one of the proposals, namely the insulation project without having to come back to the Community Council for agreement on every detail. He recognised that it might not be possible to follow through with every proposed project in the next funding round, but if the main one could be progressed that would be significant progress. Dr Goudie expressed concern about the tendering process.

Mr Marks in reply acknowledged Dr Goudie's concerns, but felt that Mr Yarr would be aware of the need to have an open tendering process. He also commented upon the fact that the East Neuk group of Community Councils had made significant progress towards setting up a project and he couldn't understand why St Andrews should be less able to get it's act together. He felt that the Insulation project required more urgent action as it was a much more complex project to set up, while the feasibility studies centred around identifying a professional company capable of undertaking a remit specified by the organisation paying for the service and coming up with a possible practical solution.

Ms Smith agreed that it seemed reasonable to let the group progress its work with minimal interference, apart from seeking reassurance that any tendering process for the Feasibility studies would be transparent.

6.4. St Andrews Partnership

Ms Smith outlined the nature of this organisation, which has arisen from the ashes of the previous St Andrews World Class. The aims and objectives of the new organisation she acknowledged were similar to those of St Andrews World Class. The Community Council had been asked to take part in the steering group. Ms Smith had attended a consultation on the matter, as well as the final meeting of St Andrews World Class.

Mr Skelhon asked about the source of funding for the new organisation. Ms Smith replied that it would come from Scottish Enterprise who had £300000 to give to the St Andrews Partnership. Fife Council would also give something towards the Partnership. Ms Uprichard thought that there would be little difference between the organisations. She wasn't certain about the level of participation by local businesses. Ms Smith also openly acknowledged her reservations about St Andrews World Class and its agenda, and remained sceptical about the new organisation. She felt however that it would be better to take part in the steering group than remain opposed despite her own negative feelings about it. She felt that it appeared no better than World Class, partly because of the attempt to limit the tendering process for the new manager, which was turned down by those attending the meeting. Ms Uprichard wondered about the mandate of the proposed new organisation. Ms Rowe who had also attended the recent meeting felt she'd come away with few of her questions being answered. She had wondered about the funding and how it would benefit the town.

Ms Smith asked the meeting for guidance on how the Community Council should use its place on the steering group. Ms Uprichard didn't feel that being involved would give the Community Council any real influence. Dr Goudie thought that the Community Council couldn't be bound by the decisions of a self elected group, who were not necessarily representative of most of the citizens of St Andrews unlike the Community Council.

Mr Fraser who had been representing the Community Council on St Andrews World Class clarified the present position. He informed the meeting that the Community Council had been invited to take up the offer of a place on the committee, which is going to draw up the constitution of the new organisation, not to actually take a position in the new organisation. While acknowledging that it wasn't clear how the new organisation would be structured, he felt that the Community Council should take up the offer to be on the committee drawing up the constitution. In this way there might be an opportunity to influence its structure.

Mr Pead thought that Patrick Loughlin had been trying to invite as broad a range of people to join the committee as possible so that in some way or other most local people might be represented on the steering group. Mr Pead acknowledged that he supported the idea, because he felt that it could have potential to benefit St Andrews. He urged the Community Council to take up its place, rather than remain outside, with no chance to influence decisions about the new organisation's make up.

Ms Smith asked for a vote on the matter. Eleven councillors were in favour of joining the steering group of St Andrews Partnership. Mr Skelhon proposed that Ms Smith be the Community Council representative. Ms Smith expressed her uncertainty as she felt ambivalent about the new organisation, but agreed to become the Community Council representative on the steering group. Ms Uprichard was still sceptical about the benefit of joining such a group. Ms Smith reminded the meeting that the remit of the steering group was to cobble together a constitution and was not the actual organisation itself. Mr Murphy questioned the wisdom of electing a representative who had a negative view of the proposed organisation, feeling that any representative had to go in with a more positive frame of mind. Ms Uprichard asked what was different between St Andrews World Class and the proposed St Andrews Partnership? Mr Pead felt that the initial set up with the steering group was more democratic, as anyone could ask to be on it.

Cllr Sangster thought that there should be written reports by the representative from the Community Council for the elucidation of the other members of the Community Council. Ms Smith agreed to provide regular written reports.

6.6. New Community Councillors

Ms Corbin and Mr Murphy were elected to the body of the Community Council

6.7. Local Plan

Ms Smith briefly thanked the Fife Councillors for their good work in recent meetings, when officials had been asked to go away and rethink certain aspects of the Local Plan.

6.8. Reports from Representatives

6.8.1. World Class

Mr Fraser had attended the final meeting, details of which are in the appendix of the agenda. He added that a small section of his report had been accidentally omitted from the appendix. In this he had reported that Zoe had very strongly put forward her argument for greater transparency in the tendering process leading to the new manager.

6.9. St Andrews Events

Mr Crichton reminded the meeting about the creation of a separate account for various events, such as the Old Folks Treat, the Ceilidh and the Civic Reception. This will come under the account name of St Andrews Events. Mr Crichton said that he was happy to take over the running of the Civic and St Andrews Day Receptions. Ms Smith queried whether the Community Council shouldn't run the Receptions. Mr Crichton said that he would be quite happy if a Community Councillor would like to take over the organisation of these events. Ms Smith asked for a volunteer. Mr Pead volunteered his services.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation

Mr Reed announced that the Recreation Committee would meet on the 14th July at Mr Crichton's house at 19.00.

7.2. General Purposes

No meeting has taken place

7.3. 200 Club

7.3.1. 200 Club Draw

1st Mrs A. Murray 2nd Mrs Reed 3rd Mr W.S. Smith

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

8. New Business

8.1. Membership of ASCC

Mr Marks raised the issue of membership of the Association of Scottish Community Councils. He'd received correspondence and detailed some of the benefits. The ASCC membership costs only £15 p.a. They have recently appointed a Development Officer who Mr Marks thought would be useful to have along to a meeting. Mr Pead proposed membership, seconded by Mr Crichton.

8.2. Membership of FOE Scotland

Mr Marks mentioned that he'd neglected to give a reminder for membership renewal to the treasurer. He wondered if members wanted to renew membership. He wasn't certain why the Community Council had joined or when. It was decided not to renew this year.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

No report

9.2. Treasurer

Mr Pead reported that the Abbey High Interest Account had been closed, with all funds consolidated in the Bank of Scotland account. As of 6th July the account held £10780. £2896 of that amount is ex-trust, with a

cheque for just over £4000 going to Mr Crichton who is managing a separate account for the Ceilidh etc. The balance for the rest of the year is £3676. He estimated annual costs at around £3000, thus committing any large amount to Ms Uprichard's legal challenge would not be financially prudent. Mr Crichton pointed out that Ken Fraser's Millennium Fund of £3000 didn't appear in the accounts and wondered where it was? Mr Pead added that there was no mention of this Fund in the accounts.

Mr Crichton expressed his objection to the idea that small cheques could be signed by one signatory, an idea put forward by Mr Pead to reduce the work involved in chasing up signatories for small cheques. Ms Smith acknowledged that she'd considered it a good idea. Mr Crichton cited legal problems, which could arise from well-intentioned ideas to circumvent the inconvenience of hunting down a second signatory. Mr Crichton was also certain that it was stated in Community Council procedures that two signatories were required for all cheques big or small. The secretary checked the procedures manual, and confirmed the need for 2 signatories on all cheques.

Mr Pead indicated that he would be happy to present the details of Community Council finances at the monthly meetings.

9.3 Secretary

See correspondence.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Bandstand Concert

Mr Pead asked for a volunteer to assist at the next Bandstand Concert. Mr Paul agreed to assist.

10.2. Letter to Fife Council re Sending Letters on Licensing Applications to Mr Reed

Mr Reed requested that the Chair and secretary write to the Council to request that letters about Licensing applications be sent to him. Mr Marks said he'd already done so, and Ms Smith agreed to write as well.