

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Annual General Meeting 1998

This will be held 7pm, Monday 6th July 1998 in St Andrews' Town Hall Burgh Chamber.

### Agenda

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Mr Sangster (Mr Sproson to attend as Merch Assoc rep instead), Mr Peterson, Mr Macgregor, Mr Fraser.

#### 2. Minutes of the 1997 AGM

#### 3. Chairman's Report

#### 4. Accounts

#### 5. Dates of Meetings 1998/9

#### 6. Any Other Competent Business

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##### Chairman's Report May 1997 - April 1998

D. F. Macgregor Chairman

The Community Council in its final year pre-election continued to progress on most fronts, thanks to the good ideas and hard work of members and supporters, and I would like to begin by again thanking the former office-bearers for their co-operation and forbearance, and to associate in my thanks all members, Fife Councillors, press representatives and others who came to the Council's monthly meetings for their patience, tolerance and helpfulness.

The Council continues to be represented on selection panels (such as for the Ohtawara City Exchange), ad hoc committees (such as that on Harbour Renewal and (imminently) on the Green Belt Forum) as well as on public bodies such as the Crime Prevention Panel, Tourism Management Plan Group, St Andrew's Week Committee, on official occasions like Remembrance Day, or at functions such as Fife Council's St Andrew's Day Reception, RAF Freedom ceremony or at the Kate Kennedy parade. This representational role is still increasing, and so it should.

During 'St Andrew's Week' the Council mounted an interesting exhibition of Charters of the Town in the Town Hall. Plans are afoot for a larger exhibition in November 1998 in conjunction with the rest of St Andrews.

Much of the Community Council's work is done in committee, and I would like to mention some of that work at this point:

The Planning Committee met with considerable frequency to deal with the numerous applications and reports that were forward; its biggest remit was to respond to the Strategic Study and this response emerged as 'Option 4' which appears to enjoy a lot of public sympathy except among those committed to the rather idealistic Option 1 (No change), and no doubt, among those developers keen to profit from a mega-St Andrews. Like the Preservation Trust, the Committee made vigorous and in the end successful interventions in the Public Inquiry concerning St Leonard's Fields, where our position was of course to resist the application for development. The Community Council believes that the site is the best one for an enlarged hospital and that this view enjoys public support.

The Recreation Committee organises several competitions: Gardens, Photography, Library, St Andrews Week, Local History and Odd One Out all fall into its remit, and I would like to thank all the organisers and congratulate the participants. The 200 Club over the past year disbursed 29 separate grants to local projects, and I shall repeat my call for councillors to encourage even more friends and acquaintances to sign up as 200 Club members. A second series of bandstand concerts was made possible by generous sponsorship from Reel Services Inc., and for the present season from the St Andrews Common Good Fund. A Youth Committee of the Council has now been set up, thanks to the support of the Rector (who came to address us) and staff of Madras College; its chairman is now a co-opted member of the Council. Recreation Committee members attend meetings of the Street Fairs and other tourism-related committees.

St Andrews Common Good Fund applications continue to be discussed by a joint committee with Fife Councillors and this has proved a successful arrangement. The new local office is now in a position to offer certain meeting and other facilities to the Council (as well as to other groups). The offer of the Locality Manager, Mrs Veronica Henderson, to stage a pre-election display of candidates' photographs and curricula vitae was very welcome, as is the fulfilment of the Fife Council's commitment to provide polling cards for the election to be held between 10am to 7pm in the Local Office, St Mary's Place. The Finance and General Purpose Committee agreed to take out a quarter-page advertisement in the St Andrews Citizen which resulted in an increased turn-out, though many felt more publicity could have been afforded to individual candidates, especially in the local newspaper whose base is just round the corner from the Fife Council offices where information about all candidates was on display. A better way of informing voters about those standing needs to be found next time round.

The Welfare Committee, apart from organising the Senior Citizens' Party (with help from the Students' Association, the Round Table and others), was involved in various activities, and at intervals expressed concern over the year on relevant matters such as health provision and the cynical replacement of the CAB by CARF - another service to the public, like paper collection, replacement of waste bins, advertisement of Fife Councillors' consulting hours, the failure to meet long-standing commitments to a recycling centre, a new library and to replace the Petheram bridge to take but some of the main items in the cycle of increasing taxation and diminishing service.

The monthly free newsheet, EVENT: St Andrews, instigated and run by Mr Pete Lindsay, has been improved over the year and attracts a regular readership. The provision of advertising space in the Mercat Centre, thanks to Mr Dennis MacDonald, has doubled our public presence in that regard.

At various moments in the past the Council has been held to be overly 'political'. It is pleasing to me at least to note that there was to my knowledge no evidence of party cliquishness during the past Council - all strove together (in the main) to foster the common good. Many may agree with me that political parties at local level are of no relevance, and that it is independence of judgement and common sense that local people cherish. If they see that they get that from us - and I hope they do - that should be a matter of some satisfaction.

I will end this list of (only some of) the year's achievements by mentioning the Cultural Links programme, which continues to develop relations with Upper Arlington and, under the chairmanship of Mrs Mary Freeborn and with Community Council representation, with Loches en Touraine.

Thank you all again for your help and support during the past year.

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## Treasurers Report & Accounts 1997/98

The accounts require very little general comment. This year again they show a deficit of £1,600.52 which is a distortion due to the large expenditure out of the donation received two years ago for the Bandstand Concerts.

It is hoped that further funds will be obtained to feed this account and allow the excellent programmes of bands organised by Mr Strachan to continue.

The Administration Grant at the level at present enjoyed makes this aspect of the accounts more comfortable. I still have little doubt that many members are not putting through expenses and I do know that some are not catered for in the accounts prepared.

This will eventually show itself when those concerned provide details of their expenses.

Our position has been improved this year by the opening of the One Stop Office. Assuming that we continue to enjoy these Offices free for meetings and the Council continue to have a blanket Insurance Policy for Community Councils the Grant will remain sufficient.

I believe that we owe it to the public in St Andrews to provide some sort of bi-monthly or quarterly newsletter regarding activities within the Community Council and feel sure this is the proper way to use some of the Grant received.

There are several of the small accounts that we hold that are sitting dormant. None of these cause me undue concern except for the Coat of Arms Account. I do not know what the present position is concerning this account but feel we must be losing income which would make other aspects of our operation easier. This is a matter for serious consideration by the incoming Community Council in May 1998.

The 200 Club Account and Trust Account are not included in the attached as separate accounts are produced for them.

Once again can I finish by asking any member of the Council to be fair to the Treasurer and keep him/her aware of any large expenditure intended. Invoices received without prior knowledge are a problem.

## Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

### Financial Statement April 1997 to March 1998

Funds at 31st March 1998

Brought Forward at 1st April 1997	£ 5440.45
Deficit for Year 1997/98	£ 1600.52
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Balance Carried Forward	£ 3839.93
(Represented by Bank Account at 31/3/98	£ 4801.65)
(Cheques still to be cleared	£ 961.72)

	Income	Expenditure
Administration Account	£ 2983.00	£ 1432.48
General Account	£ 501.34	£ 330.50
Coat of Arms Account	£ 160.35	£ NIL
Quiz Book Account	£ 55.14	£ NIL
Anniversary Account	£ 700.00	£ NIL
Bandstand Account	£ 2757.28	£ 2092.09
Tree Planting Account	£ 204.89	£ NIL
Youth Committee Account	£ 50.00	£ NIL
Upper Arlington Account	£ 300.00	£ 65.00
Newsletter Account	£ 48.00	£ NIL
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	£ 7760.00	£ 3920.07

Administration Account

Brought Forward at 1st April 1997	£ 960.00
Income:	
Grant	£ 2023.00
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	£ 2983.00

Expenditure

Committee Expenses/Telephone/Postages etc	£ 206.17
Hire of Halls as required	£ 386.30
Memberships to Appropriate Associations	£ 47.00
Secretarial Payments	£ 150.00
Appropriate Adverts for Elections and other issues of Importance	£ 410.32
Stationery	£ 232.69
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	£ 1432.48

(Surplus for the year £590.52)

Surplus Carried Forward £1550.52

General Account

Brought Forward at 1st April 1997	£ 316.82
Income:	
Odd One Out Competition	£ 51.50
Interest on Account	£ 133.02
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	£ 501.34

Expenditure

Various Competition Costs	£ 189.50
Flag for Town Hall	£ 141.00
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	£ 330.50

(Deficit for the year £145.98)



	17 July	54.00	
	23 July	27.00	
	17 Oct.	27.00	
	13 Nov.	27.00	
	1 Sept.	91.46	
Gross Interest			
Return of Advance to St. Andrews			
Day Committee	18 April	£400.00	
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		£776.46	
Expenditure Entertainment cost for			
visitors from Loches	30 April	£185.00	
Donation to "St. Andrews in Bloom"	17 Oct.	250.00	
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		£435.00	
Surplus for year		£341.46	£ :
Bank Balance at 31 March, 1998			£30

## July Monthly Meeting

This will follow on immediately from the AGM.

### Agenda

#### 1. Apologies for Absence - as above

#### 2. Contributions from Members of the Public

(Anyone who would like to address the meeting please contact the Secretary or Chair beforehand if at all possible)

##### 2.1. Cathy Adamson, Director of Services for N.E.Fife, Perth & Kinross Healthcare Trust

On: Health Care Strategy in the St Andrews Area

##### 2.2. Mrs Betty Sullivan

Problems between golf buggies and pedestrians on the links paths.

##### 2.3. Mr Christie

St Andrews history

#### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (1 June 98)

*(read for any corrections of substance - harangue the Secretary for minor spelling mistakes before or after the meeting.)*

#### 4. Matters Arising

*(Action taken or other news relating to previous month's meeting)*

##### 4.0. Committee Structure

##### 4.1. Other Responsibilities

(Would anyone representing the Community Council on other bodies let the Secretary know so that the list of Community Councillors can be completed.)

##### 4.1.1 Mr Archie Muir has passed on the following

- Flags and bunting. A Keeper is required.
- Coat of Arms files. An Administrator, with some idea of business perhaps, is required.
- Sponsored Trees files and plans.
- Trust Fund documents
- Old Town Council headed paper and envelopes, rescued from the Council Offices on their closure. Any takers?

##### 4.1.2. A Minutes Secretary is needed

Mrs Tero having done her stint in this position.

#### **4.1. Councillors' surgeries**

(June 4.3) Secretary wrote to Fife Council acknowledgement received.

#### **4.2 Hogweed**

(June 4.4) More pictures passed to Fife Council of growths of this noxious weed, as yet untreated. It is now in full flower and must be treated before it seeds.

#### **4.3. Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament.**

(June 4.5). Mr Macgregor was unable to attend.

#### **4.4. Letter of thanks**

Secretary has written to Fife Council officers involved in May election (June 5.12).

#### **4.5. Empty Shops**

(June 8.2) Secretary has written to Mr Inch, Secretary of the Merchant's Association.

#### **4.6. King Street**

Fife Constabulary have replied. They are aware of the problem and “a more determined emphasis” has been placed on resolving them. This has involved a more coordinated approach by the agencies involved (Police, Fife Council Housing & Social Work, residents and Community Council). Mr Macgregor is being kept informed of current and proposed police action.

#### **4.7. Shell Garage**

(June 7.2.1.) Hearing put back until August

### **5. Correspondence**

*(see attached sheet for full list - update will be circulated at the meeting if necessary)*

#### **5.1 RAF Leuchars**

Freedom of the Burgh Thu 9th July - representatives needed.

### **6. Matters Raised by Committees**

*(Reports - note that under the new Scheme of Administration all committee meetings must be minuted).*

#### **6.1. Leisure & Recreation**

#### **6.2. Planning**

- Mr Young and Mrs Murray attended an APRS Planning Workshop 23 Jun

#### **6.3. (other committees to be established)**

### **7. Matters Raised by Fife Councillors**

#### **7.1. Cllr Melville (W)**

#### **7.2. Cllr Cassells (C)**

#### **7.3. Cllr Hill (S)**

#### **7.4. Cllr Liston (SE)**

### **8. Other Matters of Public Concern**

*(For Community Councillors to raise anything they haven't fitted in elsewhere)*

- Turnout/Publicity at CC Elections
- East of Scotland Water to speak to us at September Meeting re sewerage development
- Mr Fraser's concerns on naming of the Central Motors development.

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### **Planning Committee**

Report of the Planning Committee Meetings of 8.6.98 and 29.6.98 for the Community Council Meeting of 6th July 1998.

### **Lawhead North.**

An objection was submitted to the revised plans for this site, reiterating in particular our arguments on the proposed density and on the safety implications of the shared use of the school access road. Some questionable aspects of the Reporter's findings on the previous application, which remain relevant to the current application, were also noted. It is understood that the application was subsequently withdrawn due to a failure to meet the neighbour-notification requirements.

## **2. Other Planning Applications.**

### **(i) Old Course Hotel.**

It was agreed to object to some aspects of this application to extend the hotel on its north-western end. In particular we noted the loss of approximate symmetry and judged that some feature to break up the unexciting and rather lengthy flat roofline of the extension would be useful. We would also wish to see some modifications to the proposed fenestration to avoid the full height glass panels on the north-western end and the southwest side. It was felt that the two-storey high lion emblem did not add to the appearance of the extension. We would also wish to see details of the proposed entrance, which were not included with the plans.

### **(ii) 143, South Street.**

Mr Lindsay submitted an objection to this revised application, reiterating our general objections to infill developments of this type and our concerns regarding emergency access and the absence of off-street parking.

### **(iii) 104, South Street.**

Mrs Murray agreed to object to this application for an outside dining area. The use of the cobbled area by the pedestrian crossing for this purpose obscures the crossing and could prove to be dangerous.

### **(iv) McIntosh Hall.**

It was agreed to object to the proposed security lighting on the rear of the building. The proposed height of the lighting columns looks excessive, and it appears that its effect on North Street may not have been adequately considered.

## **3. Workshop on the Strategic Study on St Andrews.**

We had objected to this workshop being held during the school holidays. It has now been postponed due to inadequate support.

## **4. Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland.**

Mrs Murray and Mr Young had attended their workshop. Mr Young will produce a report on it.

## **5. Other recent developments.**

### **(i) Dollond & Aitchison.**

The proposed internally-illuminated projecting sign was not approved. The Council are seeking a traditional externally-illuminated timber sign.

### **(ii) Minit UK.**

The proposed projecting lettering was not approved. Matt vinyl lettering will be applied to the stonework.

### **(iii) Clarks, 131 Market Street.**

The application for internally illuminated fascia and projecting signs was refused.

### **(iv) Ardgowan Hotel.**

The application for non-illuminated fascia and projecting signs was refused to avoid proliferation of signage.

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## **A Report of the APRS Planning Workshop, Tuesday 23 June 1998, Volunteer House, Cupar.**

Chris Young and Lindsay Murray represented the St Andrews CC at this workshop organised

by the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland aimed at helping Community Councils and Preservation Trusts get to grips with the planning system and more effectively safeguard the Scottish countryside.

The participants were given folders containing an information pack (and various other materials) which can be shown / copied to any interested parties. This pack formed the basis of much of the two more formal discussion sessions.

## 1. Development Plans

We discussed both structure and local plans in general terms and were encouraged at all times to provide positive input. This translated into making plenty of positive suggestions at the consultation stage and, at the consultation on the first draft, concentrating on commenting on any omissions (e.g. renewable energy, facilities etc.) rather than merely criticising what has been included.

## 2. Planning Applications

Getting replies in promptly is the key to success here, as is being genned up. We should push developers to make copies of their plans (including the detailed reports) available for consultation - and if necessary get the Local Authority Planning Officers to push for their availability. We might also get these Officers to verify some of the more contentious claims made in these reports.

We had wide-ranging discussions on a number of related issues and local cases, with particular concerns being raised about the overwhelming argument the provision of employment seems to be for approving developments, when often it is not locals who would benefit from these new jobs.

Various publications about the planning system were recommended during these discussions and the pack included a list of those from the Scottish Office. I have arranged for copies of many of these to be sent and we are to be on the mailing list for any future circulars etc. I have also contacted Fife Council for copies of their leaflets.

Community Council membership of the APRS costs £12 per year. I suggest that we join and keep informed, particularly as the planning system will be changing in the near future (as Scotland gears up for devolution) and we need all the help we can get to stop St. Andrews getting concreted over.

*Chris Young*

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## Recreation & Leisure Committee

Report 06.07.98

**Posters**, 3 have been circulated for your information. **Gardening**, we want nominations so if you do not know of any then please find some. You may have noticed a radical departure in that we asked the St. Andrews Horticultural Society if they would like to assist us. They were very pleased to get involved. This gives us more credibility and a greater coverage.

**Presentation of prizes** will be held on Thursday 24 September in the Council Chambers. **Art**, first reactions appear very favourable. The 3 special schools in the area were delighted to be asked when I phoned them. The Art Club have a summer competition which ties in with our exhibition. Glenrothes College are keen and may possibly use it as a project.

### Spot the Odd One Out

Dennis McDonald is running this or I should say walking it as it takes 4 hours to go round all 45 shops. It takes 3 visits say 12 hrs walking plus other visits to the sale points and checking that items are kept in the windows. This is to be held over 2 months and revenue generated will be held to cover the costs of the other projects we have.

### Photographic

agreed with Mr Smith the Manager at Boots that the title for this years Photographic competition will be *Nooks and Crannies in St. Andrews* the location to be stated in the title. Closing date will be 31.10.98 and prizes will be awarded at a date to be agreed with Boots. Posters will be designed and distributed as soon as possible. We have been asked to

### sponsor

a photo exhibition at the Crawford Centre and possibly incorporate our competition. This will be discussed at our meeting tomorrow but if anyone has any views on this we will consider them. Dates could clash with our Art Exhibition.

### Library Competition

it was agreed that I would see the Head Librarian next month and agree dates, possible titles will be discussed tomorrow

**Beautiful Scotland in Bloom** sponsored by the Bank of Scotland Judging will be at 1200hrs on Tuesday. At a special meeting with St. Andrews

**Horticultural Society**

we agreed a route with a visit past the War Memorial and calling into the Preservation Trust , Old Course Hotel , and Kinburn Park etc. There will be myself, Cynthia Tero, Hamish Matheson, and the 2 judges this will take about 2 hours.

**Best Kept Town**

( Fife Council ) judging will take place this week with the short list places being judged again in the week of 27.07.98

**St. Andrews Week**

the co-ordinating committee will be meeting on Wed 8 July at 14.00hrs which I hope to attend.

**200 Club** Report by Archie Strachan.

**Next meeting**

of the Recreation and Leisure Committee will be held in the local Council Offices at 19.00hrs followed by the 200 club meeting

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