

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes –1st April 2013

For Approval

(Copies of Agendas and Minutes of the Community Council are held at Fife Council's Local Office, St Mary's Place and the Town Library, Church Square. Those from late 1997 on are online at <http://www.standrewscc.net/>)

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Kyffin Roberts, Izzy Corbin, Carol Ashworth, Ronnie Murphy, Judith Harding, Ken Crichton, Bernadette Cassidy, Howard Greenwell, Alice Alexander, Marysia Denyer, Callum Corbin, Penny Uprichard.

Students' Association Representatives

Dave Patterson

Ali West

Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Francis Melville

Apologies

Keith McCartney, Dorothea Morrison, Freddie fforde, Patrick Marks, Catherine Rowe, Henry Cheape, Niall Scott

2. Minutes of Meeting

Page 3 – Item 3.2. Madras College - Dr Goudie pointed out that the wording in the last sentence of para 2 should be “irrelevant” not “relevant” in relation to the cost of the distributor road

Page 6 - 4.3.5. Mrs Denyer commented that it was the “steps” not the “railings” she'd been talking about.

Page 8 – 6.4 & 6.5 are incomplete

Page 9 – “ Dr Goudie suggested omitting his belief, which he withdrew in the light of better information from Mr Cheape, that therefore there had not been a planning application for the abattoir site”

The minutes were otherwise accepted as correct.

3. Election of Councillor

As a result of the resignation of Mr Primmer at the previous meeting of the Community Council, a vacancy had arisen. Mr Tom Waterton-Smith as an unsuccessful candidate whenever there was a previous vacancy was offered the vacancy in accordance with the rules of election to the Community Council.

Mr Crichton suggested that the vacancy should be advertised in the local press, but was reminded about the established procedures. He was advised that if there hadn't been any remaining candidates, the vacancy would have been advertised. Mr Paul

confirmed that the procedure was correct in his reading of the procedures for election.

Community Council members offered Mr Waterton-Smith the vacancy, which he accepted.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. New Area Planning Committee

Cllr Melville reported about the new Area Planning Committee. She was pleased at the level of staffing with the usual legal team and administrative support. Planning officers would include Alistair Hamilton, Chris Smith and Elspeth Cook. Mr Birrell, Head of Planning will also be attending the meetings at times.

4.1.2. Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

Parking enforcement is now under this new remit, which Cllr Melville hoped would lead to a more successful way of dealing with parking fines etc. She'd sent out advance notice of the change to Community Councillors by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Melville was asked whether the wardens would be based locally or come in from other areas to do their job? Cllr Melville agreed to check out the details, as she wasn't entirely certain. She had assumed that the wardens would be regularly working in the town not just on occasional days.

4.1.3. Ladebraes Walk Path Repairs

Mrs Ashworth had contacted Cllr Melville about the ongoing poor state of the Ladebraes. Cllr Melville acknowledged that a previous Council promise to sort out some of the repairs hadn't been completed or done and this would need to be chased up.

4.1.4. Potholes

Cllr Melville commented on the ongoing issue of potholes and the need for the Council to do more to fix them, as there is a considerable backlog with drivers being affected by them. Councillors have asked for the subject to be put on the next Area Committee meeting agenda.

4.1.5. Possible sale of Land and Buildings by Fife Council

At the recent area meeting Councillors had been given a list of possible buildings and land, which could be sold in the next ten years. This included properties in St Andrews including the office at St Marys Place. She reflected that this might also tie in with the thought of amalgamating various services under one roof to reduce costs etc. The item was pulled from other Area Committees agendas following the NE Fife meetings due to its controversial nature.

4.1.6. Allotments

Cllr Melville had asked the Council about the progress of the allotments. She had been annoyed that Fife Council's Asset Management section hadn't been involved earlier in the plans for possible allotments to alert colleagues about the land zooming and possible threat to the land from a developer wanting to purchase for housing. She felt that her reply from Mr Alan Paul had been disappointing and not helpful. Miss Uprichard asked for further details on the situation and informed the meeting that she had been advised that the land was part of the western extension. As the western extension was not supposed to start for at least 5 years, she wondered if Fife Council would allow a developer proposal both to take precedence over the allotments and occur in advance of the start of the western extension? Cllr Melville replied that the request for the land purchase had come from the owner of land next door to the cemetery who wanted to purchase a part of the land below the cemetery. Mr Alan Paul's email had indicated that the Council might not be minded to approve the use of the land for allotments if the possibility of use for housing was an

alternative. Cllr Thomson confirmed that the site was zoned for housing in the Local Plan. Cllr Melville and Mr Roberts both commented that in past contact with officials when discussing the allotments and the cemetery extension the possible use of the land for housing had never been mentioned. Cllr Melville commented on how SEPA had advised that the land currently below the cemetery wouldn't be suitable because of its dampness due to a high water table, hence a possible consideration of extending the cemetery to the other side of the Strathkiness Low Road.

4.2. Brian Thomson

4.2.1. Tayplan – Strategic Development Plan

This plan was adopted last June by the various local authorities within its area. The same authorities are obliged to put together a new Structure/Strategic Plan within four years of the previous one being adopted and have now started the process for the next such plan. Cllr Thomson said that stakeholders are to be consulted between 22nd April and 11th June. Cllr Thomson suggested that interested parties can go into the Tayplan website and make their views known.

Miss Uprichard expressed her view that the process was a bureaucratic exercise, as no sooner had one plan been approved than the process for the next version was started. She felt that this was extremely difficult to keep up with and most members of the public would be unaware of the existence of the ongoing process.

Cllr Thomson replied that local authorities were obliged by Scottish Government deadlines to go through these processes.

4.2.2. Abattoir Site

Cllr Thomson announced that a discretionary hearing would be held on the evening of the 23rd April in the Burgh Chambers about the planned development proposed for this site. The meeting will be at 6.30 pm.

4.2.3. University Athletics Track

Cllr Thomson made the meeting aware of developments at the athletics track beside the University Sports Centre, which were concerning some local residents. The track was originally jointly funded by a number of organisations such as the R& A and the Lottery Fund in conjunction with the University. The idea was to have a facility useable by community sports groups as well as the University. Recently the University have developed a synthetic surface pitch within the infield of the track, resulting in some of the field sports facilities such as the long jump being moved. There is also an issue because use of the new pitch gets precedence over the use of the original track. This is having some repercussions for the community sports organisations use of the facilities. There are also issues about the maintenance of the track Cllr Thomson added with weeds and moss growing on the track. Cllr Thomson indicated that he was taking up the issue with Council officers and the university to seek clarification. He thought that there must be some conditions, which applied to the original funding. He said that he would keep the Community Council informed about any developments.

Cllr Melville confirmed that there were conditions about the use of the facilities and added that there had been a group set up to meet and liaise about its management, but she wasn't certain what had happened to the group.

4.2.4. Pipeland Gas Pipeline

Miss Uprichard mentioned that there was a high-pressure gas pipeline running through the land proposed as part of the new school site. She wondered what the plans to relocate this gas pipeline might be given that development wouldn't be possible with it in situ? She also asked if work to move this had been factored into the budget for the building of the proposed new school and thought that this should have been considered before the site was chosen. Cllr Thomson acknowledged that it was an issue but hadn't had any discussions on it. He wasn't aware that the subject had been brought up at any meeting attended by Councillors.

4.2.5. Traffic lights - Abbey Street

Mr Greenwell raised the issue of the new set of traffic lights installed at the north end of Abbey Street. He had observed instances when vehicles had been unaware of the lights just round the corner from the roundabout when turning left off South Street. He suggested that there appeared to be no real warning about the lights. He was wondering what real benefits the lights were having? Mr Roberts commented that they were supposedly a benefit to the pupils going to St Leonards but added that he felt that they were an accident waiting to happen. He detailed his concerns adding that the lights and the roundabout created a confusing mix at times as drivers coming from Abbey Street didn't have priority over drivers on South Street, resulting in some near misses.

Cllr Thomson replied that he'd speak to the relevant officers in the Council to establish their views and make the concerns of the public known.

4.3. Keith McCartney

On holiday

4.4. Dorothea Morrison.

Apologies

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Report

Mr Greenwell reported on the work of the Planning Committee. In the past month the major objection had been in relation to 25 South Street where the plans were to convert the historic building into 4 two-bedroom flats.

5.1.1. 20 mph Zoning

There had also been discussion about plans to make more areas of St Andrews 20 mph zones. The committee had after discussion come up with the view that the whole of the conservation area should be a 20 mph zone. There had been concern that by only making parts of the area 20 mph zones it would lead to a proliferation of signage, whereas if the whole area was thus zones the signage would be less intrusive amongst other benefits.

Mr Murphy asked Councillors about the criteria for setting 20 mph zones. Cllr Melville replied that the idea had started as a way to control speed around Primary schools and it has expanded since then. Some general discussion followed, with Cllr Melville acknowledging that Mr Greenwell's proposal had some merit and also acknowledging Mr Murphy's query about the matter.

5.1.2. Madras Consultation

Mr Greenwell said that the planning committee had discussed the PAN issued by the Council in relation to the Madras School proposals. After debate it was agreed to write a letter of objection in relation to the PAN because of the lack of detail in the PAN. He also added that the committee was also objecting about the proposal as it breached the Local Plan adopted in October 2012 and that Fife Council was acting both as the applicant and the planning authority in this situation. He added that it was viewed that the latter was a conflict of interest within Fife Council. He was seeking the support of the Community Council to send out this letter to the company used to send out the PAN. The Community Council agreed to submit the letter as written by the Planning Committee.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Martyrs Monument Update

The re-dedication ceremony will take place on 22nd May as planned

6.2. Craigtoun Park

Mr Roberts reported on what he described as four successful days over the Easter weekend at Craigtoun with the train and the boats operating as well as other attractions. Whilst acknowledging the need for paid staff over the summer period, Mr Roberts reminded members that volunteer helpers would still be welcomed.

6.3. Botanic Gardens Update

Mr Paul reported that the business case was likely to be ready mid April, with plans for a public meeting about mid may in the Cosmos.

6.4. Housing Commission

No new information at this time.

6.5. Reports from Reps

6.5.1. St Andrews in Bloom

Mrs Denyer reported on her attendance at a meeting recently of this group. She felt that the group was looking better this year compared to the same time last year with more volunteers.

6.5.2. Transition St Andrews University

Mr Paul reported on this organisation and its work. It will be holding a coffee morning in the Victory Memorial Hall to promote the LETS this coming Saturday.

6.6. Any Other Matters arising

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

No report submitted but planning to have a meeting in the latter half of April

7.2. General Purposes

No report but a meeting possibly on the 22nd April

7.3. 200 Club

1st Ted Brocklebank 2nd Mr Reader 3rd Mrs Hastie

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No meeting but Mrs Corbin reported that the committee hoped to meet up with Dr Tait about Heartstart soon.

7.5. St Andrews Rail Link

Dr Goudie reported that Jane Anne Liston had given a talk to the North East Fife Area Committee on the 27th March. Dr Goudie stated that he would send out the full report by email to members.

8. New Business

8.1. Sea Gull Problem

Mr Roberts reported on an approach from the Residents Associations of central St Andrews seeking support if they approach various funding sources to try and obtain funding to pay for ways to reduce the seagull problem. Mr Roberts asked the Community Council if it might be happy for the associations to mention that they had the backing of the Community Council when they approached prospective funders. Mr Roberts said that he would send the email relating to the request around the Community Council members so that they could respond on the topic.

Mrs Corbin reminded the meeting about the attempt to scare seagulls with a hawk last year, which had apparently had little effect. She thought that one way to reduce the problem would be to get the school children from Madras College to stop throwing food away at their lunchtime. Mrs Denyer backed Mrs Corbin's concern about the problem.

Cllr Thomson mentioned that he was a trustee of the Harbour Trust and had been working with Kate Hughes on the seagull problem in the harbour area.

Mr Roberts concluded the topic by saying that he'd email his contact to confirm that the Community Council would back their efforts to get funding to tackle the problem.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Nothing to report apart from items already discussed this evening.

9.2. Treasurer

9.2.1. Treasurers Report

Mr Paul reported that he would be presenting the yearly accounts at the next meeting. He requested the annual accounts from Mrs Harding for the 200 Club so that they could also be presented to the auditor. He finished by saying that the C had started the financial year with £3400 and was ending it with £3900.

9.3 Secretary

No report – on holiday

9.3.1. Correspondence – see Appendix A.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Putting Competition

Mr Murphy informed the meeting about a plan to hold a putting competition at the Himalayas for 2 cups, one being the Victory Cup and the other the Kirkaldy Cup, which commemorated the famous local golfer, Andrew Kirkaldy. The plan was to have the competition in June. Mr Murphy would be contacting the relevant person in the Links Trust to try and progress this event. He would work with the CC Recreation Committee on this event.

10.2. Pavement Problem – Muttoes Lane

Mr Patterson reported problems with the pavement in this locality. He'd tripped on the pavement himself. He had noted that the pavement was quite uneven and a clear hazard and required to be fixed.

10.3. St Andrews Loches Alliance Quiz Night

Mrs Harding reminded members about the Quiz Night on the 10th May and encouraged members to attend.