

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

### For Approval

#### 0. Election of New Members

Mr Greenwell made the meeting aware that there were three applicants for the vacancies in the Community Council. He asked the applicants to make a brief statement about themselves and their application:

1. Zara Evans – A former SRC member who attended CC meeting in the past year spoke about deciding to rejoin the CC as a non-student member, having enjoyed her experience of the past year. She talked about wanting to be able to work with the CC to help it become a better organisation working for the local community.
2. Charlotte Andrew – introduced herself as going into 4<sup>th</sup> year in her course at the University. She was a friend of Zara on the SRC and when Zara spoke highly of the CC she thought that she would like to become involved. She thought that students especially those involved in community projects should be more aware of the CC and its work in the town. She was going to be involved with the annual student festival in the coming year and welcomed CC views on that event and hoped to become more generally involved with the CC in its work.

Mr Roberts queried whether the applicants were joining as part of the allocation of 3 student representatives or as independent members. Mr Greenwell sought clarification from Ms Armstrong one of the current student representatives with Mr Matheson. She confirmed that Ms Evans was standing as an independent while Ms Andrew was one of the student body representatives.

Mr Crichton asked whether the applicants had been on the electoral role for a year or more and wondered whom they would be representing? He thought that they should be aware that they should be representing the citizens of St Andrews not just the students. Mr Greenwell while partly accepting Mr Crichton's comments about representation reminded him that the student representatives had been elected by the students to the SRC and they were on the CC because of their election to the SRC. He added that the CC represented local people, students and visitors to the town and he felt that that needed to be understood by potential members.

Miss Uprichard commented that what the CC needed was people with "stickability". She felt that CCs who were only around for a year would barely have time to get acquainted with the C before their departure. She thought that it was a concern that student representatives only had a short time to be involved before they moved on. She added that she recognised that the official student representatives had a limited time on the CC and was more concerned that students joining as independents were often on for a short period with some exceptions. She thought that the CC needed members able to last longer than a year to be able to be effective members of the CC.

Ms Armstrong said that she recognised the continuity issue for student representatives and accepted that but added that it was possible for student representatives to be made aware of ongoing matters within the CC so that the change wasn't as disruptive for the functioning of the CC.

3. Alicia Schultz introduced herself as a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student who has been involved in local community activities. She added that she stayed in St Andrews during the vacation periods and wanted to find out more about the local community, which students wouldn't usually see and contribute to activities involving the local community.

The CC members present accepted all applicants without dissent.

## **1. Attendance**

### **Community Councillors**

Izzy Corbin, Penny Uprichard, Howard Greenwell, Ken Crichton, Callum McLeod, Harry Stewart, Gordon Shepherd, Chris Wallard, Judith Harding, Zara Evans, Alicia Schultz.

### **Students' Association Representatives**

Clare Armstrong

Charlotte Andrew

### **Co-Opted**

Lindsey Adam

Niall Scott

### **Fife Councillors**

Dorothea Morrison, Brian Thomson, Frances Melville

### **Apologies**

Patrick Marks, Jonathan Bertulis-Fernandes, Ian Goudie, Patrick Mathewson, Keith McCartney

## **2. Minutes of Meeting – April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Page one- Mr Roberts omitted from attendee list and also Mr Munn.

Page 4 – Mrs Corbin wondered why only three people were mentioned in relation to the Coffee Morning as she noted that many others were involved, including herself. She thought that everyone should be mentioned. Mrs Corbin also disagreed that the Coffee Morning had been poorly publicised, blaming other events taking away from attendance despite posters being distributed. Mr Greenwell acknowledged that this could have been the case as a Craft fair in the Town Hall on the same day had also been poorly attended and he thought it had been even more widely publicised. Mr Shepherd wondered if posters had been emailed to CC members to distribute? Mrs Corbin replied that she had distributed posters to as many businesses in town as she could get out.

Page 8 - Mrs Corbin queried the vote in relation to the Loches Twinning. She felt that the vote should only have taken place with the full CC in attendance. Mr Greenwell explained what had taken place at the previous meeting and how it had been agreed to take the vote despite the reduced attendance and the outcome of the vote. He added that the motion had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mrs Corbin commented that she would have voted against the twinning had she been present. Mr McLeod queried why the item was on the agenda as new business if it had already been on the agenda? Mr Greenwell replied that he'd sent the motion out to Mr Marks for inclusion in the agenda 10 days before the CC meeting.

The minutes were accepted with the above amendments

## **3. Presentations**

## **4. Fife Councillors**

### **4.1. Frances Melville**

#### **4.1.1. 160 South Street – Disabled Parking Space**

Cllr Melville reported that Fife Council officials are attending to this matter raised by Mr Stewart.

#### **4.1.2. Blocked Gutters at Woodburn Terrace**

Cllr Melville reported that the Sailing Club were having problems with blocked gutters and had wanted to know who had the responsibility to sort out the problem. The Council after initially denying ownership eventually discovered they were responsible for cleaning of the gutters.

#### **4.1.3. Fife Development Plan**

Cllr Melville reported on discussions relating to the Fife Development Plan and commented that there had been quite a lot of issues relating to various wards identified. One of her concerns that there might not be enough time for the errors in the plan to be rectified before the plan has to go to the Executive. She thought that the errors should be sorted out with the local committee having a chance to confirm its acceptance of the content before it was passed to the Executive.

Miss Uprichard raised an issue for all the Councillors. She'd read in the newspapers about the cost for the examination of the Fife Plan being estimated to almost £200000. She'd heard that the Fife Council budget didn't allow for this and that it might lead to cuts elsewhere. She related how in past examinations of plans there had been time to have a detailed examination of the issues, but by 2012 this had been reduced to a day. She thought that all but a small percentage of the Fife Plan would be approved with only minor corrections so she wondered about the justification for such a cost if there was likely to be little change to the plan. Cllr Thomson replied that it was a statutory requirement with Fife Council having to follow due process. He suggested that Miss Uprichard should contact her MSP to express her concerns, but it would require a change in legislation to stop the process. Cllr Thomson thought that costs included the need to take legal advice and this might be from external legal sources, not from within the Council's own legal department. Cllr Morrison thought that it was useful as the reporter in the Local Plan had been able to make comments, which ended up in the Local Plan as changes.

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Bins Situation**

Cllr Thomson told the meeting he'd been taking up the issue of the bins with Council Officers and they'd come back with some potential suggestion although he acknowledged he didn't necessarily agree with them. He hoped the issues would be discussed at a local ward meeting but was also keen to get CC views on the suggestions. He made the meeting aware that he'd been walking around the town centre in the morning and felt that the state of many bins was disgusting. He acknowledged that the Council staff tried their best to clean the streets, but for a major tourist destination it was not a good image. In terms of solutions he said that officers had come back with some ideas. One of the ideas is to increase the number of bulk bin storage units. The downside of these would be loss of parking spaces; pavement space and they would look unsightly. There would also be the temptation by some people to fly tip in the bins.

Another suggestion was the use of seagull proof outer bags. But these also have their downsides. The idea is for householders to be issued with these special bags and put there other bags of rubbish inside them to await uplift and emptying by the Council. The downsides for these include blowing away and looking unsightly. A solution to the former problem would be to lock them in some way to railings in streets where properties have railings. A downside to this might be the reluctance of people to take in wet bags to their houses if it had been raining.

Another idea related to closer scrutiny of planning applications where new cafes/restaurants/takeaways were proposed. Cllr Thomson acknowledged that a lot had been approved but had inadequate storage for their bins and storage of packaging materials etc.

A further suggestion was to restrict the time window for residents and businesses to put out their refuse with penalties for non-compliance for repeat offenders. He acknowledged that businesses might not view that favourably but said that it was an idea to consider.

A fifth suggestion was to apply stickers to the bins not closed properly warning residents/businesses that their refuse would not be picked up if they continued overfilling their bins preventing the lid from properly closing. This idea was used in the past until complaints from residents saw the practice stopped.

The sixth suggestion was underground storage, but Cllr Thomson acknowledged that this was impracticable on a number of fronts such as cost.

Cllr Thomson then mentioned a BID project to be put forward for consideration later this year to have town centre wardens to police the behaviour of residents/businesses in relation to the appearance of the town centre to try and help residents recognise the need to take more care about refuse disposal and take pride in improving the town centre.

He concluded by saying he would be keen to get feedback from CC members.

Dr Shepherd suggested that perhaps byelaws were required in which bins would have to be labelled with ownership? He also mentioned the issue of residents feeding seagulls with scraps in their gardens and wondered how this could be discouraged? Cllr Thomson thought that the idea of requiring bins to have the names of residents worth considering.

Ms Armstrong said that students had commented to her on the lack of food waste bins and cans/plastic waste bins. She thought more of these would be helpful and would avoid a lot of refuse going into the general waste bins. Cllr Thomson agreed to take on board the comments acknowledging that food waste was often the worst waste.

Mr Greenwell mentioned 68 Market Street, which he said, has about 6 flats in the building. He had noted several black wheelie bins outside in the street from the flats on what appeared to be a permanent basis. He had wondered how the residents had acquired wheelie bins, as there was clearly no storage area in the flats to put them? He added that these weren't the only places with such wheelie bins sitting outside permanently. He also noted that the Byre Theatre also had three bins outside on a permanent basis. He then quoted a story about seeing an example of efficient refuse collection in a French medieval town where the locals put bags at a collection point at a certain time and the local Council then uplifted this within an hour. He added that it struck him as an interesting solution to that problem.

Another idea Mr Greenwell had related to the idea of central storage locations for refuse if residents in an area were no longer entitled to doorstep collections but had to take their bags to a special area close by. He cited the example of residents in Ladebraes who had to take their refuse to a storage facility on Bridge Street. He thought that the Ladebraes system transplanted in other town centre areas might be a solution to the problem of refuse bags littering the streets and being opened by gulls before being collected.

Mrs Adam commented that in the town centre there was a lot of trouble with waste from businesses. She recollected that Fife Council had at one time environmental wardens whose job had been to check out what was put out for collection on the street. She wasn't certain what they were looking for but felt that Council staff could do a lot more than they did at the moment. She thought that an address label on a bin would be a great help as she would know whether it was a bin belonging to students no longer at the address and which she could put into the close of the flat instead of having it sitting out for weeks in the street.

Cllr Thomson acknowledged that there were Council Officers as Mrs Adam described but thought their job was more reactive than proactive. He thought that Council staff should be going round regularly and speaking to businesses but thought that it might be due to funding that this wasn't happening. He added that it was an area, which could be explored.

Miss Uprichard thought that with the huge tourist influx that St Andrews should be considered as requiring additional funds to cope with the extra stress on the local environment instead of all the revenues going into the central pot. She thought that Fife Councillors for the area should have say in allocation of funds for the management of the town facilities. She thought that it was extremely unfair that all the money raised from tourism went into the general pot.

Cllr Thomson asked Miss Uprichard what she defined as the “general pot”. Miss Uprichard replied that this was the money raised from tourism which she thought went into the general pot and was spent around various parts of Fife. Cllr Thomson asked that apart from car parking what money did Miss Uprichard mean? Miss Uprichard replied saying that there were statistics about the visitor spend in a year in St Andrews. Cllr Thomson replied that the spend Miss Uprichard mentioned went straight into the businesses and was not disbursed through the Council. Miss Uprichard responded that she was referring to the rates paid to the Council. She thought it was unfair that St Andrews didn’t get more money to repair the wear and tear on its infrastructure, which was greater than average due to the huge tourist presence.

Mr Scott reported that the University and the students had worked to reduce waste and he cited the recycling of several hundred duvets and of donations to a range of charities and food banks by their efforts. Mr Scott acknowledged that there would always be exceptions and that things would never be perfect but thought it was a good example of what could be achieved by the University and Council planning and working together. Mr Greenwell acknowledged that he’d not seen any issues since his return from holiday and thanked the university and its students on behalf of the CC for their efforts this year.

Mrs Harding asked whether landlords could ensure that students know the day for their bin collection, though she wasn’t certain how this could be enforced. Mr Greenwell asked Mr Scott whether the university could try and publicise this to students. Mr Scott agreed this would be possible.

Mr Stewart had a query about waste management in the town centre saying that the waste in black bags was generally destined for landfill and wasn’t separated out for recycling.

### **4.3. Keith McCartney**

#### **4.3.1. Potholes**

Cllr McCartney reported that these were reported for inspection and repair as appropriate at the following locations

Canongate – in centre of road between lighting columns 17 and 18.

James Robb Avenue – by triangular manhole cover south of lighting column 3.

Market Street – at junction with Greyfriars Garden.

Old Guardbridge Road – at entrance to Station Park on west side of Dr Bell’s Pavilion.

Strathkinness Low Road – in centre of road at Strathkinness crossroads.

St Andrews/Craigtoun/Pitscottie Road – at entrance to Claremont Farm nearest Claremont crossroads.

Wardlaw Gardens – at junction with Kennedy Gardens

#### **4.3.2. Road Patching**

Cllr McCartney reported that the road surface at the Kennedy Gardens/Donaldson Gardens junction is part of a patching programme and it is anticipated that the entire area will be re-surfaced within the next few weeks.

#### **4.3.3. Flower Beds**

Cllr McCartney reported the following: Argyle Street -the partial collapse of the stone retaining wall on the north (pavement) side of the flower bed at the east side of the entrance to the car park on the south side of Argyle Street was reported and repaired.

Bruce Embankment – weeds are to be removed from the raised flowerbed, which forms the base of the CCTV camera column and summer bedding planted.

#### **4.3.4. Land between Leonard Gardens and Moir Crescent**

Cllr McCartney reported that the lane between Leonard Gardens and Moir Crescent was badly affected by weeds. This was reported and the weeds removed.

#### **4.3.5. Graffiti**

Cllr McCartney reported that graffiti was reported for removal from the following locations –  
St Mary's Street – word in red paint in large letters on junction box on east side of St Mary's Street.

Boase Avenue – 'tag' in white paint on junction box by lighting column number 8 and on other side of road on grey post office box.

#### **4.3.6. Hepburn Gardens**

Cllr McCartney reported that the sections of metal fencing which blocked the pedestrian entrance to New Park Place during building work and which have been set to the side now the access is open (one between lighting column number 35 and the perimeter wall and other between the other side of the perimeter wall and a tree) have been reported for removal.

#### **4.3.7. Ponding**

Cllr McCartney reported that the persistent issue of ponding on the west side of Drumcarrow Road over a gully just before its junction with Canongate has been reported. A work order has been issued for the gully to be cleaned and jetted.

#### **4.3.8. Street Lighting**

Cllr McCartney reported that the lit sign pole on The Scores requires Scottish Power assistance. This request is on order and work should be completed in six weeks. The damaged columns on South Street are custom made and replacements are on order. The repair works will be programmed on delivery of the new columns from the manufacturer. It is likely to be several weeks before these columns are delivered.

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

#### **4.4.1. Recycling Issues in Town Centre**

Cllr Morrison acknowledged that there were issues about the ability to recycle domestic waste in the town centre and these related to the availability of places to have more recycling facilities for the range of items currently recycled through Fife Council. She was aware that Mr Matheson was very interested in trying to sort out this matter and that students without transport found it difficult to access the recycling centre on the periphery of town and other locations with a wider range of recycling bins. She accepted that more locations were required which would encourage students to make the effort to recycle more easily. She asked for efforts to identify suitable bits of land close to concentrations of students where recycling facilities could be positioned. She added that Councillors had been raising the issues with Council officers in the past month. She commented that waste collection staff did try to tackle householders about overflowing bins and wasn't certain that a byelaw would be necessary. She had tackled an official from Transportation about the bins on the pavement in Market Street and had been initially told that businesses were allowed to put bins on the pavements. She had responded to the official that the bins outside Forgans appeared to permanently reside on the pavement but hadn't had any response to that email so far. Cllr Morrison also commented on the possible BID scheme for a town warden scheme, which could help address the issue of the appearance of the town centre. She acknowledged that part of the problem was getting over the message to everyone in town about how things should be done to reduce the issue of litter.

Mrs Corbin wondered about bins being put outside an area beside Hope Park Church? Cllr Morrison agreed to have a look at the area. Mrs Corbin also asked about the possibility of getting similar to those used at Anstruther, which are gull proof. She acknowledged they were bigger but the benefits she thought could outweigh the difference in size. Cllr Morrison said

that Councillors had asked about these at a ward meeting and thought there might be funding available from somewhere to get such bins.

#### **4.4.2. Westray Lodge**

Miss Uprichard asked Councillors if there had been any discussion about the de-designation of the land at the cemetery sold to the owner of Westray Lodge when the sale of land had been approved earlier in the year? She reminded the Councillors of the 1855 Burial Act and how land was designated and required to be de-designated if no longer to be used as part of a cemetery. Cllr Morrison seemed to think that they'd been informed that the land hadn't been designated, but Miss Uprichard was sceptical that such land wouldn't have been designated. Cllr Morrison replied that the information she'd received had indicated that the land in question was never going to be used or had never been used for burial purposes so had not been designated. She thought that it might be that the land was too close to the lodge for such use. Mr McLeod thought it was strange that the Council had decided to sell the land without any publicity to seek local opinion. He didn't think that the sale of land, which would probably enhance the value of the property, was a suitable thing for Councillors to agree to do. Cllr Melville thought that the matter should go to the Chief Executive for a full answer. Mr Greenwell suggested that the best way to proceed was for a letter to be drafted and discussed at the next Planning Meeting to send to the Chief Executive, Mr Grimmond. Dr Shepherd informed the meeting that there was a memorial just inside the gate to the cemetery commemorating people who had donated their bodies to medical research at St Andrews University. He hoped that this area wasn't part of the land sale, as he didn't think this would be an area of the cemetery, which should be touched. Cllr Thomson clarified that it was the former toilet block, which was being sold. It was in a state of disrepair, as the Council didn't have money to refurbish it. He thought that it had been estimated that it would cost £30000 to refurbish it.

#### **4.4.3. Benches in Market Street**

Mrs Corbin commented that benches placed in Market Street were being well used by visitors and locals. She wondered if it might be possible to get more benches? Cllr Morrison thought that might be possible and asked if the CC could suggest possible locations to place benches. If these were acceptable locations the Council could see what funding could be sourced to purchase them. She added that locations could be anywhere suitable in the town centre not just Market Street.

In an addendum Mr Stewart made the meeting aware about the poor state of cleanliness of some benches in the town and wondered about the cleaning of them?

Cllr Morrison commented that officials had told her they were happy to put in benches but not to clean them!

#### **4.4.4. E-Car Club Charging Points**

Ms Armstrong wondered if there was any progress in locating suitable charging points for the E-Car Club? Cllr Thomson thought that there hadn't been any real progress in locating sites outside those on university sites.

#### **4.4.5. Whyte-Melville Fountain**

Mr Crichton asked for an update on the Whyte-Melville Fountain. Cllr Morrison said that the Council had claimed that the delay was due to difficulty in sourcing parts, but she felt that the officials weren't being very forthcoming about the potential timescale for getting the fountain operating. Mr Crichton added that he'd heard that the main problem related to new piping being too narrow for the pump so the Council was waiting for a more powerful pump, which could connect with the new piping and work properly. Mr Crichton hoped that the new pump would allow the fountain to gush and not just to dribble!

## 5. Planning Committee

### 5.1. Planning Committee Report

Mr Stewart reported that planning had been very quiet with only 15 planning applications since the last CC meeting. The most contentious was the old Police Station site with the rehashed proposal for 16 flats to which the CC Planning has put in an objection. Other objections have related to HMOs and licences still being applied for in the town centre and on the periphery of the area there were applications to register new build properties, as HMOs, which he said, shouldn't be allowed. Rusacks have appealed the refusal for the proposed extension and the CC Planning have put in an objection for that.

He also informed the meeting there had been no update on the application for the Newpark former playing fields application. Cllr Morrison advised the meeting that the Council had confirmed that the area was protected open space in the Local Plan and this would remain the case, so any application would be contrary to the Development Plan. Miss Uprichard welcomed that news as she thought that the screening opinion by Fife Council had indicated that they might revert the site status and she was aware that the application hadn't come in so far.

Miss Uprichard then mentioned the three HMO applications in the Kinnesbrook housing area, which she said was an extension of the conservation area according to the Local Plan of 2012. The extension to the conservation area had not been implemented as far as she knew but the Heritage officer had said it would be implemented by August. She thought it seemed wrong that an application like this could go ahead just because the Council had taken so long to implement the Local Plan. She had mistakenly thought that once the Local Plan had been adopted that the extension to the Conservation area had come into force. Cllr Morrison said that whether these applications were in or out of the conservation area they were contrary to the policy. She added that the planners could recommend the applications for refusal because they were against policy. Cllr Morrison said that the Council can't refuse to accept an application but similar applications had been turned down in the past based on the same policy.

Mr Roberts asked Councillors if they remembered when St Andrews CC wrote to ask if they could become statutory consultees on projects within the St Andrews Green Belt? He added that Cameron CC and possibly Strathkiness CC took that as a slight insult suggesting that they weren't doing their job properly. Cameron CC wrote to St Andrews CC asking for an explanation and had not received a response to that correspondence. He went on to say that Cameron CC would appreciate a response to their letter. Mr Greenwell confirmed he'd written to Cameron CC and he had responded to an email from Cameron CC while on vacation. He had also passed an email to Mr Stewart and Miss Uprichard asking if they could respond, as he hadn't the details of the information required to respond. He accepted that there was an onus on the St Andrews CC in this case to go through the applications in the Green Belt that would have been Cameron's responsibility to make what exactly happened in those situations.

Miss Uprichard thought that there was no suggestion that St Andrews CC were the only statutory consultee. Mr Roberts replied that the other CCs had thought that St Andrews CC was trying to take over their responsibilities.

Miss Uprichard commented that there were a lot of ramifications in not being a statutory consultee. She gave an example of the application for 10 flats at the Brownhills Garage, which had gone to appeal. Because it was in Green Belt the St Andrews CC was not allowed to be a statutory consultee. The application was recommended for refusal and it was refused but the developers appealed. Because the statutory consultee hadn't ensured it had gone to committee it was only going to a local review body. She added that the Local Review Body excluded councillors from the area of the application. She wondered why St Andrews Councillors should be excluded from the review bodies? She thought that there were a lot of ramifications for not being allowed to be statutory consultee in the Green Belt. She thought that Fife Council and the Scottish Government hadn't made any provision for statutory consultees in

the Green Belt. Mr Greenwell reminded the meeting that there was no CC for the Brownhills area at the present time, so there would be no one defending the area which was another issue as far as the St Andrews CC was concerned. Cllr Morrison confirmed that Councillors were not allowed to review in their own ward. Cllr Morrison suggested that it would be worth contacting Andrew Ferguson the main lawyer in Fife Council about that issue which she said had been widely discussed and he might be able to give the reasons for the decision. Miss Uprichard thought it was ruling out local knowledge when controversial planning decisions were being made.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Loches Twinning**

Mrs Corbin thought that the decision about Loches should be put to public consultation before the process of twinning went any further. Mr Greenwell reminded Mrs Corbin that there had been public consultation through three items, one an article in St Andrews in Focus and two articles in the St Andrews Citizen. Mrs Corbin insisted that a full Public Consultation should take the form of a meeting in the Burgh Chambers to which the public were invited to openly discuss the matter. Mr Greenwell wondered if Mrs Corbin was suggesting that bringing forward the motion at the previous meeting wasn't constitutionally correct? Mrs Corbin repeated her comment about needing to go to the public and holding an open public consultation. Mr Greenwell said he'd take Mrs Corbin's views on advisement.

### **6.2. Reports from Representatives**

No reports

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Recreation Committee**

No report from main committee, but the putting competition was mentioned by Mr Greenwell as he advised Dr Shepherd that he'd been given the Putting Competition cups by Mr Murphy who had previously organised that competition.

Mr Roberts mentioned the Bandstand Concerts saying that due to the Open there were some difficulties with access on the 12<sup>th</sup> July when a band was due to play. He added that the present schedule of concerts would start on the 26<sup>th</sup> July and would go through August. He suggested that the band booked for the 12<sup>th</sup> July might instead be invited to play at Craigtoun Park. He asked if the CC had any objection to that idea? Mrs Harding suggested that the ground at the front of Madras South Street might be a suitable alternative location for the 12<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Roberts agreed to investigate that possibility. Cllr Morrison thought that if the band on the 12<sup>th</sup> July was to play at Craigtoun there could be a band playing at Madras on the 19<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Roberts agreed to check out that possibility, as he knew there was a band looking for a venue for The 19<sup>th</sup> July.

### **7.2. GP Meeting**

No meeting.

### **7.3. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs McAnaw, 2<sup>nd</sup> Miss F Smth 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs D Christie

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

Mrs Corbin reported that the committee had been quite busy. She'd been assisting with St Andrews in Bloom as well. She thought that the display should look fantastic when it was put up at the end of June. The group had managed to secure various bits of funding to purchase

the necessary materials for the displays. Mrs Harding asked about planting the area at Jacobs Ladder. Mrs Corbin replied that the area was going to have wildflowers planted by the scouts and brownies.

Mrs Corbin also reported on her role as liaison with Leuchars, which is gradually seeing army families moving into the base.

She mentioned as well about new wards being built at Stratheden, which she thought was well overdue.

## **7.5. Rail Sub Committee**

No report this month.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. St Andrews Community Council Facebook Group**

Mr Stewart reported on this page, which was set up as a closed group in which CCs could raise issues of local concern such as the litter problem in the town. He wondered about how the group should progress with the main question being whether it should remain closed and with access by invitation or public and accessible to anyone? He was aware that Fife Councillors weren't keen on it going public. Cllr Thomson said that he didn't have an issue with the forum going public as he felt that this could help to get things done. Mr Greenwell said he'd been against the group page going public but had changed his view if it was a way to get results. Mr Stewart thought that while it was good to raise issues he felt that the needed to be a way to act upon them. Mr Greenwell asked the meeting if the group page should go public? Mr Roberts supported the idea but added that positive things happening should be publicised not just negative things. Mr Wallard supported the idea of a public group as he felt that it could also raise awareness of issues such as Loches twinning, bandstand concerts, coffee mornings etc. Ms Evans also supported the idea and reiterated Mr Wallard's views about the way various events and activities could be more widely publicised.

Mr Greenwell asked Mr Wallard for a proposal on how the matter should move forward. Mr Wallard suggested that a small group could work on a couple of plans to then bring back to the main CC for their consideration. He added that there was a big difference between a public group and a closed group with the latter being a way for members to keep in contact between meetings. One part of the matter was whether the CC wanted the Fife Councillors and other representatives to be involved in the closed group page?

Miss Uprichard acknowledged the success of the current closed group but said she'd be reluctant to see pictures such as the one of Market Street with the rubbish put up for everyone to see in case it was spread wider and had a negative impact upon the town. She agreed that Mr Wallard's suggestion of a separate public page with certain parameters about what was published on it seemed to be a good idea.

Mr Greenwell asked for volunteers to form the group. Mr Wallard, Ms Evans, Mrs Corbin, Mr Munn and Dr Goudie were nominated to look at the proposal. Mr Stewart thought that Fife Councillors should be added to the closed group and Mr Munn reminded the meeting that not everyone used Facebook so it was important for matters to be brought back to the main meeting so that non users weren't excluded from issues being discussed.

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Mr Greenwell reported he'd attended presentations at the Links Trust, two of which were about the environment around the Links Trust including the West Sands. He heard that some 86 species of birds had been recorded in the area some of which were protected by law. The Links Trust he reported have now appointed an Environment Officer who will be looking at managing and enhancing the environment of the Links.

He also met with the Highlands and Islands Development Board and Oban Council who are looking to set up a university in Oban and were consulting with various organisations in sty Andrews including the Community Council.

He had applied to the St Andrews Welfare Trust for funding for the Senior Citizens Treat and had received a reply saying that the Trust would be happy to give a grant of £400 on an annual basis.

He had met with Dominique Robertson and John Matthews before his holiday. Dominique had produced the outline of a twinning agreement and Mr Greenwell said he'd be working on that following his return from holiday.

He informed the meeting that he had eventually managed to get Linda Bissett of Fife Council to forward him the full documentation, which constituted the Welcome Pack. He hoped to distribute this electronic pack to CC members in the near future.

He had had a meeting in relation to the Civic Pride initiative and members had walked around a bit of Market Street looking at things, which might require some attention such as getting Landlords to freshen up their properties and also how to get new benches for Market Street. The possible need for more recycling bins in the town centre was also discussed. The group was also looking at funding streams and how to get more volunteers. He hoped that there would soon be some stated objectives for Civic Pride to allow them to discuss matters with other local groups and organisations to ensure that there would be no duplication of effort.

He reported that he was due to attend a meeting of the Community Trust on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. He reported that there had been very few applications in the previous period and with the Trust due to receive another large sum there was concern about the lack of applications. He added that the Trust didn't like to end the financial year with a large sum in the bank to report to the Charities Commissioner. He suggested that there was a need to look at possible projects for the town, which would be eligible for money from the Trust and urged members to give this thought in the next couple of months.

## **9.2. Treasurer**

Mr Munn had sent out the accounts before the meeting. He confirmed that bills due had been paid and that payment due from Fife Council for the annual grant had been received.

Mr Roberts asked about the Internet banking situation. Mr Munn confirmed that form had been signed and sent away and he was awaiting the outcome from the bank.

## **9.3 Secretary**

On holiday.

### **9.3.1. Correspondence**

As agenda. Mr Greenwell commented that he'd speak to the Links Trust about the request by Mr Matthews to use the St Andrews CC Coat of Arms for the Loches twinning.

Miss Uprichard queried the request from Fife Council about CC comments on the Wellsprings of Hope Trust parade. She wanted to know the organisation's connection to St Andrews and the need for the parade, which she thought, could disrupt local businesses causing a loss of trade. Mr Greenwell pointed out that the parade was an annual event going from the Scores to the Younger Hall on North Street, so would have minimal impact upon the town.

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

### **10.1. Purchase of Train Tickets at St Andrews Bus Station**

Dr Shepherd asked the CC if it would support a request for a ticket machine to be installed at the bus station to allow people to buy tickets or pick them up. He reminded the meeting that the current ticket sale only took place when the bus station office was open. He thought that a

ticket machine would be a benefit. The meeting agreed with his suggestion and Dr Shepherd was tasked to progress the idea, possibly with the assistance of Dr Goudie.