

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Minutes –February 2015

For Approval

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0. New Member Election

Dr Gordon Shepherd gave a brief overview about himself and his reasons for joining the Community Council. Dr Shepherd had prior to the meeting sent in his CV, which had been distributed, to CC members. He briefly went over his background. He was born and brought up in Hamilton in Lanarkshire and went to Glasgow University. He had moved back to St Andrews after work in the medical field as a GP in Thurso for 17 years, followed by work in Occupational Health in Aberdeen as a private provider of medical assessment for the Oil and Offshore Industry. He retired to St Andrews a couple of years ago with his wife. His interests include photography and rugby but he acknowledged he'd taken up golf since his move to St Andrews.

Mr Greenwell welcomed Dr Shepherd as a member of the Community Council and members unanimously accepted his membership.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Izzy Corbin, Penny Uprichard, Howard Greenwell, Ian Goudie, Patrick Marks, Callum McLeod, Harry Stewart, Jonathon Bertulis-Fernandes, Gordon Shepherd, Kyffin Roberts

Students' Association Representatives

Zara Evans

Pat Mathewson

Co-Opted

Fife Councillors

Frances Melville, Brian Thomson

Apologies

Ken Crichton, Judith Harding, Niall Scott, Keith McCartney, Dorothea Morrison

2. Minutes of Meeting –January 2015

The minutes were accepted as a correct record with the secretary to amend the date heading to the correct year!

3. Presentations

3.1. University Rector - Catherine Stihler

The recently elected University Rector, Mrs Catherine Stihler was introduced to the meeting by Mr Greenwell. She had requested the opportunity to come and meet with the Community Council after her successful election at the end of 2014. Mr Greenwell commented that he understood that she might want to address the Community Council on comments she'd made

reported in local papers about wanting to alleviate the HMO Ban and protect Raising Weekend traditions.

Mrs Stihler started by commenting that it had been about 20 years since she'd served on the Community Council as a student representative and she noted a few familiar faces around the table. She was happy to be back and to have the opportunity to listen to some of the concerns on local matters the CC might want to mention to her. She believed that relationships between the town and students were very important. She invited members of the Community Council to attend her inauguration on the 20th February. She wanted to be accessible to local people.

Her platform when standing for election had included bringing alumni back to the University including the first female Ambassador to China who will take up her post in a few weeks and who had attended the university in the 1980s. Another issue she acknowledged she'd campaigned on was accommodation and it had struck her from stories she'd heard related to the poor state of some of the private rented sector with issues like dampness a big problem. She added that she was sure that CC members also had concerns about the state of properties and thought that there might be issues of commonality upon which the CC and students could tackle together. She talked about a Scottish Government consultation on issues in the private rented sector and possible legislation. She had submitted comments to the consultation, which had finished recently.

In relation to issues like Raising Weekend she talked about the need to preserve some of the traditions, which were part of the St Andrews experience. She recognised that over many years there had been concerns about Raising Weekend and informed the meeting that the students were working hard to make sure that everything went as smoothly as possible. She concluded by saying that she wanted to work where possible with the Community Council on issues of concern. She thanked the meeting for the opportunity to speak and to listen to local concerns.

Mr Greenwell asked the first question. He said that in her article she talked about alleviating the HMO ban in potentially trying to make more accommodation available for students. Mr Greenwell acknowledged that in the past couple of years there had been major advances with two private student residences being built and Fife Park being redeveloped. He asked whether in light of such developments, Mrs Stihler had changed her views on the HMO ban and recognised the need to have a more balanced community in the town centre where some 85% of accommodation was already rented out to students? Mrs Stihler replied that she had concerns about the purpose of the HMO ban and whether it was delivering what people required. She hoped that by the time of the next review of the ban issues such as the quality of the accommodation in the private rented sector would be tackled. She questioned the amount of effective enforcement action in relation to the condition of many HMOs given the comments she'd had from students on their experiences of living in such accommodation. She had real concerns about the implication of the ban in terms of what was happening to both the student community and local residents. One of the major issues in relation to the quality of much private rented accommodation was dampness, which she said could affect health.

Mr Greenwell replied that the concern from a resident's point of view was that 85% of the properties in the central conservation areas had HMO licences and were primarily rented out to students. He added that there were now less than 250 permanent residents in the centre of St Andrews. He thought that any alleviation of the HMO ban would make the situation worse as private sector landlords could afford to pay more for properties than could most local residents. He thought that the CC would support Mrs Stihler's concerns about needing to improve the quality of the HMOs. Mrs Stihler asked Mr Greenwell how he thought the situation could be made better, was it about the issue of pushing for better enforcement or sharing where there are poor practices? In reply Mr Greenwell said that a number of years ago the HMO situation was more relaxed than it was currently. He added that he thought that there had been more checking up on HMOs in recent times to make sure they met minimum standards before an HMO renewal licence was granted. He also noted that there had been

properties operating informally as HMOs without a licence, which had now been formalised when the owners had eventually applied for a licence.

Miss Uprichard thought that removal of the moratorium was starting at the wrong end of the problem. She reminded Mrs Stihler that the University student numbers had at least doubled since her time as a student at the university adding to the pressure on available accommodation. She thought that it was very difficult for students pushed into sub-standard accommodation with landlords who didn't take proper care of them. She thought that the current private student accommodation developments which she thought would allow the University to expand numbers without having to provide accommodation itself. She acknowledged that it was a very difficult situation. She thought that the doubling of student numbers had been a unilateral decision by the University without consultation with the town.

Mr Marks reminded Mrs Stihler of the now defunct Town/Gown Association which had met to discuss issues of mutual concern with the CC Chair as a member and had been closed down possibly from a high level in the University for reasons, which were never entirely clear. He wondered if there was any merit in such a body being resurrected? Dr Goudie confirmed that it had died out in 2010 when he had been the CC Chair and had been the chair of the meetings. He explained that the main problem had related to a difficult issue relating to the then proposal for the new school and when he had tried to explain the CC position he'd met with hostility and the meetings eventually ceased. He thought that if such meetings were started again there would have to be a clear idea of its composition and decide what sort of issues could be tackled. He acknowledged that the meeting had been good on minor issues such as problems with student misbehaviour but on larger issues affecting the town it wasn't effective. On the HMO question Dr Goudie said that the driving factor was always the size of the university because he added that if the University took up the slack when private accommodation was built it remained a renters market with little incentive for landlords to improve their properties.

Mr Greenwell then raised the issue of Raisin Weekend. He said that many of the issues raised to the CC centred around very drunk students by lunchtime on the Sunday of the weekend causing offence and other things in public. There was also another newer tradition of groups of students being asked to undertake "tasks" which could impact upon the local community by their nature. He recollected his own student days at St Andrews when the activities were much more restricted, partly due to the limited pub opening hours. He thought that Raisin Monday had grown a little too large and rowdy for many townsfolk. Mrs Stihler in her reply wanted to put on record the large amount of work, which the student safety people did to ensure that safety was paramount, and the work with the police also on safety issues and management of student behaviour. She understood the concerns of local people in relation to some of the problems, which could arise and added that she hoped to be out this year helping manage the event. She invited Community Council members to participate in helping to manage the event as well to ensure safety.

Ms Evans also commented upon the large amount of work being done on Raisin Sunday by the Students Association and volunteers on the day of the main event. She acknowledged that there were problems with some students but thought that they were trying their best to reduce such problems, which weren't part of the richness of the tradition. She reminded the meeting about the Student Association introduction of discipline changes to deal with offenders thought to be breaching the behaviour codes of the event.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. Visit by Army Families

Cllr Melville reported on a successful visit by some of the army families due to move to Leuchars Base. They had come over to get an impression of the area to which they would be

moving in two tranches during this year. Mr Greenwell had attended the visit on behalf of the CC.

4.1.2. Lade Braes Bridge

Cllr Melville reported that the wooden bridge in the Ladebraes has finally been repaired.

4.1.3. Mud on Largo Road at Premier Inn/Marks & Spencer Development

Cllr Melville reported that there had been a number of complaints about mud from this site on the road. Vehicles using the site were supposed to have their wheels cleaned when leaving the site and officials had visited to try and reinforce this with the developer.

4.2. Brian Thomson

4.2.1. Speeding at Kyle Gardens/Strathkinness Low Road

Police are to undertake a speed survey because of local concerns, although there have been no crashes or serious injuries in the area.

4.2.2. Roundabout – Hepburn Gardens/Buchanan Gardens

Cllr Thomson commented that he thought this was quite a dangerous roundabout with poor visibility. Despite no significant record of crashes, there has been an agreement to improve the give way signs and road markings for vehicles driving east. The road condition at the roundabout has also been reported as poor. Funding has been found to improve the surface in the 2015/16 budget.

4.2.3. Hepburn Gardens/Lawhead Road East Junction

Double yellow lines are to be painted at the junction to stop people parking close to the junction as this has been causing problems for buses turning into Lawhead Road. There may also be the possibility of improving the road surface at that junction in the 2015/16 budget.

4.2.4. Argyle Street Car Park

Cllr Thomson reported on some confusion where the Golf City Taxi Offices and Argyle Street Car Park met with uncertainty about who had right of way between pedestrians and cars. Give way markings are to be put down by the car park entrance to remind drivers that they should give way as per the Highway Code.

4.2.5. Petheram Bridge Car Park

Officers are to look at cutting back some of the vegetation to improve sightlines at pedestrian crossing areas.

4.2.6. Gateway Centre

A new Zebra Crossing is to be installed adjacent to the Gateway Centre

4.2.7. Golf Place

This road to the West Sands etc is proving a problem as officers are struggling to find a solution to the way in which traffic can build up in the summertime causing major traffic delays. Officials are not keen on installing lights and there is not room for a roundabout. Cllr Thomson appealed to the CC for ideas about solving the problem.

4.2.8. Kirkhill Signs

Cllr Thomson confirmed that the signs had been put up on a temporary basis and will be reviewed.

4.2.9. Business Improvement District Meetings

Cllr Thomson had been attending some of the BID meetings. One issue raised had been concern at a lack of signage mentioning the fact that the British Golf Open was coming in July this year. Another signage issue connected to the latter was concern about a need for good signage to attract visitors to the town centre as it was felt that local businesses didn't benefit as much as they might if visitors were made more clearly aware of the facilities in the town. Cllr Thomson was going to speak to officers on this matter.

4.2.10. Balfour Place Parking Issue

Mr Greenwell raised the issue of parking problems at this road close to the junction with the main road. He acknowledged that temporary parking restrictions had been put into place by the Council, however there could be gridlock at busy times of day when a variety of vehicles were trying to get in and out of that street and inconsiderate parking created major problems. He thought that double yellow lines should be painted all around Balfour Place as he could see the parking problem worsening when the flats at the old hospital site were occupied and the inadequate car parking would force the occupants to find alternative parking places in nearby streets. He asked Councillors to seriously look at this matter as he didn't see a temporary restriction order solving the potential long term problems when the rooms were occupied with only a couple of dozen parking places for over 240 rooms.

4.2.11. Working Time Problems at Old Hospital Site

A friend of Mr Greenwell who lives at Adamson Court beside this development has raised the issue of the developer working over the weekend, clearly against the developer's planning permission. Mr Greenwell asked Councillors to look into the matter as his friend had got nowhere with Fife Council he said.

4.2.12. New Madras School Bus Contract

Dr Goudie noted that there was a new contractor for the school buses with bus running through the Bogward. Cllr Thomson confirmed that there was a new provider, National based in Dundee. He had noticed that some of the buses had been taking different routes through the Bogward. Mr Roberts explained that the buses being seen were being driven up to Craigtoun Park where they were parked for the day as the firm didn't want to have to have the buses driven back to Dundee only to have to drive back later in the day. Dr Goudie thought that there should be a risk assessment of the route given the fact that John Knox Road might be put forward as a cycling route for the new school.

4.3. Keith McCartney

4.3.1. Street Lighting Faults

Street Lighting - the following streetlights, which were not working, were reported for repair

Buchanan Gardens – lighting column number 1

Double Dykes Road – lighting columns 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Kennedy Gardens – lighting column number 10

Kinburn Park – lighting columns on path through park leading from Doubledykes Road to rear of St Andrews Museum

Largo Road – lighting columns 1, 6, 8, 21

Petheram Bridge – lighting column number 1

4.3.2. Pothole

Cllr McCartney reported that a temporary repair has been carried out to the pothole in the centre of Bogward Road at its junction with Windsor Gardens. The defect is the responsibility of Scottish Water to rectify and this has been reported to them.

4.3.3. Ponding

Cllr McCartney reported that the blocked gully causing flooding of the footway/carriageway at the junction of Double Dykes Road and Hepburn Gardens has been jetted, tested and cleared and is now working.

4.3.4. St. Leonards Road

Cllr McCartney reported that any concerns regarding vehicles causing an obstruction could be reported to the Police by dialling 101.

4.3.5. Jacobs Ladder

Cllr McCartney reported that a paving slab forming one of the steps had come loose and been propped up at the edge of the path. This was reported and work carried out to re-lay the slab in its proper place.

4.3.6. Graffiti

Cllr McCartney reported that incidences of graffiti had been reported for removal at the following locations: -

Butt's Wynd – 'tag' on junction box on east side of Butt's Wynd at its junction with North Street and on junction box at junction of Butt's Wynd and The Scores.

Kinness Burn – large 'bubble' letters infilled with paint on wall forming north bank of the Kinness Burn west of the bridge linking Kinnessburn Road to Dempster Court.

Lamond Drive – 'tags' on bus shelter on south side of Lamond Drive west of Langlands Road.

Nelson Street – 'tag' on junction box on north side of Nelson Street at its junction with Pipeland Road.

Pipeland Park – 'tags' on south wall of building in northwest corner of the park and on the skateboard ramps.

Pipeland Road – 'tags' on bus shelter on east side of Pipeland Road south of the park.

4.3.7. Uplighters (Market Street)

Cllr McCartney reported that the eight Uplighters (2 per tree) set into the pavement beneath the two trees outside Subway and the two trees outside The Keys have been reported as not working.

4.3.8. Bruce Street

Cllr McCartney reported that there are currently no street nameplates indicating the presence of Bruce Street at either the Sandyhill Road or Pipeland Road ends of the street. This has been reported and a request put in that street name signs be erected at both locations.

4.3.9. Police

Cllr McCartney reported that the new Community Ward Sergeant is Pat Turner

4.3.10. Argyle Street Car Park

Cllr McCartney reported that the birch sapling, which was growing from the coping on the stone wall bounding the car park on the Double Dykes Road side, was removed and the coping repointed on Monday 26th January

4.3.11. Saltire on Town Hall

Cllr McCartney reported that he had arranged for the saltire on the Town Hall, which had been damaged in the recent high winds, to be taken down and replaced by a new flag.

He had been asked to ascertain the view of Community Councillors as to whether or not, in future, they would find it acceptable for the flag to be taken down in December and re-erected at the start of March to reduce damage in the winter months or would want the flag to continue to be flown all year round. A supply of new saltires was purchased last year at a cost of between £200-300 each.

Once discussed at the CC meeting he would then contact the appropriate officer.

Miss Uprichard asked if there wasn't any chance of getting a saltire which would last longer? Mr McLeod commented that in the past the saltire had only been flown from April to September and on other special occasions. This avoided the worst of the wind. Mr Greenwell thought that this seemed to be a sensible suggestion. Cllr Thomson who had managed to get

responsibility for the replacement of the saltire transferred from the Community Council to Fife Council said that he'd suggested that the Council should buy a stock of flags and would check on the situation re the stock in the Town hall. Mr Greenwell said he'd put together a schedule for the times the saltire would be flown and would bring it to the next Community Council.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

On holiday

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Report from Planning Committee Meeting

Mr Stewart announced to the meeting that he had been elected as Convenor of the Planning Committee at the January 12th meeting. He recognised that the task was quite a substantial one and he hoped that members would recognise that he was on a steep learning curve.

At the two meetings 22 applications were considered, a quiet month by the standards of St Andrews. Five of these applications went to objections/comments. He listed the applications to which the committee had submitted objections or comments. These can be seen in the minutes attached to the agenda.

He informed the meeting that the PAN exhibition about Priory Gardens due towards the end of January had been cancelled at a late stage and there was no indication as to when this would return for consideration.

On Licensing matters, Mr Stewart mentioned a controversial application for extension of the hours of the Blackhorn Restaurant/Bar in Church Street. He said that this application had been passed without the CC having a chance to comment. He also noted that none of the St Andrews councillors were on the Licensing Board/Committee and thought that this was a cause for concern. Miss Uprichard commented that objections from neighbours to the application had been ignored with a comment from officials that there were other takeaways in the area. She was also concerned about the ongoing proliferation of eating places in St Andrews which now number 72 and added that if the attitude she'd reported from officials was typical she was concerned that more would be opened in an already saturated market.

Mrs Corbin reminded Mr Stewart that she had been dealing with licensing applications for a number of years for the CC and was also on the Fife Council Licensing Forum. Mr Stewart acknowledged her contribution but reminded her that the Planning Committee had decided to add this area to its remit at the last Planning meeting. Mrs Corbin added that the main difficulty in getting any licence extension turned down related whether the police objected and if they didn't there wasn't much chance of preventing a licence extension being granted.

Mr Stewart reported that the Planning Committee were looking at the St Andrews Design Guidelines to try and ensure that applicants knew what was acceptable in the conservation area.

Mr Greenwell reported on the two appeals currently awaiting the assessment of the Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government, namely the West Sands Visitor Centre and the Old Police Station. The Reporter's visit was originally scheduled for 29th January but due to poor weather is rescheduled for 12th February.

Miss Uprichard then reported on her study of the proposals for the extension of the conservation area up Hepburn Gardens and Buchanan Gardens up to Lawhead Road. She was seeking clarification from officials on an apparent anomaly, which she had noticed. She had discovered a map from 1993, which shaded the conservation area west of the central conservation area, and this appeared to cover the area about which there are current proposals. She wasn't certain what to make of this earlier map and what outcome there had been at the time of its publication in 1993.

She also reminded the meeting that there had been a consultation on this plan to extend the conservation area, which had finished on the 15th December 2014 and was trying to find out the outcome of that consultation but had so far had no response from officials.

Miss Uprichard asked for comments about an issue she'd become aware of at the site where the Premier Inn/Marks & Spencer developments are taking place. The issue of which she'd become aware was the need for an acoustic fence at the back of the site, which she thought was to shield local residents from the noise generated by a lengthy period of development. The problem in relation to the acoustic fence was to do with the land on which it is to be constructed and who own the land. Miss Uprichard had been trying to find out from Council officials more about this matter and told the meeting that one official in Environmental Health was concerned for residents as there would be a particularly noisy stage in the development.

She wondered why such a wall hadn't been a condition before work had started? Cllr Thomson thought that such a wall would not be constructed to deal with the noise of building but for noise issues after completion of a development. He agreed to check on the conditions for the development and whether in this case the acoustic fence was a condition of the time during construction. Another condition she had been querying related to the provision of adequate wheel cleaning facilities for vehicles accessing the site. She'd received complaints about mud on the road and despite enquires was still not clear if there was a specific condition about provision of wheel cleaning facilities. She'd received an answer stating that facilities were adequate but she wasn't certain if these applied to the condition. She didn't think the facilities were adequate. Cllr Thomson said he'd have another look at the situation but when an enforcement officer had visited recently the road had been clean.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Reports from Representatives

6.1.1. Cycle Safety – Student Campaign

Ms Evans updated the meeting on the progress of the Cycle Safety Campaign started in 2014. Cheap reflectors and cycle lights were still available for students to purchase. The posters produced last year had also become available as stickers to help spread the cycle safety message.

PC Peddie informed the meeting about the police development of an action plan to tackle cyclists breaking the law such as pedalling on pavements or without lights. This was meant to have an educational emphasis at first. If a student was stopped the first time they might be given a warning and told to get lights or not cycle on the pavement. If there was a further offence the student might be the subject of a legal penalty such as a fine.

6.1.2. Noise Complaint Issues

Mr Mathewson mentioned that there had been discussions with Residents Associations in the town centre area to try and deal with complaints about student noise and how best to resolve such complaints before the situation became too acrimonious. The Students Association was developing a protocol for that issue.

6.1.3. Reception for Army Families

Mr Greenwell had attended a reception for army families due to come to Leuchars. This was an advance party of families with children trying to get a feel of the area and facilities. He reported that the families were very impressed by the local facilities both at Leuchars and St Andrews. The first tranche of families are due to move to Leuchars in March. The rest will be moving in at the end of July after the Open.

6.1.4. St Andrews Partnership

Mr Greenwell had attended this meeting in place of Mr Roberts. Mr Greenwell reported that Fife Councillors had approved the request for £4000 towards the Xmas Lights from the Common Good Fund.

There had also been a very detailed report on the BID (Business Improvement District) process. This was said to be progressing well. Local businesses are helping shape the BID. Once the BID gets a particular level of approval businesses have to participate whether they want to or not.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

Mr Greenwell reported that there hadn't been a meeting and there was still to be a convenor appointed. He announced that there would be a meeting of the Recreation Committee on the 16th February.

Mr Roberts brought up the issue of the Bandstand concerts and problems with getting enough support. His own recent health problem has added to his concern about the future of the concerts. He was transporting the chairs to the Bandstand in recent years but now feels he can't risk his health on the heavy work of that task. He made the meeting aware that without enough support the concerts could not continue and appealed for support outwith the usual small group who have assisted in the past. Mr Greenwell acknowledged the need for more support and hoped that there would be more support for the concerts. The matter will be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting.

7.2. GP Meeting

No meeting.

7.3. 200 Club

1st. Dr G Illingworth 2nd Sir Peter Bairsto 3rd Patrick Marks

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin reported that there was a lot going on within the NHS such as bed blocking. On a more positive note the Sensory Garden at Victoria Hospice is now accessible.

7.5. Rail Sub Committee

Dr Goudie reported that discussions were proceeding to set up a meeting with the representatives from Alloa and possibly a transport consultant from Edinburgh. It was hoped that the meeting would take place in the next month.

8. New Business

8.1. Common Good Fund Applications

Two applications had been made to the CGF, one from St John's Garden and one from St Andrews in Bloom. The St John's Garden applicant was seeking £5000 from the CGF towards restoration work to take place to revamp the garden. The total cost of work was said to be around £160000. Mr MacLeod asked for more details of this application. He was informed that the university own the garden but the applicant behind the request was Mrs Cassells of the Pilgrim Foundation. Mr MacLeod asked about access to the garden. Mr Roberts who sits on the Pilgrim Trust replied that the University was going to allow public access on a regular basis during daylight hours. He confirmed that the Pilgrim Trust had asked a lot of questions to the university to achieve this guarantee. Mr MacLeod questioned the validity of spending that amount of money and thought that it could be better spent. Miss Uprichard thought that more detail was required before considering whether to approve the application. Mr Greenwell reminded the meeting that he'd sent out an email with a PDF attachment detailing the application. He agreed to recalculate the email in case members hadn't received it. He asked if the application could be deferred for a month to allow further consideration by the CC.

The St. Andrews in Bloom application was for £6000 for a tow able water bowser. Mr Greenwell noted the great work done by St Andrews in Bloom in recent years with awards being won at a national level. Mr Greenwell asked the members if there were any objections to the application? There were no objections to the application.

8.2. Parent Voice Motion

Mr Greenwell introduced the motion sent by Lisa Leitch on behalf of Parent Voice. Mr Greenwell said that he was minded not to discuss the motion given that the outcome of the legal challenge was still outstanding. He added that some councillors had commented that the CC normally didn't debate the motions of outside groups but only motions raised by Community Councillors. He also noted that there had been some indication that Parent Voice supporters were being advised not to discuss the Madras Pipeland situation until there were further significant developments on the situation. Mr Greenwell asked the meeting if anyone objected to not discussing the motion? There was unanimous agreement that it should not be discussed at this time. Ms Evans informed the meeting that the Students Association had a mechanism for receiving petitions from students and wondered if there was anything in the Community Council, which was similar. Mr Greenwell replied that the CC could have requests for presentations or petitions but it was up to the CC to decide if they would accept the request. Mr Greenwell added that if a motion came via a Community Councillor it might be discussed.

8.3. St Andrews Responsibility Campaign

Mr Greenwell introduced this topic, saying that he and Mr MacArthur of the St Andrews Partnership had been discussing this topic in the past few weeks. The idea was to have a street audit of the town in relation to things such as commercial refuse bins sitting out for weeks and A Boards blocking up the pavement and outside tables, which reduced the width of the pavement excessively for pedestrians. He said that the idea was a matter of detailing the things they would like to see improved in St Andrews and essentially cleaning up the centre of the town. He hoped to have circulated a paper by next month's meeting on the topic. He wanted to involve the students in assessing the town centre and how to make it a better place for people to live.

8.4. Website Hosting

Mr Greenwell said that he had noted usage issues in relation to the website. The monthly standard allowance was being exceeded resulting in small additional charges from the provider. Dr Goudie acknowledged that the problem was partly due to putting more material on for the public to access and he added that the website was getting over 1600 views a month. He thought that the current contract might be insufficient for the level of usage but that there one shouldn't rush into changing without a proper examination of alternatives. Mr Greenwell wondered about establishing a small working group to look at the matter and possible alternatives if deemed necessary. Dr Goudie advised that any move would involve a fair amount of work with which Mr Greenwell agreed. Dr Goudie reminded the meeting of a previous attempt at change in 2008 which had not worked as hoped. Dr Goudie also said that there needed to be a commitment of members to write material for the website to ensure it remained up to date and relevant. Mr Greenwell to set up a small working group with anyone willing to volunteer their time to try and determine whether there might be a better site the CC could use.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Nothing further to report

9.2. Treasurer

Due to the resignation of Mr McLachlan a new treasurer will be required for the Community Council. Mr Greenwell asked for volunteers for the post. No member at the meeting was prepared to take on the role. Mr Greenwell explained that the treasurer probably signed about 60 cheques a year. The treasurer is also a member of the board of the St Andrews Community Trust. There are sufficient signatories for the signing of cheques. Mr McLeod thought that the possibility of paying someone to spend a couple of hours a month looking after the accounts shouldn't be dismissed. Dr Goudie informed the meeting that the Scheme said that the treasurer should be one of the elected members. Mr Greenwell agreed to look into the situation and determine if anything can be resolved.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence

Mr Marks went through the correspondence with comments where appropriate.

10. Any Other Competent Business

An incamera session followed.