Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – 2nd March 2015

For Approval

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0. New Members

Mr Greenwell introduced two new applicants wishing to join the Community Council – Mr Chris Wallard and Mr Iain Munn.

1. Mr Wallard was asked to give a brief overview of his decision to join the Community Council. Mr Wallard started by giving a brief description of his work and background, which included experience in marketing, brand, advertising and digital communications. With respect to his application to join the Community Council he said that he wanted to work with the CC to help the CC create a more vibrant online presence and to help the CC engage with a broader section of the community, to be more transparent and to raise the status of the CC which he said was a critical part of local democracy. He acknowledged that he'd been a critic of the CC but stood by his criticisms. He was asking the CC to give him a chance to join and use his skills to help the CC.

Mr Roberts said that while he had no objection Mr Wallard's application his criticism of the CC and some members couldn't be ignored. He thought that if Mr Wallard was coming along to work with the CC in a constructive way there were merits in that but if he was approaching the CC with the attitude of sorting the CC out Mr Roberts didn't think that was appropriate. He asked for Mr Wallard's response to his comments. Mr Wallard replied that if he'd come with the latter intention it would have been easier for him to stay on the outside and criticise. Miss Uprichard asked Mr Wallard for his comments on how the CC could be better at consultation. Mr Wallard replied that in his view the CC acted as a community representative and had a statutory role. He thought that he could use his skills to help the CC get a broader response on issues. Miss Uprichard then explained the difficulties of consulting the population of the town on every application, both given the limited resources of the CC and also the number of applications received. She added that it was Fife Council, which were consulting the local population when they published details of applications and asked for comments, not just the CC and she didn't see the benefit in the CC carrying out a parallel consultation. The CC would not necessarily have any more influence because of its right to be a statutory consultee. Mr Wallard replied that he thought that the CC should be acting to try and represent as wide a cross section of the CC as possible in its responses. Miss Uprichard queried how this might be done? Mr Wallard thought that there were effective online ways to broaden the consultation with the community. Miss Uprichard thought that it would not be possible to circulate the huge amount of paperwork generated by the planning process to large number of residents. Mr Wallard thought that the decision to circulate material could be tailored to those that might be affected by a particular application. Mr Wallard added that it was his understanding that the CC should use all tools at its disposal within its budgetary constraints to carry out consultations.

Mr McLeod commented that the CC was unfairly criticised by Parent Voice about it alleged lack of consultation, but reminded the meeting that it was Fife Council which had undertaken a major consultation. He thought that it wasn't then necessary for the CC to undertake a consultation given the involvement of Fife Council as the applicant for the proposals. Local people could feed into the Fife Council consultation as they did so it would be a waste of CC resources to try and replicate the consultation by Fife Council! He added and acknowledged that while CC members had been elected to serve the community, but he couldn't see why CC

members couldn't come to their own conclusions. He reminded the meeting that as a democratically elected body members could be elected out of office in an election if the public was dissatisfied with the performance of the CC. He added that members of the CC shouldn't be frightened to come to their own conclusion about issues.

Dr Goudie said that as a statistician he had no problem with Parent Voice being represented on the CC. He recognised the benefit of having broader representation on the CC given that it represented many who had other views to many CC members. He was however critical of the statistics quoted by Parent Voice in the past year to try and argue their case. He asked Mr Wallard whether he was someone who felt that he could accept the inclusion in discussions about an issue such as Pipeland anyone who had preformed views or who had campaigned on the matter? Mr Wallard commented that anyone with an interest particularly a financial interest should declare it and once declared it shouldn't necessarily exclude that person from the debate. Dr Goudie concluded by saying that while he welcomed Mr Wallard's presence on the CC has didn't accept the programme he was putting forward in terms of the types of consultations he appeared to favour which he felt embodied the same mistakes he'd made before. Mr Wallard replied that in his view it was abundantly clear that there was a lot of confusion over the nature of a conflict of interest. He saw it as part of his contribution to the CC to get this clarified and to ensure that all members of the C were aware of the correct definition and operating by it. In terms of consultation he wasn't quite certain about the point being made and said that he wasn't standing as a member of Parent Voice but as someone wanting to make a positive contribution to the CC from a section of the community not seen around the table.

Ms Evans proposed that the meeting vote on Mr Wallard's membership. Mr Greenwell asked for a show of hands for those who supported the membership of Mr Wallard and those who opposed it. The majority voted in favour of Mr Wallard's membership. Mr Wallard was invited to join the body of the meeting.

2. Mr Munn was invited to introduce himself to the meeting. Mr Munn after giving a brief run down of his background informed the meeting that he'd responded to an article mentioning the need for more Community Councillors. He currently works for a major IT firm who have contracts to provide services for major events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics and other major sporting events. He added that he had a lot of expertise in IT and computing. He has also written and published a book and publishes ebooks for authors. His volunteer experience has centred on golfing events such as the Dunhill Links Championship, the Commonwealth Games, Open Championships and the Ryder Cup. Mr Roberts asked Mr Munn why if he had lived in St Andrews for so long it had taken him until now to put him forward for this type of voluntary activity? Mr Munn replied that he'd always been interested in what went on in the town but had only recently seen the mention of the need for members on the CC. Mr Greenwell asked the meeting if anyone objected to Mr Munn joining the meeting – there were no objections and Mr Munn was invited to join the body of the meeting.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Izzy Corbin, Penny Uprichard, Howard Greenwell, Ian Goudie, Patrick Marks, Ken Crichton, Callum McLeod, Harry Stewart, Gordon Shepherd, Chris Wallard, Judith Harding, Jonathan Bertulis-Fernandes.

Students' Association Representatives

Zara Evans

Patrick Mathewson

Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

Fife Councillors

Dorothea Morrison, Brian Thomson, Keith McCartney, Frances Melville

Apologies

Niall Scott,

2. Minutes of Meeting – February

The minutes were accepted as a correct record with one minor amendment

3. Presentations

3.1. Community Police

PC Peddie & PC Dave Johnson introduced themselves as Community officers for St Andrews & Strathkiness. It was explained that the Community Officer idea was a new initiative by Police Scotland as a way to get back in the community and be visible and involved in things which were going on. They had already spoken to a number of Councillors and other partnership organisations such as Fife Council's Housing dept to get a feel of the area and possible problems and issues needing to be addressed. They were looking at new ways of trying to engage with the public in the community. Issues included safe parking around schools and responsible cycling behaviour. PC Johnson talked about being able to get quality intelligence about drug issues in the town and hopefully apprehend the dealers. There were plans to raid a couple of local houses during the week, which were suspected of being sources of drugs.

Mrs Harding wondered about the duty hours of the community officers especially since the police station has limited hours of opening. PC Peddie acknowledged the restricted opening hours of the local police station but explained that the public calling at the station when it was closed could press a buzzer, which would activate a link to the Police Contact Centre. She added that the shifts she and her colleague worked were Monday to Saturday, but they would change shifts to accommodate local events if necessary.

Miss Uprichard related some difficulties she'd experienced when trying to leave a letter to the police station when it was closed, as there was no letterbox and also with the call button system audio fading in and out. She wondered why St Andrews had more limited coverage with opening hours compared to Cupar? PC Johnson said that such decisions were above his rank and he couldn't answer that question. He also explained about the lack of a letterbox, which was due to the current threat level in Police Station.

Mr Crichton brought up the issues of girls who'd approached him in town begging and also the way that taxi drivers used parking spaces. PC Johnson in reply said that there had been a trend in the last year when he'd been policing in the town centre of a group of foreign nationals had been coming in from out of the area. He said that it wasn't a crime in Scotland to beg but the way this was done could constitute an offence and a couple of individuals had been prosecuted and bail conditions had been set to prevent them returning to start begging again. He was aware of an individual who sits in Logies Lane but the man wasn't committing an offence. Mrs Corbin also related an account of a group of individuals who had been in St Andrews before Xmas and who on occasion had responded to refusals to give money by spitting at the person. PC Johnson acknowledged that this constituted an offence of assault. He was also aware that the individuals were not homeless.

PC Johnson agreed to look at the parking issue and acknowledged that some taxi drivers were parking indiscriminately. He would speak to the Roads Dept and licensing if necessary.

It was agreed that the community police officers would try to attend the monthly CC meetings unless other duties took them away on the night.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1.West Sands Visitor Centre

Cllr Melville commented upon the decision of the reporter June Barry to refuse the appeal by FCCT. She was pleased that her own decision to use her casting vote had been vindicated, but still though that something should be possible at the West Sands and indeed improved facilities were much needed. She hoped that with a co-operative approach a suitable centre could be built.

4.1.2. Traffic Issues in Balfour Place

Mr Greenwell brought up the issue of parking in Balfour Place. He said that the Council had painted yellow lines and had left some interesting parking spaces on that side of the road, which he thought wouldn't cause as much parking problems as has been occurring, but still allowed builders to park opposite Abbey Cottage and 3 Balfour Place. He couldn't understand the reason for leaving the spaces as it has continued to cause traffic problems.

4.1.3. Graffiti at East Sands

Mr Greenwell said that he'd reported the graffiti at least two month ago and it was still present. Cllr McCartney thought that in respect of the graffiti there might have been an issue about who owned the wall on which it was painted, thus creating uncertainty about whose responsibility it was to get it erased. Mr Greenwell wondered how he could find out who owned the wall? One lot of graffiti was on a concrete block from where pipes come down from the Gatty to the sea. The other graffiti is along by new student accommodation development on the sea wall. Cllr Morrison commented that the police were investigating the graffiti and might know the perpetrator.

4.2. Brian Thomson

4.2.1. Affordable Housing Development – Abbey Walk

Cllr Thomson reminded the meeting about the affordable housing development being constructed and said that people had been making enquires about how they could access that accommodation. He explained to the meeting about Fife Council's eligibility criteria. People on Fife Council's transfer list are given first option, such as people living in houses too small for their family needs. The new housing development consists of 22 two bed roomed and three bed roomed flats. Cllr Thomson reported that Housing officials don't know if they'll be able to fill the properties from the transfer list, which will allow people on the general housing list to be considered. People interested should contact the local office to enquire about the possibility of being considered. Miss Uprichard commented on the small number of affordable units at Abbey Walk in comparison to the number of properties being built. She was shocked that Fife Council hadn't been firm in insisting on the 30% with the small number of fewer than 30 being a much smaller percentage out of some 500 units in the area. She added that Fife Council had allowed other categories of sheltered and special needs to be included in the equation even though they weren't affordable by the true definition of the term. Cllr Thomson agreed that it wasn't acceptable and said he'd fought for affordable housing in the past and would continue to fight for more affordable housing. Mr Roberts asked if the housing waiting list was Fifewide? Cllr Thomson thought that the list was Fife wide and applicants could specify areas within Fife in order of priority for their housing needs.

4.2.2. Cycle Path Signs on the Scores

Cllr Thomson had received complaints from residents of the Scores about the poor condition of the signage of the joint cycle/footpath route. Cllr Thomson reported that council officers are to arrange for the signage to be refreshed there and at the corner by the Russell Hotel where the route is on the road.

4.2.3. Complaints about overgrown landscaping area – Ruthven Place/Winram Place

Cllr Thomson reported that he'd had a few complaints from residents in this area about an area of dense landscaping planting where there was evidence of fly tipping and possible under age drinking. Cllr Thomson was going to do some more research about the best acceptable way to deal with the area. Some residents have suggested clearing it and grassing it over.

4.2.4. Bogward Road/Canongate Resurfacing

Cllr Thomson announced that the Bogward Road and Canongate Road are to be resurfaced from the western end of Bogward Road to Learmonth Place. He said that officers hoped to do it in the summer months but no firm date has been set.

4.2.5. Kilrymont Road Roadworks

Cllr Thomson had received complaints about cones and unfinished roadworks on this road for the past couple of months. He was going to be pursuing the matter with officials to get some explanation and action.

4.2.6. Craigtoun Park Path

The path around the edge of the park has been completed according to Cllr Thomson.

4.2.7. Changes to Rubbish Collection

Mrs Harding said she'd read in the Citizen that someone in Fife Council was thinking about changing the frequency of rubbish collections. She wondered about the views of the councillors on this possibility and whether they might get to vote on the changes? She felt that students would struggle with changes. Cllr Thomson acknowledged that he was not really familiar with the proposals but could understand the possible logic with some bins requiring more frequent collection and others less frequent collection. Plastic he knew from personal experience was a particular issue for many families who could fill a bin quite rapidly.

Cllr Melville acknowledged that the issue had been around for some time. She has been on a policy advisory group, which has been looking at a range of 6 options. Four of these options had included glass but it was thought that as the present willingness of people to take their bottles to the bottle bank was working well these options should not be considered. The remaining options really only included ways to vary the timing of collections for different recycling, with more frequent collection of the green bin for plastics a possible front runner. Cllr Morrison reported that there would be two trials to try out two different options from the original list of six. She reminded the meeting that the Council was trying to reduce what was going to landfill because of the penalties or charges for landfill.

Mr Mathewson reminded the meeting that the Students Association remains keen to help on the recycling front and could host a recycling area by the Students Union and could help in distributing Council black bags to students. Mr Mathewson asked the Councillors to mention at the next locality meeting to say that the Students Association would willingly act as a distribution for black bin bags and he could organise a mass distribution of emails to all students making them aware of the availability.

4.3. Keith McCartney

4.3.1. Street Lighting – the following street lights which were not working were reported for repair

Buchanan Gardens – lighting columns 18 and 20

City Road – lighting column 15

Double Dykes Road – lighting columns 7 and 9

Greenside Place – lighting column number 1

Hepburn Gardens – lighting column number 8

Path 491/158 – lighting column number 6

Queen's Terrace – lighting column number 3

South Street – lighting columns 15, 17 and 20

4.3.2. Seats

Cllr McCartney reported that the new benches to be located on the north side of Market Street are on order.

4.3.3. Saltire on Town Hall

Cllr McCartney reported that he had advised the appropriate officer that the view of the Community Council is that the saltire should fly from the Town Hall between 1st April and 30th September (both dates inclusive) and on specific dates outwith this period. I understand that the Community Council will come forward with suggestions as to what these specific dates should be and would ask that the Community Council convey its view to Damian Pedrick at Fife Council so that arrangements can be made.

4.3.4. South Street

Cllr McCartney reported that the pole carrying information on parking located on the pavement outside 162 South Street has been damaged and is leaning over. An order has been issued for repair early in the new financial year.

4.3.5. Pedestrian Barrier, Hope Park Roundabout

Cllr McCartney reported that the replacement barriers erected on the pavement at the northwest corner of the roundabout were themselves removed following vehicular damage. An order will be issued early in the new financial year for the missing barriers to be re-erected and it is expected that the work will be completed over the summer months.

4.3.6. Town Hall

Cllr McCartney reported that the shrubs growing from the bell tower and the stonework around the turret on the roof of the Town Hall have now been removed.

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 which were reported as not working have been repaired. The problem was that the time clock was burned out.

4.3.8. Argyle Street

Cllr McCartney reported that the stonework on the retaining walls of the flower beds at the entrance to the car parks on either side of Argyle Street have been damaged and been reported for repair.

4.3.9. Kennedy Gardens

Cllr McCartney reported that stones missing from the retaining wall of the circular flowerbed at the corner of Kennedy Gardens by the west entrance to Kinburn Park, which left soil and roots, exposed, have been replaced and cemented in.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. Student Accommodation

Cllr Morrison said that any student living in sub-standard accommodation should report it to the Fife Councillors and they will follow up the concern on the student's behalf. She said that the Fife Council team dealing with licensing was keen to ensure that licensed accommodation was of an acceptable standard.

4.4.2. Ovarian Cancer Awareness Raising

Cllr Morrison related the sad story of a fellow Fife Councillor whose wife had died of ovarian cancer. He wanted the issue of ovarian cancer to be publicised to hopefully alert more women to become aware of ways to detect the symptoms. He asked fellow Councillors to help publicise this "silent" killer.

4.4.3. Taxi Parking Issues

Cllr Morrison said that the problem of taxi drivers parking was one of which she was aware and regularly brought up to Fife Council Transportation. She said that there were officers who would deal with this problem caused by taxi drivers.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Report

Mr Stewart reported back on the two Planning Committee meetings held in February. Mr Stewart reported that they'd raised objections to eight of the planning applications discussed in February. A couple caused the committee concerns. One in particular Balone Nursery caused issues they had been led to believe that it was to go to committee but was passed by officials and didn't go to committee. As it was outside St Andrews the CC couldn't be a statutory consultee, but had put in an objection, which was ignored.

Mr Stewart then listed the planning applications to which the committee had sent in objections. (See planning minutes in agenda). Mr Greenwell gave an update on two of the applications, namely for 27 Bell Street where the application has been withdrawn as the decision to put bars inside didn't require a planning application. The other application was in South Street where a developer of a Montessori Nursery School was wanting to put a drive through the garden of a property to allow access is to be recommended for refusal in relation to a condition about access. The final decision is to be taken by Councillors on the North East Fife Planning Committee and the CC will be a statutory consultee and putting in an objection detailing its concerns on this issue. Mr Stewart and Mr Greenwell explained the reason for the objection.

Mr Stewart and Mr Greenwell briefly commented upon the recent decisions by the Reporter on the West Sands Visitor Centre and the old Police Station, with both being refused. Mr Greenwell commented in relation to the old Police Station issues concerning the CC Planning Committee about the proposed height compared to surrounding buildings. While the Reporter had not thought this an issue he said that the Planning Committee would be looking further at how to deal with such attempts, which would alter the skyline of the town centre. Mr Stewart also commented briefly on the bollards outside the old Police Station put in for security reasons but no longer necessary and blocking potential parking spaces. Cllr Thomson commented that these would be expensive to remove.

Miss Uprichard commented on the issue of erosion of the Greenbelt by a number of planning applications of varying size such as Feddinch, the school at Pipeland and a smaller application at Balone for an extension of a house. She queried the role of officials who were minded to approve the extension at Balone despite it being in the Green Belt using as justification the excuse that there had been extensions approved of other properties in that area in the past so it would be unfair not to allow this particular extension. She reminded the meeting that over 92% of planning decisions were now made under delegated powers. She thought that if the system was supposed to be plan led she couldn't understand how could one official could make most decisions. Miss Uprichard asked where officials got their power from wondering whether it was the scheme of delegation? Cllr Melville replied that all Local Authorities have to send their Schemes of Delegation to the Scottish Government for approval. She added that there were variations among councils. Miss Uprichard wondered where the power of officials was supposed to come from to allow them to vary Green Belt policy, whilst others were supposed to abide by it?

Dr Goudie asked for confirmation that the CC didn't have statutory consultee status within the Green Belt? Mr Greenwell confirmed that that was the case. Dr Goudie wondered if it was within the gift of Fife Council to give the CC this status as he felt that it was anomalous that St Andrews couldn't comment upon its own Green Belt? Mr Greenwell added that due to the lack of a Boarhills & Dunino Community Council there was a large swathe of green Belt for which there was no statutory consultee at this time. He suggested that it should be considered that the CC should be able to at least temporarily be allowed to cover this area as the statutory consultee or possibly have shared rights with neighbouring CCs. Miss Uprichard endorsed this viewpoint. She wondered what the possibilities were in allowing this to happen? Cllr Melville thought that there was a case for an extension and that Robin Prestwood or Jim Birrell should be contacted on this matter. Mr Greenwell thought that the St Andrews CC should be able to exercise rights to comment upon its own Green Belt.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. St Johns Garden Common Good Fund Application

Mr Greenwell introduced this item, which had been discussed the previous month, and which it had been decided to carry over until more was known about it and its merits. Issues such as public access to the garden had been raised but there had been no action taken by any member to further check out the details, so he wondered about the views of members and taking a vote? Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that he was a trustee of the Pilgrim rust and wouldn't make any comment.

Mrs Corbin said that she wasn't comfortable with the application, partly because the University owned the land and she wasn't certain what guarantees there were about access. She thought that more information was needed before a decision could be made.

Mr Greenwell asked for members to indicate if they supported or opposed the application for St John's Garden. The majority vote opposed the application.

6.2. Flying of the Saltire over the Burgh Chambers

Mr Greenwell said he'd made enquires about when to fly the saltire after the previous month' discussion. His own thinking was to fly the saltire from one week before Easter to the end of September and 24th November to the 1st December. Mrs Harding suggested that the flag should still be flown during the Dunhill Golf competition. Mr Roberts commented that the raising and lowering of the flag wasn't a simple matter and suggested leaving it up until the end of November. Mr Greenwell explained after queries from Cllr McCartney and Mr McLeod that he thought that the dates mentioned cover the bulk of the main tourist season and up to St Andrews Day. Mr Stewart wondered why with a good enough flag a saltire couldn't remain up for the whole year? The final decision was to request that the flag be flown from 21st March until the end of November. Cllr McCartney was asked to contact the appropriate Fife Council official on the matter.

6.3. Reports from Representatives

6.3.1. Lammas Market Liaison Group

Mr Roberts informed the meeting that he'd attended this group after an invite had been received from Fife Council. The representative from the Merchants Association who'd attended was Mrs Adam who raised various points about deliveries and access during the Lammas. Other issues included lack of sufficient toilet facilities and rubbish collection. Mr Roberts said he'd supported Mrs Adam in her comments. Mr Roberts had indicated to the meeting that the CC supported the Lammas Market.

6.3.2. St Andrews Community Trust

Mr Greenwell and Mrs Harding had attended the recent meeting of the Community Trust. He reported that there had been few applications for funding at the last meeting, with five being approved for a total of about £15000. Another large tranche of about £80000 was due to come from the Links Trust in the near future so he concluded that the Community Trust was in good shape financially.

6.3.3. Byre Theatre Advisory Group

Mr Roberts informed the meeting that he'd been invited to join the proposed Byre Theatre Advisory Group. When he discovered that he had been invited to join because of his Vice-Chairman role in the CC he'd decided to ask for the approval of the CC. Miss Uprichard proposed approval and Dr Goudie seconded the proposal. The meeting approved Mr Roberts's membership of the group unanimously.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

7.1.1. Report of Recreation Committee Meeting

Dr Shepherd was introduced as the new Chair of the Recreation Committee and was invited to report on behalf of that committee by the Chair, Mr Greenwell. Dr Shepherd reported that the committee had discussed the plans for the two coffee mornings and the Bandstand Concerts. The Garden Awards he said would be organised by Mrs Corbin. The Civic Reception would be on the 27th November and he would take lead on that event. He also reported that he would take the lead on the Senior Citizens Treat.

He went on to discuss the requirements for the Coffee Morning in April such as catering/baking, white elephant, books and teas and coffees etc. Mrs Corbin would organise the catering/baking, while Mrs Denyer would deal with the White Elephant, Mr Marks would manage the book stall and Mr Roberts the tombola. Mr Greenwell will be on the door.

Funding the activities was discussed. In relation to the bandstand concerts, Mr Roberts would be sending out letters seeking funding support and Mr Greenwell would be applying to the Common Good Fund for £2000 to support the Senior Citizens Treat. A request would be made to the 200 Club for £200 to support the Gardens Awards expenses. Mr Greenwell would be checking whether Fife Council had deposited funding support for the Civic Reception in the CC account.

Cllr Morrison commented on other funding options for the Senior Citizens Treat such as the St Andrews Welfare Trust. This might save the Common Good Fund from having to be asked regularly for funding.

Miss Uprichard suggested that there had been problems in the past with advertising of the events and needed better promotion. Mrs Corbin said she'd started work on the posters for the Coffee Morning.

7.2. GP Meeting

No meeting.

7.3. 200 Club

1st Mr A Humphries 2nd Sarah Paul 3rd Mrs Methven

Mr Marks also reminded the members of the benefit of joining the 200 Club for a mere £2 a month

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin said that there was a lot going on in the NHS at present due to the restructuring with the new joint Health and Social Care body being set up. She would be attending a half day seminar on the restructuring and would report back on the event to the CC

7.5. Rail Sub Committee

Nothing to report

8. New Business

8.1. St Andrews Responsibility Campaign.

Mr Greenwell reminded the meeting that he'd introduced the concept of this campaign verbally the previous month. Since then he'd spoken further to Mr McArthur on the issues they'd identified. He handed out some paperwork with an outline of the proposals. Mr Greenwell said that they were looking at the establishment of a volunteer organisation that would on a periodic basis do an audit of the streets around the town centre of St Andrews. There would be a steering committee and which could possibly act later as a lobby group to try and improve the centre of St Andrews to make it a more welcoming place. They'd so far identified a lot of things, which might be in the remit. They didn't preclude seeking funding to undertake or initiate projects under the Campaign banner.

Mrs Corbin said that three years ago she'd done an audit of street furniture, which she had given to Cllr Melville. She still had that information which she could share with the Responsibility Campaign. She informed the meeting that she was also encouraging businesses etc to put up more hanging baskets etc.

Mr Greenwell thought that the key behind the initiative would be to make people more conscious of the conservation area and to be more responsible for it and proud of the town. He was conscious about the problem of managing to stay on top of issues such as "A"Boards given the turnover of businesses and the need to ensure that businesses were well informed about their responsibilities in an ancient town centre.

Mr McLeod thought that there needed to be diplomacy used to prevent the campaign being seen as busybodies interfering in matters. Mr Greenwell acknowledged the possible problem of this view. Mr McLeod also thought that other areas of the town should be part of any campaign. Mr Greenwell acknowledged the need to recognise the importance of other areas of the town used by visitors such as the West Sands. Mrs Adam was concerned that the audit sounded quite subjective and wondered if there would be any training for volunteers? Mr Greenwell acknowledged that there should be a common set of criteria and a review of all audit input by the central Steering Committee. He hoped that that would provide a common view and if there was any doubt a second review of the information. Dr Shepherd wondered about taking the carrot as opposed to the stick approach to encouraging local businesses and residents to help improve the town centre. Awards he felt could create some competition for local businesses with some form of certificates for display in businesses. Mr McLeod suggested checking out on flagpoles around the town centre and offering saltires for them to fly. Mr Greenwell acknowledged the merit but added that funding the saltires might be an issue.

Mrs Corbin asked about the involvement of organisations such as Fife Society for the blind in any audit as their immediate environment significantly affected them. Mr Greenwell acknowledged that possible usefulness and asked for contact details so that he could progress that matter. Mrs Corbin suggested that perhaps the Fife Society for the Blind could do a presentation on how things affected them.

Mr Greenwell asked if the meeting was in general favour of taking forward this idea. There was no dissent to the idea.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

No further comments from the Chair

9.2. Treasurer

A new treasurer is still to be found. Mr Greenwell said he'd be prepared to take on the role in the short term. Mr Munn said he might be prepared to take on the role when he was settled into his new role. Mr Greenwell acknowledged the offer.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence

Mr Marks commented upon the emails detailed in the appendix.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Altered Date for next CC Meeting

Mr Greenwell reminded members about the next CC meeting being a week earlier than originally scheduled to avoid the Easter Monday and will be on the 30th March.