Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes –2nd July 2012

For Approval

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1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Ken Crichton, Henry Paul, Penny Uprichard, Kyffin Roberts, Catherine Rowe, Ronnie Murphy, Izzy Corbin, Meg Platt, Andy Primmer, Howard Greenwell, Carol Ashworth.

Students' Association Representatives

Freddy Fforde, Amanda Litherland, Jules Findlay

Nominated

Lindsey Adam

Co-Opted

Fife Councillors

Dorothea Morrison, Brian Thomson

Apologies

Niall Scott, Frances Melville, Keith McCartney, Robert Mclachlan, Judith Harding, Callum Corbin

2. Minutes of 28th May 2012 Meeting

4.2.1 Cllr Thomson corrected a factual error in this report. The unelected members of the Executive Committee will only have voting rights in relation to education matters. The minute was otherwise accepted as an accurate record of the May meeting.

3. Presentations

Mr Fforde introduced his colleagues on the new SRC with Amanda Litherland, the Director of Representation, Meg Platt (already a CC member) Director of Student Development & Activities and Jules Findlay the Director of Events & Services.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville - absent

4.2. Brian Thomson

4.2.1. Melville Fountain

Cllr Thomson announced that there was now a cost for the refurbishment of the Melville Fountain at £18500. He gave a breakdown of the costs. The contractor to work on the refurbishment would be available at two weeks notice. The main ongoing issue would be getting the funding.

4.2.2. New Police Station

The new Police Station which, is at the old Health Centre will be officially opened on the 8th August, with the Police moving in a few days before on the 2nd August.

4.2.3. Bassaguard Industrial Estate

Fife Council are sorting out a lease with Barnetts and hope to conclude this process soon, after which Barnetts will begin to progress their plans

4.2.4. Kerbside Recycling

There have been complaints from householders about the frequency of the collection of the bin for plastic/metal recycling not being frequent enough. At present the collection is once a month. Cllr Thomson has spoken to Kate Hughes the Area Manager to see if frequency can be increased.

4.2.5. Road Repairs

Cllr Thomson reported that the work in the Strathkiness High Road had been completed and Councillors were still trying to push for work to start on Broomfaulds Avenue and Bogward Road. Some work may not take place until next year's budget.

4.2.6. Madras College Update

The Executive Committee of Fife Council met on the 7th June to consider potential options for the new Madras College. One option considered was the refurbishment and the second was to revisit former potential sites and possible new sites. The second option was chosen as the favoured way to move forward at the present time. Various meetings with stakeholders will take place over the next weeks/months. Cllr Thomson circulated a position statement released by Education chair, Cllr Brian Poole last week to all parents, including those from feeder primary schools. Cllr Thomson hoped that the Council would be able to come back after the summer with a new position statement as to what had been looked and any decisions taken. He acknowledged that a site in the western part of St Andrews was a potentially favoured option, because of the location of pupils within the town. Areas like Station park and Petheram Bridge might be on a shortlist, with a return to the Kilrymont area only as a last resort.

Mr Fforde asked what conversation there might be now between the Council and the University given the need to identify a new site and the possibility that this might be on University land. Mr Thomson in reply said that the Council leader, Alex Rowley has met with the University Principal Louise Richardson.

Dr Goudie asked about the involvement of local stakeholders and he was thinking about the parents of pupils amongst others in any discussion about the possible new sites. Cllr Thomson thought that there would be something along those lines once the Council had something to put to the community and he expected that this would be some time after the school holidays. Cllr Thomson following a further point on the consultation issue raised by Mr Primmer replied that Cllr Poole was aware of the

problems of the last consultation and how parents felt they hadn't been consulted correctly.

Dr Goudie made a final comment on school sizes in relation to Fife's rejection of a possible Bridgehead school. He felt that smaller secondary schools were viable and were acceptable to most Councils. The main argument about size related to the range of subjects available on the curriculum and area he felt was not as problematic as claimed. He was concerned that the idea of a Bridgehead School was being discounted mianly on such criteria.

4.2.7. Tayplan – Structure Plan

This plan was approved by the Minister in the Scottish Government on the 8th June. There can still be a legal challenge within a 6 week period of the publication. He acknowledged that Scottish Government ministers didn't make many changes to the Structure Plan. The major change affecting St Andrews is related to strategic development and what constraints there might be given St Andrews major economic role in the area, as a Tier 2 settlement. A time limit for no further development after 20 years had been removed by ministers. Miss Uprichard apart from questioning Cllr Thomson on the makeup of the committee involved with the Tayplan process, also asked about the removal of this time limit, which she felt would lead to further development. Cllr Thomson tried to explain the process by which such a decision had been taken by Ministers who would have had the option of accepting or rejecting the recommendations of the Reporter.

4.2.8. Bus Shelter on North Street

Mrs Rowe reminded Cllr Thomson that former Cllr Sangster had been agreed to ask about the possibility of a bus shelter on North Street. Cllr Thomson agreed to look into the matter as he didn't know about it.

4.2.9. Curriculum for Excellence

Mr Primmer stated his concern about the new Curriculum for Excellence and the fact that many children are being asked to make decisions about their choices at S3 level for Standard Grades. His concern centred around the fact that children are only being allowed to take 5 subjects not the standard 8 under the new Curriculum for Excellence regime and he wondered if this decision could be reviewed as schools in other parts of Scotland are still taking 8 subjects.

Cllr Thomson acknowledged that this was becoming a major concern of parents and had raised the matter with Bran Poole the local Councillor with an Education Portfolio remit.

4.4.10. Police Presence in Town Centre

Mr Primmer asked about the availability of the Police in the town centre now that the Police Station is outside the centre.

Cllr Thomson replied that the Police were talking about a presence in the Area Office at St Marys Place.

Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that the Community Police Officer had offered to attend the meetings of the Community Council and suggested that if he was invited to a future meeting he could explain what plans the police might have to keep up a town centre presence.

Mr Paul asked about the future of the old Police Station and put in a plea that the Council consider the option of affordable housing in that building. Cllr Thomson pointed out that conversion would be an expensive option and wasn't certain if the

Council could afford such expenditure but he agreed to take on board the points made by Mr Primmer and Mr Paul.

4.3. Keith McCartney – see report in July agenda.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. Greyfriars Garden

Cllr Morrison mentioned problems in relation to the blockage of sewage pipes and the state of pavements following the work being done to the pavements in Greyfriars Gardens. This has led to costs for Scottish Water trying to clear the blockage as well as sewage problems for several houses on the street.

4.4.2. Spinkie Crescent Flooding problems

There have been ongoing problems about heavy water flow coming from an old culvert causing flooding in the Crescent which is directly opposite. Cllr Morrison has been trying to speak to the officers who have been dealing with the problem to determine whether there can be a solution to the problem.

4.4.3. Harbour Toilets

Another ongoing issue has been the opening/closing times of the toilets at the harbour. This has been a source of regular complaint and doesn't seem to have been satisfactorily resolved with reports that the toilets are being closed as early as 2.30 pm.

4.4.4. Pavement Problems

The ongoing issue of obstructions on the pavements also remains a source of concern as there can often be a mix of chairs/tables creeping out further as they are being used, as well as "A" Boards and bins for refuse/recycling. Cllr Morrison has been regularly contacting the Transportation Dept of the Council ad has found that it has been better to go up to senior management to try and get some speedier action to her concerns.

4.4.5. St Andrews in Bloom

On the 26th July there will be the judging of St Andrews for the Fife in Bloom competition as part of the Britain in Bloom. She added that the current team looking after some of the displays was very small so encouraged public spirited members to tidy up anything they thought needed a bit of tlc.

4.4.6. Cosmos Ceilidh

The Cosmos Centre are having a Ceilidh in the Town Hall on the 3rd August.

4.4.7. Casle Street/North Street Flooding Problem

Mrs Rowe informed Cllr Morrison about recent flooding due to possible overflows from the drains. Cllr Morrison agreed to report the problem.

4.4.8. Litter Problems – Market Street

Mrs Ashworth commented upon litter in market street and the inadequacy of current facilities. Cllr Morrison in reply talked about the imminent provision of new

recycling bins, probably initially by the Buchanan Buildings as this is close to a lot of carry-out restaurants/cafes.

4.4.9. Poor Toilet Provision

Miss Uprichard commented to Cllr Morrison on the deplorable state of St Andrews in relation to the level of toilet provision, especially with the threat of toilet closure and chaotic management of the current provision. Given St Andrews major role in the Fife economy she thought that the Council was failing to provide a decent level of provision. Cllr Morrison agreed that there were serious problems and made the meeting aware that she was planning to meet up with Mr Winter to discuss the toilet problem as well as other areas of concern, which come under his remit. She felt that it was time that the Council to recognised its responsibilities.

5. Planning Committee

Mr Greenwell reported on the activities of the Planning Committee in the past month. There had only been one meeting because Fife Council's Planning Dept moving office from Kirkcaldy to Glenrothes.

Mr Greenwell reported that the Planning Committee had objected to three applications.

5.1.1. Planning application in Mount Melville

There had been an objection sent in about a planning application, which would infill a garden even though it was technically outwith the area covered by St Andrews, but was within Greenbelt.

5.1.2. 17 South Street

An objection was put in even after the committee had had a consultation with the developer who is the owner of the property. The committee decided to support the objection put in by a neighbour about the plans – see full planning report.

5.1.3. Student Union Development

It had also been decided to submit an objection to the current nature of the frontage proposed in this plan as they felt it would be too intrusive upon the nature of the area.

5.1.4. Montessori School proposal – 44 South Street

The Community Council had examined proposals sent in by Mr Tobert who would like to build a Montessori School at the end of his lang rigg garden. The committee had a number of concerns about the proposals and about claims made by Mr Tobert about matters such as availability of parking. The committee is likely to object to plans when these are formally submitted on various grounds., such as vehicle access to the site and parking etc.

5.1.5. Lingo Windfarm

The committee had also submitted a more detailed letter of objection to this proposed development south of St Andrews by the University.

5.1.6. McCarthy Stone Consultation

This firm held a consultation in mid June about the area between Greenside Place and St Nicholas, which is still under appeal with Knightsbridge. McCarthy Stone

have first refusal to buy the land from Knightsbridge if the latter can't get their development progressed.

5.1.7. Greenbelt Forum and future Greenbelt co-ordination

Mr Greenwell had spoken with Professor Sam Taylor, Chair of the Greenbelt Forum. The latter is proposing to disband but Professor Taylor indicated that other local Community Councils within the greenbelt area felt that there was still a need to have some form of co-ordination regarding the greenbelt. Mr Greenwell wondered if the Community Council would be happy for him to make contact as appropriate with the other Community Councils to establish links on the Greenbelt issue?

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Martyrs Monument Update

The funding is almost complete for the work to be started on the Martyrs Monument and the Contractors have been identified. A suggestion from Rev. Ian Bradley in relation to additional information to be put on to the information boards is to be discussed with Rev Bradley by the Martyrs Monument Committee.

6.2. Craigtoun Park

Mr Roberts reported that the recent fundraising day had been a success despite the weather. He thought that it was now about time for the committee to become independent and stand alone.

6.3. Botanic Gardens Update

Mr Paul reported no major development and indicated that the Consultants report was with Fife Council and the University. He thought that it could be well into the autumn before decisions would be made. He urged everyone to keep on using the Botanic Gardens, especially attending events such as the Apple Day.

6.6. Olympic Torch Visit

This had gone off successfully with the Community Council assisting in marshalling on the morning of the event. The unexpected Chariots of Fire run on the West Sands had however taken a little of the shine off the Quad event as it had been featured on the media, not the Quad event.

6.6. Jubilee Celebrations

Another successful event, with the University gving use of Lower College Hall for the party for senior citizens. Mr Paul thanked everyone involved including the Gilbert & Sullivan Society & the Swilcan Singers who provided the entertainment. Those attending had very much appreciated the event and many letters of thanks had been received.

6.7. Any Other Matters Arising

6.7.1. St Andrews Partnership

Mrs Ashworth reported on her attendance at the Partnership and listed various matters that were discussed. Matters discussed included the possibility of an aerobic(?) digester for St Andrews as part of a drive to reduce waste etc, a town audit to determine what needed doing around the town, the possibility of better signage to guide tourists from the town periphery where they might be dropped off by their

buses to the town centre and a visit by the Scottish Tourism Alliance, Chief Executive. A Partnership Golf Tournament has also been organised for 10th October and is open to interested parties.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

Mr Roberts reported on the planned Bandstand Concerts. These have been organised from mid July to the end of August. He asked for volunteer assistance.

7.2. General Purposes

A meeting is to be held on the 10th July at the Cosmos Centre

7.3. 200 Club

July Draw :- 1st Mr D Philpott 2nd Mrs C Humphries 3rd Mrs E Baxter

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

7.4.1. Consultation on Responsible Parking

Mrs Corbin reported on a consultation from an MSP about possible legislation to deal with the issues of irresponsible parking, particularly at pavement areas with drop down edges for wheelchair users and double yellow lines. Mrs Corbin acknowledged that the new law if passed would also affect blue badge holders who park on double yellow lines.

8. New Business

8.1. Election of New Members of the Community Council

Mr Roberts informed the meeting that there five possibly six applications for the two vacancies which had arisen in recent months. He said that he had been in touch with all the prospective applicants and had explained that there would be an election at the next Community Council meeting in September. He felt that members should have the opportunity to consider the applicants rather than rushing through the process at a meeting at which there was limited time to give the matter due diligence.

Dr Goudie asked if candidates had been asked to provide statements relating to their applications? Mr Roberts confirmed that these had been requested and once all were available would be circulated.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Mr Roberts reported that he and Mr Paul had attended a seminar in Glenrothes recently entitled, “Sustaining Enterprising Communities”. The seminar’s purpose was to make anyone interested aware of ways to access sources of funding for projects and Mr Roberts informed the meeting that the SEC office in Glenrothes was set up for that purpose.

The Chair also made an appeal for volunteers for the Bandstand Concerts to help set up the chairs etc and also to collect as the Community Council has a licence to collect donations from the public at the concerts.

9.2. Treasurer

9.2.1. Treasurers Report

Nothing much to report. The Bandstand Concerts are fully funded.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

Mr Marks briefly mentioned the correspondence received.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Saltire on Town Hall

Mr Fraser raised the issue of the need to get a new saltire on the flag pole above the town hall as he'd noted that the flag was in a sorry state. Mr Roberts informed Mr Fraser that this had been rectified as the old saltire had been taken down at the time of the Jubilee Celebrations and after these a new saltire had been raised.