

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013

For Approval

### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Ian Goudie, Kyffin Roberts, Izzy Corbin, Carol Ashworth, Judith Harding, Ken Crichton, Howard Greenwell, Alice Alexander, Penny Uprichard, Henry Paul, Henry Cheape, Marysia Denyer, Ken Fraser, Tom Waterton-Smith, Robert Maclachlan, Bernadette Cassidy, Ronnie Murphy

#### Students' Association Representatives

Chloe Hill

#### Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

Niall Scott

#### Fife Councillors

Dorothea Morrison, Brian Thomson, Frances Melville, Keith McCartney

#### Apologies

Callum Corbin, Patrick Marks, Katie

### 2. Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> November Meeting

4.2.6. The last part of the sentence should read – “there was no money in the budget to repair the collapsed manhole”.

4.4.5. Mrs Corbin suggested that the word “claimed” in line 9 should be replaced by “stated”.

The minutes were otherwise accepted as correct.

### 3. Presentation

### 4. Fife Councillors

#### 4.1. Frances Melville

##### 4.1.1. Byre Theatre

The Byre is to reopen for the short term in the new year for two major events, the Jazz Festival and Stanza in February and March 2014 respectively. The longer term issues of reopening full time have still to be resolved. Miss Hill asked about the state of the Byre as she'd been led to believe it had been stripped and wondered what would have to be done to make it useable? Cllr Melville in reply quoted, “ We have been able to put in place short term arrangements which will allow the Byre to reopen temporarily and support two strategic events in St Andrews next year. These events which are supported by Events Scotland and the Council Strategic Events Investment Programme deliver significant cultural events which are significant to St Andrews and Fife and their continued success is dependent upon their ability to use to the theatre. Meanwhile discussions are continuing with major agencies and the University to deliver a sustainable package to allow ongoing use of the theatre.

#### **4.1.2. Bowling Club/Tennis Club Direction Signals**

This matter is being progressed according to Cllr Melville

#### **4.1.3. Meeting with Mr J Birrell**

Cllr Melville reported that the Area Chair of Planning had a meeting with Mr Birrell. A wide range of issues were discussed.

#### **4.1.4. 20 mph signs**

Mr Greenwell acknowledged that he was probably aiming his question at all four councillors. He noted that there had been a proliferation of 20 mph signs around the town. He cited a couple of examples of what he considered to be an excess of signage where he thought that less signage could have achieved the same result. At Balfour Place on the way to the harbour there were four dead end signs for one entrance to one street, two historic harbour signs necessitating the erection of five new posts. Previously there had been only one 20 mph sign. He felt that all that would have been necessary was one combined sign for the three pieces of information as listed. He felt that the proliferation of signs made the harbour entrance look ridiculous and wondered why it had been done!?

#### **4.1.5. Signage at Greenside Place**

At the bottom of Greenside Place Mr Greenwell commented there had been the start of the 20 mph area with the 30 mph up Greenside Place. The Council the erected 20 mph signs at the top of Greenside Place, but didn't take away the signs at the bottom of the street leading to Langlands Road and instead put 20 mph signs on the other side of these signs. He felt that the removal of the 30 mph sign had been unnecessary.

#### **4.1.6. Pends No Entry Signs**

Mr Greenwell then commented upon the no entry signs at the bottom of the Pends by the arch. The signs weren't normal no entry signs he said but lampposts on either side of the arch way destroying he thought a noted tourist attraction in the town. He asked why something like this could be done so badly? Cllr Thomson agreed that the lamp posts were ridiculous and had sent in a complaint and was awaiting a reply.

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Flooding Problem – Bogward Road**

Cllr Thomson reported that he'd contacted the Director of Transportation after finding officials less keen to take action. Fife Council will now work to rectify the problem hopefully before the end of January, weather permitting.

#### **4.2.2. Uplighters by Subway**

Cllr Thomson reported that following his comments last month he'd received a reply to say that the uplighters had been repaired, but more recently they appear to have stopped working again. He will make officials aware of the recurrence of the fault.

#### **4.2.3. Fife Council Budget 2014-15**

Cllr Thomson informed the meeting about a consultation event being held by Fife Council the following evening in the Town Hall on the budget to which the public were invited to make comments. The meeting will be at 18.30.

#### **4.2.4. Supplementary Guidance on Affordable Housing**

This guidance is due out on the 9<sup>th</sup> December until 5<sup>th</sup> February for public consultation. The new revised guidance will attempt to have a tightened up definition of what is required as developers have been evading their responsibilities by a range of means. Miss Uprichard asked how the public could find out about this type of guidance and wondered if there would be any advert to announce where it could be easily viewed. Cllr Thomson thought that something would be published as the guidance was part of the Fife Plan process and there would be an official press

release soon. Mr Crichton asked who would meet the criteria for affordable housing as current housing rules didn't give any serious priority to local connections but to need? Cllr Thomson replied that housing need would be based on points awarded by Housing Officers depending upon an individual's circumstances. Cllr Thomson also clarified that the supplementary guidance being discussed related to the panning system not the allocation policy of Fife Council.

#### **4.2.5. Vending Machine at Church Street**

Cllr Thomson reported the appearance of this new vending machine designed to sell sandwiches etc to the public at all hours. Cllr Thomson thought that it wasn't compatible with the conservation area. He has asked officials to look into the matter but has had a view that it may require planning permission.

#### **4.2.6. Pavement @ base of Melbourne Brae**

Mrs Alexander reported that the paving in this area is in poor repair and needing to be fixed. Cllr Thomson agreed to take the comments on board to check out.

#### **4.2.7. Pavement up from Kinnesburn to Lade Braes**

Mrs Alexander also commented upon the poor state of parts of the pavement in this vicinity and felt it was an accident waiting to happen. Cllr Thomson agreed to take the comments on board to check out.

### **4.3. Keith McCartney**

#### **4.3.1. Dead Trees in Market Street**

Cllr McCartney reported that all four trees were replaced on 20/21<sup>st</sup> November

#### **4.3.2. Gates on Ladebraes**

Cllr McCartney reported that the work on the bridge over the Kinness Burn at Plash Mill Cottage is nearing completion. The rail on the west side has been undercoated and that on the east side sanded down in preparation for undercoating. Hopefully the work will be completed by Christmas. I have asked that consideration now be given to renovating the three sets of 'gates' giving access to the Lade Braes from Lawmill Gardens.

#### **4.3.3. Baker Lane sign**

Cllr McCartney reported that a replacement sign for Baker lane at the narrow Market Street end is in the list of works.

#### **4.3.4. Kennedy Gardens – Derelict Rose Bed**

Cllr McCartney reported that the derelict rosebed in the circular raised bed on the pavement at the corner of Kennedy Gardens by the entrance to Kinburn Park has been dug out and prepared for new planting.

#### **4.3.5. Hope Park Roundabout - Barriers**

Cllr McCartney reported that following a site visit the extension of barriers at the edge of the pavement on both sides of the junction with Double Dykes Road and on the south side of the junction with St Mary's Place is to be progressed with the aim of discouraging pedestrians from crossing directly over the roundabout.

#### **4.3.6. Kennedy Gardens/Donaldson Gardens – Road Defects**

Cllr McCartney reported that the road defects at the junction of Kennedy Gardens and Donaldson Gardens by the entrance to University Hall were reported and an inspection carried out on 15/11/13. This identified that the surface is in poor condition and the corner around Kennedy Gardens/Donaldson Gardens is particularly bad with repeated defects. The area involved is not suitable for 'hot box' repair and a report has been submitted to the patching technician suggesting this is an area to be considered in a future patching programme. Remedial action has been taken in the meantime.

#### **4.3.7. Potholes**

Cllr McCartney reported that – potholes in Hepburn Gardens (on south side of carriageway opposite lighting column no.20) and Old Station Road (on south side of carriageway by entrance to Station Park immediately west of the Dr Bell Pavilion and on south side of carriageway beside most westerly entrance to Station Park) reported, inspected and repaired.

#### **4.3.8. Logie's Lane – Broken Paving Slabs**

Cllr McCartney reported that an inspection was carried out on the 5/11/13 and a work order was issued for repair of broken slabs

#### **4.3.9. Lighting Faults**

Cllr McCartney reported that the following street lights were not working and had been reported for repair:

1. Broomfaulds Avenue – lighting columns 2 & 8
2. Chamberlain Street - lighting column at junction with King Street
3. Canongate – lighting columns 34, 37 & 41 and columns on south side of carriageway immediately east of pedestrian crossing and west of pedestrian crossing from Maynard Road; also on north side of carriageway, immediately opposite drive of house No. 27.
4. Hepburn Gardemns – lighting columns 5 & 27
5. Langlands road – lighting columns 6 & 7

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison.**

#### **4.4.1. Baker Lane – Missing Street Sign**

This sign will not be replaced until the next financial year and will be replaced as a conservation style sign.

#### **4.4.2. Greyfriars Garden**

There had been a meeting of local members at which this matter had been discussed. Cllr Morrison could only report at this stage that the matter was progressing

#### **4.4.3. Car Parking Issues**

Cllr Morrison reported on the enforcement of parking and how this has now changed from being enforced by the police to decriminalised parking enforcement by Fife Council. She cited examples of parking on double yellow lines and on the roundabout at Leuchars Station and how the Police had taken a low key approach to such breaches of parking rules. She had asked about possible signage to remind people not to park on double yellow lines but had been informed that it wasn't a legal requirement to put up signs in such locations as these were clearly areas where parking shouldn't take place. She also mentioned that Fife Council was being strict about the time in which people were taking to get tickets for parking and weren't prepared to extend that time. She cautioned members to be careful when parking to remember about these changes.

Mr Roberts queried whether parking on the Leuchars station island was illegal as it wasn't on the double yellow lines. Cllr Morrison reminded the meeting that by going over the double yellow lines it was an offence.

Mr Roberts also queried whether there would be any extension of the Leuchars station carpark? Cllr Melville replied that the possibility was being examined by officials but the cost of acquiring the land would be very high.

Miss Uprichard commented that in Broughty Ferry parking was free for 45 minutes. She expressed disappointment that such a scheme couldn't be set up in St Andrews

as an encouragement to local trade. She also commented upon the Leuchars parking issue and queried why land couldn't be more readily acquired. Cllr Morrison reminded her of the costs involved and also about the regular bus service connecting the town and station.

Mr Greenwell queried the lack of enforcement of the parking near his house at Greenside Place where there are double yellow lines. He feels that the wardens don't appear to come much of the central area of the town to enforce the regulations.

Mrs Adam made the meeting aware about fines levied on motorists in the carpark by Murray Place where the Council had been trying to redo the white lines. Some cars were fined £60 because they were parked outside the new lines although they had been within the old lines. She felt that the fines were unacceptable given the circumstances. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that while it was an offence not to park within the white lines it was over the top to fine drivers who had parked as described by Mrs Adam. She thought that there should have been some warning given to the public about the work to be done on the white lines to avoid this outcome.

#### **4.4.4. New Communal Waste Management Bins – Car Park beginning of Ladebraes**

Cllr Morrison had met with an official from Fife Council on the matter of the provision of communal bins in the car park at the beginning of the Ladebraes. Cllr Morrison had passed on suggestions about location to Fife Council. She felt that it was helping to solve the gull problem.

#### **4.4.5. Overhanging Branches – South Street**

This issue where there was a potential hazard for members of the public will be dealt with in the new year after the Xmas lights have come down. Mr Greenwell commented about a tree opposite Zizzis restaurant in South Street, which has branches sticking out at around five feet into which he has walked on more than one occasion. He asked if this tree could be trimmed as soon as possible to reduce the hazard it presents. Cllr Morrison agreed that the tree opposite Zizzis should be cut back as soon as possible. She'd asked officials about the tree in question and had had a response indicating that it would be trimmed only after the xmas lights had been taken down, yet it had been a problem most of the summer as Cllr Morrison had pointed out to him.

#### **4.4.6. Westport Hotel Pergola**

Cllr Morrison reported that she'd had a meeting with two Fife Council lawyers and she'd passed on the advice given to the neighbour concerned about the Pergola.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Planning Report**

Mr Greenwell reported that it had been a quiet month on the planning front. Four objections were raised during the month based on planning applications from October. The objections included the Wonderyears application and the old police station. In relation to the latter reasons for objection included plans to raise the height of the building, overcrowding and lack of parking. Another objection related to the plans for a café on top of the Golf Museum. The final objection related to an illuminated sign at Pilmours the new fish and chip shop, which has taken over Fritos formerly Peter Michaels. Apparently there are also two projecting illuminated signs already, which Mr Greenwell thought didn't have planning permission. If that proves to be the case the Planning Committee will raise an objection about the signs as well as objecting to the current application, which the Planning Committee feel breaches guidance for signage in the conservation area.

On a more positive note according to Mr Greenwell the Fife Plan consultation paper went to the executive committee for approval for the consultation to take place. This is likely to start in the early new year Mr Greenwell thought.

Mr Greenwell had also received notification from the architects dealing with the proposed extension of Rusacks. There will be an exhibition in the hotel on the 17<sup>th</sup> December between 2pm and 7 pm.

Mr Greenwell concluded by telling the meeting that his emails to Fife Development Central were being blocked for reasons he couldn't understand. He had changed email addresses but the new email had been blocked after one had got through. He asked the fife Councillors could speak to a senior official on this matter, which he felt was unacceptable. Cllr Morrison acknowledged the problem and said she'd already spoken to someone in IT services who was blocking the emails. Cllr Melville also related problems she'd had with a personal email account.

Mr Scott thought that the problem might be due to the ISP being used and commented that in the University emails from ISPs from which spam messages were coming could be blocked resulting in other messages being blocked as well.

## **5.2. Planning Queries**

Miss Uprichard asked Councillors for assistance in relation to some planning matters. The first matter related to her request to the local library if they could put up a small table on which planning papers could be displayed, as they were otherwise stuck in drawers. The Librarian gave various excuses as to why there wasn't space for such a table. She had also written to Mr Birrell seeking his advice but hadn't received a reply to date.

Miss Uprichard has now heard that an exhibition by Premier Inns & M & S for their plans on the Largo Road is to take place in the library and wondered how this was fitted in after her request was refused. She asked if Councillors could help her in this matter as she felt that there must be space available.

On another matter Miss Uprichard had written to Mr Winter on the 4<sup>th</sup> November in relation to the Pergola site and how earlier in the year the planning committee had been given only 14 days not 21 days to respond. She was still awaiting a reply on this matter although Mr Winter after a further letter sent to him sent her an email in which he had asked Mr Birrell to confirm a response to her original approach. She added that she still hadn't had a response over a week later.

A second planning matter of a similar nature related to the proposed former Argos store redevelopment. She'd sent 3 emails to Development Services since mid October and had phoned 10 days ago requesting a response but still hasn't had one, despite a promise of a call back.

She felt that there were similarities in these two cases and they concerned her. She felt that she was up against a brick wall and wasn't getting answers. She hoped that it would be possible to get answer to her queries about the two planning applications.

Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that while the CC Planning Committee had only objected to 4 applications in the previous month there had actually been 20 applications made. He felt that the plans to which the CC Planning Committee objected tended at times to overshadow the large number passed without comment.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Botanic Gardens**

Mr Scott commented that as far as he was aware the Friends of the Botanic were making substantial progress with a new business plan and there might be more news in a month or two.

### **6.2. Housing Commission**

Mr Roberts had no news nor had Cllr Morrison. Mr Scott thought that the report might be going to the printers soon once the groups involved in the input had sight

of the final version. Mr Greenwell had heard that the report was at the final proof reading stage and hopefully then to the printer for publication.

### **6.3. Reports from Reps**

None

### **6.4. Any Other Matters Arising**

#### **6.4.1. Letter from Mr Brown, Parentvoice & other contacts in relation to the Pipeland application and the conduct of the Community Council**

Mr Roberts made the meeting aware of contact he'd had from Colin Brown of Parentvoice in relation to the recent meeting and he quoted from a letter sent by Mr Brown. In his letter and a recent email he reiterated the arguments as supported by Parentvoice for a school at Pipeland and their concerns that the objection by the likes of the CC would potentially lose the school to the town. He also mentioned feedback about the CC newsletter and what many parents viewed as the contempt with which they were being treated by the content of that newsletter. Mr Brown also mentioned the level of support for Pipeland reminding the CC that over 800 local people commented in favour of the application to Fife Council.

Mr Roberts also referred to another correspondent who was a supporter of the Pipeland site who had been trying to use the Freedom of Information Act to check on how the CC had reported or dealt with the issue of the Madras Pipeland application. His view was that the CC had not dealt properly with the matter. Mr Roberts had offered to meet the gentleman to discuss the issues raised, but his offer had been declined following the publication of three letters in a recent edition of the St Andrews Citizen coincidentally from Mrs Corbin, the Planning Committee and Mr Roberts, which were viewed by him as part of a co-ordinated campaign against Pipeland and its supporters. Mr Roberts explained the background to the letters and denied the claim that this was evidence of any co-ordinated campaign. He asked members if they decided to write to the press to make it clear in their letters if they were writing as individuals not as members of the CC.

Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting that anyone was free to make comments on planning applications, for or against and pointing out the problems that they might have in being realised. She felt that it was unfortunate that people trying to point out genuine problems with the Pipeland application were being attacked for their views and thought that those attacking should try to address the problems rather than attack those who were pointing out the problems. She had also been dismayed to read an article in the Courier quoting Cllr Rowley as saying that "if people continued to undermine the application then the school might be taken out of St Andrews".

She also felt that it was surely a misconception of the planning process to say that people opposing an application were attempting to undermine the application. She concluded that everyone was free to put their views forward on planning grounds and these views should be taken into account by Fife Council.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Recreation Committee**

#### **7.1.1. Recreation Committee Report**

Mrs Denyer reported on the success of the Civic Reception the previous Friday and thanked all the Councillors who took part.

Mrs Denyer reminded members that she was still looking for donations for the Xmas Party and thanked those who had already donated. She also sought some indication of who might be able to attend and help at the party. Mrs Ashworth also urged members to come along and help at the party in some fashion.

Mrs Denyer is hoping to display the certificates awarded to St Andrews in Bloom in the display cabinets within the town hall.

Mrs Denyer also thanked St Andrews Partnership and the Merchants Association for the improvement in the xmas lights put up this year.

Mrs Denyer also wondered whether the CC might be interested to consider nominating a building in the town for the Civic Trust "My Place" award about which an email had been circulated. Mr Roberts suggested that the possibility could be discussed at the January meeting as nominations were not due in until the end of January.

Mr Roberts also mentioned the success of the Ceilidh in the Quad on St Andrews night, which was attended by large numbers of people.

## **7.2. General Purposes Committee**

Mr Roberts reported that there had been a GP Meeting at which a number of items had been discussed. He had not written up the minutes but promised to circulate them when available

## **7.3. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Watson 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs McKenzie 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs E Methven

## **7.4. Health, Education & Welfare**

Nothing to report

## **7.5. Rail Sub – Committee**

No report

## **8. New Business**

None

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

### **9.1. Chair**

No other

### **9.2. Treasurer**

#### **9.2.1. Treasurers Report**

Mr Paul reminded members to put in their expenses claim asap.

### **9.3 Secretary**

#### **9.3.1. Correspondence – see Appendix A.**

Mr Roberts went through the correspondence as listed in the appendix and sought comments or further discussion where appropriate. He also mentioned items emailed to the CC as detailed below:

#### **9.3.2. Common Good Fund Applications**

Mr Roberts mentioned that the CC had been asked to comment on two applications to the Common Good Fund. One was for £2000 towards the cost of the statue of Hamish the Cat and the second and larger one for £20000 was from the Harbour Trust towards the redevelopment of the harbour. Plans include installing pontoons making the harbour area more like a marina for mooring yachts. Mr Fraser queried how these applications compared with the annual income of the CGF? Mr Paul reminded the meeting that the payment towards the Byre interest costs of £20000 was no longer being paid giving the fund back that amount of money. At present he

informed the meeting that the CGF had about £58000 in the current account. He explained about annual income from the Lammas and property rentals of around £31000. Money not used in the current account at the end of the financial year is moved into the savings account. Mr Crichton acknowledged the benefit of supporting the Harbour Trust but couldn't quite see the "Common Good" in the Hamish statue? Mrs Denyer suggested that its benefit would be as a tourist attraction. Mr Roberts reminded members that the planning application for the statue went in in the name of the CC. Miss Uprichard thought the application should be supported.

It was agreed by the meeting to support both applications.

### **9.3.3. Community Resilience in Action**

Mr Roberts mentioned the email received in relation to this idea with a short video. All CCs were being encouraged to think about the idea.

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

### **10.1. StayinStAndrews Quiz Night**

Mrs Denyer mentioned an email received from this organisation about a Quiz Night on 11<sup>th</sup> December to which the proceeds would go to local worthy causes. She wondered about the possibility of raising a team of up to 6 from the CC? Mr Roberts suggested raising a team by sending an email around, but Mrs Denyer acknowledged that it looked to be a non starter.