

[\[2002 index\]](#)

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Draft Minutes - March 2002

for approval

1. Attendance

Community Councillors: Ken Crichton, George Davidson, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Joe Lamb, Pete Lindsay, Dennis Macdonald, Donald Macgregor, Callum Macleod, Lindsay Murray, Gordon Pay, Joe Peterson, Frank Riddell, Cynthia Tero, Jean Thompson, Penny Uprichard.

Nominated/Co-opted: Bill Sangster, David Reed

Fife Councillors: Sheila Hill, Jane Ann Liston, Frances Melville.

Apologies: Tom Plant, Bill Brooks, Chris Lesurf, Archie Strachan, Stephanie Baker Nicholson.

2. Minutes of February 2002

4.4.7. Logies Lane/graveyard excavation 10, not 20, years ago (backed by a recent Citizen '10 years ago' column).

Amended minutes accepted

3. Presentations

3.1. Police

PC Moira West, Sgt Graeme Kimmond attended to answer questions.

3.1.1. Car parking on pavements

Cynthia Tero asked what could be done, citing a particularly blatant incident at Melbourne Brae, which Cllr Jane Ann Liston had also raised with the police.

Sgt Kimmond explained that the police have no further powers than ticketing, either £30 for a basic fixed penalty, or £60 for an endorsable penalty if the offence poses particular danger/obstruction. He noted that St Andrews has the highest rate of issuing tickets in Fife; he said the Police were aware that should vigilance be relaxed St Andrews would become a parking free-for-all due to its special circumstances.

He explained that any parking which causes an obstruction is an offence. In relation to pavement parking there are some grey areas - for example some residents of Lamond Drive park on pavement where it is particularly wide; his understanding in this case is that the pavement there may be intended for dual use.

Asked if a sticker campaign, for instance a 'Do Not Park Here' notice stuck to an offside window, would be considered, Sgt Kimmond said the Police are only allowed to do this for 'Police Aware' notices on broken down/abandoned vehicles.

3.2. Mrs Johnstone

Raised a number of concerns about community council.

She did not feel community council adequately represents council house tenants, that it is biased in favour of house owners because of those sitting on community council. She complained that the first issue of the Bulletin had suggested that people pay council tax or rent at the St Mary's Place Office; she pays both.

She disagreed with community council's complaint against The Citizen.

She passed on a suggestion from her daughter that money for the Jubilee should be put to training guide dogs, not used to support the Masque discussed last month.

She complained that the council was in breach of statutory duty to display housing allocation policy and lists of houses available at the Fife Council Local Office. She held that providing housing for asylum seekers was discrimination against local people. She said that (Fife) council owned houses and flats are lying vacant for extended periods of time leading to loss of revenue to the housing budget.

Murdo Macdonald answered that she and community council would have to agree to disagree over the matter of the specific complaint to The Citizen. Community council does its best to represent all of St Andrews; its make up reflects those who choose to stand for election - perhaps more renters should be on council, but first they have to come forward. There is no community council funding available for the Jubilee; the Masque is not going ahead in any case and the question was whether to apply for Awards for All funding. Housing matters are not the remit of Community Councils. These should be taken up with the Fife Councillors or the appropriate service in Fife Council. Mrs Johnstone disagreed with this; she said that she had been passed information by the Chief Executive of Fife Council that Community Councils had the same statutory duties to council tenants as Fife Region. She was asked to provide details of this communication as involvement in housing provision and policy at the level she suggested did not match anyone else's understanding of community council's rôle.

Cllr Frances Melville indicated that she would take up some of the points concerning Fife Council if Mrs Johnstone would pass on details of her concerns.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville (West)

4.1.1. West Sands Traffic Barriers

No strong opinions were expressed against the proposed work which included the removal of one of the roundabouts. Bill Sangster asked if the revenue from the automatic barrier would be into local or general Fife funds? Frances Melville thought it may be ring-fenced locally, like parking income.

4.1.2. Cycle Lanes

Ian Goudie asked where is the review of the Canongate cycle lanes that was supposed to take place 12-18 months. Creating more lanes seemed premature without a review of the effectiveness of those existing. He also remarked on the poor road surface in the areas marked off for cycle lanes, citing Hepburn Gardens as a particular example. Joe Lamb felt that the Canongate cycle lane had achieved nothing and was a waste of money.

4.1.3. Parking Vouchers

Cllr Melville remarked in the difficulty of finding somewhere selling a parking voucher at certain times of day. She thought other systems may have to be considered. Penny Upritchard wished that any replacement system should not be so intrusive on the badly threatened town centre environment.

4.2. Sheila Hill (South)

4.2.1. Development at John Knox Road

Planning Service not happy with a lot of aspects of the proposals which are now going back for changes, possibly full resubmission. Also looking at how the green belt affects/will be affected by the proposals.

4.2.2. Works at Viaduct Walk

This is part of the work on the cycle lane network; making an lesser gradient for easier access at both ends of the viaduct.

Several members remarked on the poor information to the public on the nature and duration of the works being undertaken through town for the cycle lanes, especially in the case of this particularly disruptive blocking of the walk. The lack of possible feedback from the informed public about unanticipated effects of planned works was also pointed out. Dennis Macdonald felt that road taxes should not be used to support special treatment for cyclists. Pete Lindsay responded that cyclists were subject to general taxation which pays for road building etc which is not paid for completely by taxation on motorists.

This lack of information from Fife Council here was also generalised to other Fife Council operations which have been poorly, if at all, explained to neighbours. Murdo Macdonald praised Cllr Jane Ann Liston for personally writing to those living near by Madras College at Kilrymont Road about some works going on there after it had been queried with her. The works were to extend the car parking/access she discovered, but none of the council services involved had thought to inform neighbours. He thought the Council should undertake that job rather than leaving it to the efforts of individual councillors.

4.2.3. Craigtoun Road Wall

Although a wall is being built it is a 'domesticated' decorative wall rather than reinstatement of the previous structure. Cllr Hill was asked to check whether this was in line with the planning consent. Jean Thompson also asked whether the previously existing hedge was to be reinstated. Cllr Hill had noticed some greenery but was unsure if this was planned or wild growth.

4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

4.4.1. Masque proposal

Will not be going ahead this year. While a number of people attending the public meeting were prepared to help no one felt able to take on any major organisational rôle. "All indians and no chiefs".

4.4.2. Community Council seminars There was insufficient support for the Balmullo meeting, though the Auchtermuchty and Cellardyke meetings went ahead. She had tried to promote the idea that decentralisation did not mean only holding meetings in locations inconvenient for those in major settlements, such as St Andrews or Cupar, but this idea had fallen on stony ground.

4.4.3. Chartered Institute of Housing Conference (Dundee) She will be attending this as a Fife Council delegate next week. She will be very interested to hear how other areas deal with the problems of homelessness, especially finding accommodation, and affordable housing.

Ken Crichton felt that 'affordable housing' is a misnomer as the homes would quickly be resold at 'market' prices, removing them from the affordable bracket and at great profit to the seller. Cllr Liston replied that to guard against this a specific extension to the normal time limit before reselling at market prices had been negotiated for eg St Nicholas Farm which is restricted for 15 years. Scottish Homes policy is to restrict sale for 5 years; in exceptional cases of pressure on the affordable housing supply restrictions were sometimes extended to 10 years. Scottish Homes had recognised the extraordinary pressure on St Andrews' affordable housing by imposing the longer limit. Gordon Pay raised an alternative to current British models of affordable housing citing the continental model of Housing Co-operatives.

5. Planning Committee Report

Report circulated

Report of the PLANNING COMMITTEE Meetings of 11.2.02 and 25.2.02 for the Community Council Meeting of 4 March 2002.

1. Planning applications.

(i) 111, Bridge Street.

It was agreed to object to the proposed block of flats which would be higher than the existing structure, the flats on the other side of James St and the properties on the other side of Bridge St.

(ii) John Knox Road site.

It was agreed to seek the use of 3 dimensional scaffolding to outline the heights of the houses proposed

(iii) Pavilion Tea Rooms.

Miss Uprichard agreed to write deploring the loss of the architectural detail of the present structure and arguing that the proposed glass walls would look incongruous in the context of the stone-built buildings on The Scores.

(iv) Golf shop, Golf Place.

Miss Uprichard agreed to submit an objection to the proposed sign, which we regard as failing to

maintain the tone of this sensitive location, due to its wording and its unnecessarily large size.

2. Structure Plan.

Miss Uprichard agreed to write to the Scottish Executive, arguing that the wording describing the proposed Green Belt should require the safeguarding of the landscape setting of St Andrews, rather than merely the preservation of existing views.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. Meeting with The Citizen editor

[February 6.2.] Keep on agenda.

Murdo Macdonald to arrange

6.2. Environmental Audit questionnaire

[February 9.1.] Joe Peterson reported he only had three responses on which to base his completion of the questionnaire, but nonetheless he had tried to fill it in, in line with his understanding of community council's policies. He briefly read it through. A copy is lodged with the Secretary.

Joe Lamb commented that on such a poor response it seemed to him that only lip-service was being paid to environmental issues. Only a radical change of lifestyle would advert forthcoming climate change. Ian Goudie replied that a lack of comments did not reflect a lack of interest, rather consultation fatigue faced with such a long questionnaire and short time to respond.

Gordon Pay asked the Fife Councillors about the status of Agenda 21, the social inclusive environmental strategy agreed on at the Rio summit. All local authorities were to have an A21 strategy by 1996, by 2000, now by 2002. Where is Fife's strategy?

Cllr Frances Melville replied that the original focus on Agenda 21 had been spread through various parts of Fife's policy, particularly community planning.

7. New Business

7.1. Right for Fife

Having heard the points from Menzies Campbell MP's letter on hospital provision in Right For Fife it was agreed that a letter be written backing Kirkcaldy as the central specialist hospital over Dunfermline because of the travel issues. The link to Ninewells should not be prejudiced by support for Kirkcaldy.

Pete Lindsay to write

7.2. Golf Anniversary memorial

a) Greetings from St Andrews to Huddersfield and Glen View golf Clubs

Murdo Macdonald to write

b) Memorial tree

Publicity to take up with the Links Trust

7.3. Strip the Willow

A committee to be formed to look into the practicality of this and report. It was also suggested this be tied in with the Maggie's Centre appeal (7.4).

Callum MacLeod, Cynthia Tero, Lindsay Murray

7.5. Fire Brigade Stakeholder Consultation

Reply to cover: a breakdown of response times, response quality, effectiveness of fire prevention. National guidelines should be made available to judge effectiveness. For widest coverage performance figures should be covered in the press.

Pete Lindsay to write

7.6. Clean Coast Scotland

Health Education & Welfare to respond

7.7. St Andrews in Bloom Campaign

Meeting agreed to donate the same amount as last year.

Pete Lindsay/Archie Strachan to arrange

7.12. Jubilee Ceilidh

Murdo Macdonald to meet Flora Selwyn

8. Reports from Officers

8.1. Chair

8.1.1. Retiral of Jock Ballantyne

Town Hall hallkeeper. Murdo Macdonald was very disappointed to hear Jock had retired (on health grounds) and that we had not been invited to the reception to pay our respects. Cllr Jane Ann Liston explained that it appeared to be due to incompetence rather than conspiracy as she had only heard of it herself on the very day, some invitations apparently having 'gone astray'.

Meeting agreed to making a presentation of our own, with a budget of up to £150.

Murdo Macdonald to arrange

8.1.2. Archie Strachan

Has reluctantly retired as Bandstand convenor due to his age and health. No member felt able to take over the organisation of the concerts, so it was agreed that a public appeal be made.

Pete Lindsay to advertise

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1. Bulletin Responses

Pete Lindsay drew attention to the latest set of bulletin responses and asked what further action should be taken with them and the previous batches. He has acknowledged receipt and where possible informed the respondent of any policy or action already taken by community council on the points raised.

Publicity committee to analyse for points to follow up.

Ken Crichton reported that he is receiving more enquiries for the senior citizens' Christmas tea party due to the bulletin.

9. Reports from Committees and Representatives

9.1. Publicity

Survey of members interests and abilities.

Publicity Committee to draw up form

9.2. Recreation

Ken Crichton gave a verbal report summarising the committee's plans for the coming year:

July/Aug - Spot the Odd One Out fundraising competition.

26 Sep 7pm - Gardens competition awards

28th Nov to 1st Dec - Art & Photography exhibition

Senior Citizens party - TBA for just after the end of the university term in December

9.3. Health Education & Welfare

No one turned up to last meeting. Next 12th March

9.4. Representatives

9.4.1. Community Safety Panel

Bill Sangster. The CCTV cameras will be commissioned in two stages. Partial operations in May, full by end of June 2002.

9.4.2. Green Belt Forum

Ian Goudie reported that, assuming Green Belt goes ahead, the Forum hopes it will be possible to present a common line on its boundaries with this community council and the Preservation Trust.

9.4.3. Kingask Liaison

Dennis Macdonald. Work to start in June/July on the second course and clubhouse. Now main phase of development complete liaison committee soon to be disbanded.

10. AOCB

none