

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### 0. New Member

Mr McLeod announced that there had been two applications for membership of the Community Council received. Mrs Penelope Fraser and Mr Alan Tricker had applied. However it was agreed that as Mr Tricker wasn't present in person that formal consideration of his membership be put back to the May meeting.

Mrs Fraser was asked to speak to her application. Mrs Fraser told the meeting that she had lived in St Andrews for over thirty years and during that time she had been involved in a number of voluntary organisations. Her involvement included the St Andrews & District Safety Panel, Victim Support Fife, STACS and Soroptomists International. She explained that the latter was a bit like Rotary but had been set up for women at a time before women were allowed to join Rotary. Mrs Fraser's membership was agreed without dissent by the meeting. Mrs Fraser signed the Declaration of Office as required by Community Councillors and was welcomed as a member of the Community Council.

### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, Iain Munn, Izzy Corbin, Patrick Marks, Judith Harding, Greg Newman, Harry Stewart, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Ken Crichton, Alistair Newton, Penelope Fraser

#### Students' Association Representatives

Hannah Raleigh  
Charlotte Andrew

#### Co-Opted

Niall Scott  
Lindsey Adam

#### Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Dorothea Morrison

**Apologies** - Keith McCartney, Dita Stanis-Trachen, Henry Paul, Frances Melville, Niall Scott, Aine Bennett

## 2. Minutes of Meeting – March 2017

The minutes were accepted as correct.

### 3. Presentations

#### 4. Fife Councillor.

##### 4.1. Frances Melville - apologies

##### 4.2. Brian Thomson

#### **4.2.1. New Car Parking @Leuchars**

Cllr Thomson reported that work was to start on the extension of the Leuchars Car Park on 10<sup>th</sup> April. It is scheduled to take 8 weeks.

#### **4.2.2. Hepburn Gardens**

Cllr Thomson reported that Hepburn Gardens (western end) will be closed for several days from 6<sup>th</sup> April to allow remedial works to be carried out following the poor job done by the contractors when the new surface was first laid in 2016.

#### **4.2.3. Damaged Barrier opposite Hope Park Church**

Cllr Thomson reported that the barrier on the other side of the roundabout by Hope Park Church is still in a damaged state and Cllr Thomson was trying to push for its repair asap.

#### **4.2.4. No Cycling Signs**

Cllr Thomson reported that the resident who'd put up the signs had put anti vandal screws on one signs to make it much more difficult to remove. Cllr Thomson added that despite negative aspect of the action it did bring to the fore the question about the legitimacy of cycling on the Lade Braes and might result in greater clarity about the situation. He confirmed that the section between Queens Terrace and Bridge Street was an adopted footpath therefore there was no cycling permitted. The next section between Bridge Street and Hepburn Gardens was a core path and therefore cyclists were officially permitted. On the remainder there is no formal designation and the Land Access code has indicated that cyclists are permitted but they should cycle responsibly and dismount if necessary at narrow sections to allow pedestrians to pass. Some clearer and more responsible signage advising cyclists how to use the route had been proposed and might be erected in the future.

#### **4.2.5. Lights at West Port**

Cllr Thomson said there had been partial success with repairs on these Uplighters with the east side now working but not the west side. Cllr Thomson was seeking further clarification on the reason for the west side Uplighters not working.

#### **4.2.6. St. Andrews Colts Football Club**

This local football club is very successful but increasing numbers have put pressure on the limited facilities at Tom Morris Drive. So he was with others in conversation with the Club and officials about the possibility of the club using a part of Station Park playing fields.

#### **4.2.7. Ring and Go Parking Charge**

Mrs Harding wondered about the parking charge levied by drivers paying for their ticket by this method of parking payment and why the firm didn't make the charge clear at point of purchase? Cllr Thomson thought the charge might be about 35p but would check out the facts for Mrs Harding on the matter.

#### **4.2.8. Street Cleaning Issue**

Mrs Harding had noted some problems with the uplift of rubbish dropped in the streets in her area. She had tried to get a straight answer from officials about the work and its rules and regulations with minimal success. Cllr Thomson and Mrs Harding to check on the possibility of an official coming to a CC meeting to answer questions.

#### **4.2.9. College Street**

Mr Jardine wondered why cars were parking on this short street, which was meant to be for pedestrians and cyclists only. He added that chains and other impediments appeared to have been removed allowing taxis to use the street as a freeway. He wondered who had the authority to take the bollards away and take the chain down? He reminded the meeting that the street was only meant to be traversed by cyclists and pedestrians according to the sign he'd described. Cllr Thomson replied that as far as he was aware there should be no vehicles on that street and he agreed to check with officers. He thought that someone had not been

carrying out their job in relation to maintaining the restrictions on access. Mr Greenwell added that he could testify to the abuse of access by vehicles and the absence of bollards at either end.

### **4.3. Keith McCartney - apologies**

#### **4.3.1. Street Lights**

Cllr McCartney reported that **Street Lights** – the following street lights were not working and were reported for repair:

Petheram Bridge Car Park – lighting column 13

Queen's Gardens – lighting column 01

Queen's Terrace – lighting columns 1 and 6

#### **4.3.2. Graffiti**

Cllr McCartney reported that tag' in pink paint reported for removal from:

Canogate – grey junction box outside school gate on Canogate

Lade Braes – top of litter bin beside lighting column 5 in Lade Braes (Path 491/158)

Lade Braes – west side of Footpath Closed sign near bridge to Hallowhill

#### **4.3.3. Potholes**

Cllr McCartney reported that potholes were reported and repaired at the following locations:

John Knox Road – by drain on south side of road across from lighting column 7 and on south side of road across from lighting column 2 and from lighting column 14

Lawmill Gardens – centre and north side of road across from lighting column 11

Old Guardbridge Road – at entrance to Station Park immediately west of the Dr Bell Pavilion and in the centre of the road approximately 20 yards west of this location

#### **4.3.4. Illuminated Road Signs**

Cllr McCartney reported that the lights on the following illuminated road signs were not working and were reported for repair:

Church Street – 'No Entry' sign on the east side of Church Street at its junction with South Street

Greyfriars Garden – 'No Entry' sign (C) on traffic island on east side of Greyfriars Garden at junction with North Street

North Street – 'No left turn except cycles' on south side of North Street east of junction with Greyfriars Garden

South Castle Street – 'No Entry' sign on west side of South Castle Street at its junction with South Street

South Street – 'Roundabout' sign facing towards South Castle Street as it exits onto South Street

#### **4.3.5. Belisha Beacon**

Cllr McCartney reported that the belisha beacon on the east side of the pedestrian crossing on Bell Street at its junction with South Street is beyond repair. A replacement is on order and will be installed as soon as it comes into stock

#### **4.3.6. Argyle Street Car Park**

Cllr McCartney reported that damage to the retaining wall of the flower bed on the east side of the entrance to the car park on the south side of Argyle Street was reported for repair, a works order was issued and the repair carried out.

## **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

### **4.4.1. Railings**

Cllr Morrison gave an update about the railings issue. The area needing repaired was near the castle. Cllr Morrison reported that repairing these railings to a proper blacksmith standard could be between £10000 and £100000. She suggested that the CC might want to consider the possibility of requesting funding for repairs being paid from the Common Good Fund if the cost was reasonable. She added that there was £10000 left from another project, which had come in under budget. Mrs Harding in reply said that she thought that some of the railings especially those down by the sea along where the Scores are and the Bruce Embankment could be potentially dangerous unless repaired soon.

### **4.4.2. Tree Issues – Ladebraes**

Cllr Morrison reported that after Dr Shepherd's comments about trees in the Ladebraes in the last CC meeting, she'd had a walk along the Lade Braes with one of the Council's officials with knowledge of tree maintenance. They'd identified one dead tree needing felled and others needing a bit of work, however as it is in bird nesting season work can't be done until the end of that period. It would also take another 6-8 weeks to get planning permission. She added that it would cost around £5000 to get the tree work done. Funding she suggested could come from the Common Good Fund if the Community Council thought it was a worthwhile project to be funded. Dr Shepherd said he wasn't happy with Fife Council's response on this matter and couldn't understand what was wrong with sacrificing some fledgling birds to reduce the chance of a baby in a buggy being injured by a falling tree. He wondered about Fife Council's priorities? He also wondered about the need to have planning permission to deal with trees? Cllr Morrison replied that the trees issue was a matter of law and not just a policy of Fife Council. She added that if planning permission were applied for in advance of the right time to deal with the trees it wouldn't delay the work. Cllr Morrison also explained the process of preparation for the work by officials. Cllr Morrison said that she'd get officials to put in a planning application, but warned the meeting that with council elections a change of Council could see different decisions being taken.

### **4.4.3. Fountain Update**

Cllr Morrison reported that the fountain in Market Square was now working following replacement of faulty piping. Future repairs she added would have to come from the Common Good Fund. The only other aspect needing fixed or replaced was the "rose" at the top of the fountain. Mr Greenwell questioned whether the fountain was working when he'd walked past it around earlier in the day.

### **4.4.4. Path Lamond Drive to Kilrymont Place**

Cllr Morrison has received an email from the Chairman of the CC based on an issue raised on the CC Facebook page about the state of this path. She'd had an official look at the path and he is getting a quote from Transportation to see if the path could be tarmaced. She acknowledged that funding for the work might be an issue.

### **4.4.5. Cycling along the Lade Braes**

Cllr Morrison acknowledged that there was nothing to stop cycling since the abolition of the byelaws. She added that part of the Lade Braes such as the area she lived in was classed as a footpath. She informed the meeting that officers were looking at how the Lade Braes should be signed in relation to modes of permissible transport. Questions such as whether it should be a shared use path were being considered. Mr Greenwell commented that at the Queens Terrace end of the path he'd regularly come across Madras pupils cycling something, which he felt could be dangerous because of the acute bend in that path. He felt that signage was important to make people aware of the status of the path to reduce inappropriate use. Cllr Morrison in reply had asked for a safety audit to be done of that path to get a clear and appropriate response to the issue.

#### **4.4.6. Barrier Proposal for West Sands**

Cllr Morrison reminded the members that an email had been forwarded via the secretary from the CEO of the Links Trust about a proposal to put in a barrier to restrict access at certain times of camper vans as a way to reduce the issue of illegal overnight parking. The email from Euan Loudon had included a map showing roughly the location of the proposed barrier and fencing. Cllrs Morrison and Thomson had agreed she said to try and answer questions on the subject and if they couldn't answer to take the question back to the Links Trust for clarification. Mr Greenwell who said he'd suggested such a barrier some years ago felt that the proposed location was still too far out and would only mean camper vans parking in the area before the barrier. In reply Cllr Morrison said that security officers employed by the Links Trust had been going along and speaking to van owners and there had been a huge reduction the number of vans using the area this year, compared to the same time last year.

Miss Uprichard said that in her view it wasn't legal to put a barrier across a road adopted or unadopted. She reminded the meeting about the history of the previous charging for access to the West Sands, which eventually stopped as it was deemed illegal. She asked what was to happen to people in camper vans who might want to drive out in the daytime just as day users of the West Sands? Cllr Morrison confirmed that the barrier would only be used in the nighttime not daytime. Miss Uprichard wondered whether it might be possible to have a byelaw? Cllr Morrison replied that under the Links Trust there was legal authority to determine who could access the area.

In reply to a comment by Dr Goudie Cllr Morrison said that there would be adequate signage to inform drivers of the night time restrictions.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Planning Committee Report**

Miss Uprichard reported that there had been two meetings in March at which they'd looked at 14 applications and put in objections to two applications. These were applications in Murray Park and the Strathkinness High Road. The committee had also commented on the visit by the Kelpie sculptures and had asked Fife Council to ensure that the ground used was restored to its original condition when the display had finished.

Other matters discussed had included the Fifeplan for which there is now a notice to adopt the plan. The plan is 241 pages and Miss Uprichard had read most of it. She had noticed that at the end of every section there had been comments that "no modification was needed". She felt that all the objections had been ignored.

She then gave a brief summary about St Andrews West development proposals. She reminded the meeting that this was a proposal for over 100 houses in the west of St Andrews. It was first mentioned in 2002, when the consortium wanting to progress the idea had put a scoping brief forward. Fife Council wasn't that interested in the proposal so nothing more was heard about it for a while. Miss Uprichard went on to say that in 2003 Mr Winter and Mr Prestwood joined Fife Council and she thought that they seemed more sympathetic to the proposals. In the second draft of the Structure Plan in 2006 the proposal was included. More recently the university has put in a number of planning applications and there has been a PAN about St Andrews West.

AT the present time she added there were actually two applications in the area in question, one being for 370 houses and other things lodged in May 2015, while the larger plan hasn't reached the formal application stage at present. She felt that there would be a number of problems for the latter proposed development in relation to matters like traffic. A past Fife Council assessment of traffic issues in 2002 had highlighted the possibility of severe traffic gridlock because of the large number of extra cars. Another issue related to the need for a road to allow access to the area from the A91. The formal planning application is still to be made for the St Andrews West Wardrop proposal and she couldn't say when that might take place. She felt that the CC should be informing the public about the proposals.

Mr McLeod sought clarification about the 370 houses at Craigtoun North proposal asking if these were in addition to the 1000 in the St Andrews West proposal? Miss Uprichard said that there were two planning proposals, the Craigtoun North for the 370 houses which was an application and the Wardrop St Andrews West which wasn't yet a formal application. She added that she'd been asking Fife Council when there would be a Masterplan for the whole of the Western extension? The initial reply she'd received had indicated that it was in the Fifeplan, but as she noted that hadn't been adopted yet. She had also received an email indicating that there might be more than one Masterplan which she also noted was against the Local Plan outcome. She added that Craigtoun North wanted their own Masterplan, which would mean that the Wardrop proposals would also require a Masterplan. She wasn't certain that would work.

Cllr Thomson explained that there was the Western Development framework diagram, which was in the Local Plan. In the Reporters examination report, which went into the Fifeplan, they state that you don't necessarily need just one Masterplan for the area but could have more than one. The planner's interpretation of the Reporters report was that one could do a Masterplan for the Craigtoun North area but for the Wardrop area they would only consider one package, which would include the school. Cllr Thomson's understanding was that the Wardrop planning application will include a Masterplan and that will have to be determined before the school proposal can be determined. Mr Greenwell from his experience with the way the number of houses and flats in the development next to him has risen from just over a hundred to over 400, thought that the development in the western side of town could also rise above the structure plan numbers.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Facebook Update**

Mr McLeod briefly reminded members of the regular reports issued about Facebook usage.

### **6.2. Reports from Representatives**

#### **6.2.1. Nominations Committee – St Andrews Community Trust**

Mr McLeod reported that there had been six expressions of interest in joining the Community Trust as co-opted directors. Five met the residency criteria, but one applicant only worked but not resident in the town so was excluded. The closing date for applications had been the end of March. Mr Greenwell advised that the next meeting of the Directors of the Trust would be on the first Tuesday of June so the directors would welcome a report by the third week of May at the latest.

### **6.3. Other Matters Arising**

#### **6.3.1. Election Hustings**

Mr Greenwell reminded the meeting that there had been a brief discussion at the end of the March meeting as to whether the CC should organise a Hustings in respect of the Fife Council elections in early May. At that time the feeling hadn't for various reasons favoured the idea, but since then Mr Greenwell had discovered that only one hustings had been organised in the town to date. He wanted the CC to reconsider the idea of a Hustings. He date being considered would be Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, a week before the election. Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that when he was chair a few years ago the CC had held a successful hustings in Kilrymont and he supported the idea put forward by Mr Greenwell. Mr Greenwell added that the idea would be to hire the supper room and he thought that the CC should put its name on such an event. Miss Uprichard explained that as the other Hustings were aimed at students and cyclists respectively, there was a feeling that a general one for the town was important to organise. Mr McLeod wondered if the meeting would support this idea and pay for the room rent and an advertisement, up to £100. This was agreed by the meeting.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Recreation Committee**

Mr Greenwell reminded members about the Coffee Morning at the end of the week in the supper room of the Town Hall. He thanked those who had volunteered already to assist. He reminded the meeting that entry to the event would be free as a means of hopefully attracting more of the public to attend.

Mr Roberts then reported on the progress in organising the Bandstand Concerts with seven concerts so far arranged from 16<sup>th</sup> July to end of August. He asked for volunteers to assist at these concerts.

### **7.2. GP Meeting**

No meeting

### **7.3. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Lindsey Adam 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr Ashcroft 3<sup>rd</sup> Innes Methven

### **7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee**

No report

### **7.5. Rail Sub Committee**

No meeting this month, but he'd attended the Starlink AGM recently and this had also been attended by John Purvis former MEP.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Gateway Café**

Mr Stanis-Trachen who was unable to attend the meeting raised this item. Dr Goudie commented that the threat to the future of the café was an issue concerning university staff that worked in the vicinity. There had been a petition by staff to save the café but it hadn't been successful. He felt that if there was any chance in overturning the decision action would need to be sooner rather than later. Mr McLeod wondered if the CC would support writing to the University expressing regret at the decision and asking if it could be reversed? Ms Andrew commented that while she should declare an interest in the matter she said that the decision had been ratified and that it was proposed to encourage staff to use Blackadder Hall instead. She thought that it wouldn't do any harm for the CC to write in expressing its regret about the loss of a public facility. Mr Jardine formerly a university employee commented that the Gateway wasn't much used by the public at the weekend and wasn't making any money. He informed the meeting that there were also staff restaurant facilities in nearby buildings such as the Medical Building.

### **8.2. European City of the Reformation**

Not discussed due to the absence of Mr Stanis Trachen.

### **8.3. May Day Dip**

Ms Raleigh explained the event due to take place at the beginning of May involving students taking a mass dip on the beach at the East Sands after an evening of social activity. In the past there had been issues about the aftermath with items such as broken glass littering the beach and causing a potential hazard to people and animals. Mr McLeod how the clean up was usually done. Ms Raleigh explained that volunteers cleaned the beach. Mr Greenwell thought that the main issues related to the bonfires and their aftermath. He added that it was quite dangerous for a few days afterwards due to the possibility of broken glass. He acknowledged that things had improved in the clean up but still left a lot to be desired. Mr Newman said that

he event used to be held on the Castle Sands but that had stopped for various reasons, but he felt that it might be worth reconsidering as it would be much less inconvenient to the public.

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Mr McLeod reported that he'd attended an Exhibition preview at the St Andrews Museum on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and had submitted an article to St Andrews in Focus on the theme of change. He sought ideas for future articles and suggested that he'd be happy if other members wished to write an article relevant to the CC.

This coming weekend he would be representing the CC at the Kate Kennedy Procession.

Mr McLeod then mentioned an idea he'd mentioned in an email to members a way to reach out to the community. The idea was to sponsor or support the Food bank, which supports needy families. He was hoping to set up a small team to run the activity. Mr Roberts thought that there should be some criteria to clarify which sort of charities the CC would support. Dr Shepherd thought that as the charity was a local one it was particularly worthy of support. Mrs Fraser thought that the charity should be supported if only to get the mindset of the people running it to get them to consider wider community. She thought that the wider community should become involved. Mr Newton thought he supported both views. He felt that there was no clear idea what the CC supported or didn't support in the community. He thought it was important to have a broader discussion about what the CC could do in the community with any money it had. Mr McLeod thanked members for their comments and felt that a consensus had been reached about his proposal to support the Food bank in some way. He proposed to backdate the support to the beginning of the year and then review at the end of the calendar year.

Mr McLeod then reminded members that the CC ties had arrived and were available for purchase for £14.50 with the income to be counted as assets when sold. He also reminded member that they could get the coat of arms embroidered on sweaters by the same firm.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Treasurers Monthly Report on the website.

### **9.3 Secretary**

#### **9.3.1. Correspondence**

Mr Marks briefly went through the correspondence received and forwarded as appropriate to the members for action or information. Mr Marks also reminded members that the May meeting was also the AGM, so end of year reports would be required and also nominations for the official posts of Chair, Vice Chair/s, Treasurer, Secretary and Convenor/Vice Convenor.

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

No other business.