

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes –3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013

### For Approval

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## 1. Attendance

### Community Councillors

Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Henry Paul, Kyffin Roberts, Izzy Corbin, Carol Ashworth, Judith Harding, Ken Crichton, Howard Greenwell, Alice Alexander, Marysia Denyer, Patrick Marks, Robert McLachlan, Henry Cheape, Bernadette Cassidy.

### Students' Association Representatives

Freddie fforde

### Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

Niall Scott

### Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Frances Melville,

### Apologies

Keith McCartney, Dorothea Morrison, Penny Uprichard, Tom Waterton-Smith, Ronnie Murphy, Callum Corbin, Catherine Rowe.

## 2. Minutes of April 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting

3.2. Beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> para should read, "In her opinion" not "In her pinion".

4.2.4. 3<sup>rd</sup> para, when talking about the consultation, "P56" should read "P 5 or P6"

4.3.11 "as" should be "asked"

4.4.6. "Carthy Stone" should be "McCarthy & Stone"

6.2. "29<sup>th</sup> May" should be "29<sup>th</sup> June"

## 3. Presentation

## 4. Fife Councillors

### 4.1. Frances Melville

#### 4.1.1. Abattoir Planning Application

The current application for the redevelopment of the abattoir site has been withdrawn. This had been recommended for refusal because the application didn't comply with the type of use of the site as recommended in the Local Plan.

#### 4.1.2. St Leonards Field Site Visit

Councillors on the Area Planning Committee had paid a visit recently to the St Leonards Field site due to the number of concerns and objections, which had arisen.

#### **4.1.3. Review of Market Stall Stances in Market Street**

A review is to take place of the market stances in the Market St/Square area. These have a long history but have not been reviewed for a long time. A number of Fife Council depts are involved in this matter for a variety of reasons. Cllr Melville said that she'd welcome comments on the market stalls situation. She added that she knew that there had been stalls for many years, but now these were being reviewed because of the changes in the pressures on the area from traffic to the prices charged by Fife Council for the stalls, which is currently £10 per day. Mr Cheape wondered whether charges should be related to turnover. There was also a problem about stalls selling goods similar to those being sold by nearby shops, a breach of licensing regulations. Cllr Melville acknowledged that there were a number of areas needing to be looked at in this review, whilst acknowledging the historical aspect of such trading in the area. Mr Crichton wondered about the possibility of expanding the number of stalls. He felt that with changes in the nature of the retail outlets in the town there was a shortage of some types, which might force shoppers to go to Dundee to shop. He also cited street markets in other towns, which he felt brought more people into town, potentially benefiting shops as well.

#### **4.1.4. Whyte-Melville Fountain**

Cllr Melville announced that there is to be a report on the progress of getting the fountain operational again to be put to the Area Committee later this month. Due to money coming back into the Common Good Fund from a reimbursed payment by the liquidator of the Byre Theatre, there would also be funds to pay for annual maintenance. Mrs Adam wondered if there would be water in the fountain. Cllr Melville replied that there would be water, but at a trickle.

#### **4.1.5. Footpath Adoption**

Fife Council has adopted footpaths at Forrest Street and Fraser Avenue as part of Council responsibilities for maintenance.

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Abbey Street Crossing**

Cllr Thomson had raised concerns about these lights with officials. In their reply they stated that they had only received one email expressing concern. Officials have been monitoring the lights and haven't noted any problems of traffic jumping the red lights. Officials have put in various measures to make drivers aware of the lights. Mr Greenwell who had raised the issue acknowledged that he hadn't seen any more incidents in the past couple of months.

#### **4.2.2. Consultation on public toilets**

Cllr Thomson reported that the original version of this consultation had been withdrawn as it was thought to be too complicated. A simplified version will be issued in the near future

#### **4.2.3. University Athletics track**

Cllr Thomson and a representative from Fife Athletics had met with the Director of Sport to discuss the changes the university had made or might be planning and how these were affecting the Athletics Club who shared the facilities.

#### **4.2.4. Madras College**

Cllr Thomson reported on the Fife Executive approval to progress to the planning stage for the Pipeland site. Cllr Thomson in relation to a comment from Mr Greenwell about the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment said that he'd consulted with the programme manager who had informed him that that need was already built into the programme and wouldn't necessarily create a delay of up to a year as some had claimed. It was anticipated that any report would go to the Council around April/May 2014.

#### **4.2.5. Botanic Garden**

Cllr Thomson reminded the meeting about the cost of the Botanic garden on an annual basis to Fife Council at around £300000 pa. He acknowledged that the Council has had a longstanding aim to reduce that cost incrementally. He also reminded the meeting that the lease was up soon as well. The North East Fife Area Committee has put up a recommendation to the Fife Executive Committee to approve the Business Plan developed by the Friends of the Botanic Garden and to extend Council funding for a further couple of years as the new set up beds in and develops its plans. The University still has to consider the Business Plan. The outcome of NEFAC's recommendation to Fife Executive and the University's response are therefore awaited.

#### **4.2.6. Market Street – Cycle Rack**

Cllr Thomson showed the meeting a photo of the clutter at the cycle rack beside Tesco, an indication that the cycle space is totally inadequate for the growing demand due to increased use of cycles. Cllr Thomson had approached the Head of Transportation whose initial response had been that the need for cycle parking had been dealt with in the previous consultation about the redevelopment of the street and that any increase would need to be opened up to consultation again. Cllr Thomson added that he begged to differ with this opinion from the senior official. He is hoping to push the issue with fellow Councillors to try and speed up a more constructive response.

Mrs Adam suggested that there should be a review of the work done in Market Street to determine what was working or not working, not only in relation to the bike racks. Cllr Melville thought that it had been proposed to have a review some time after the work had been done, but so far it hadn't taken place.

#### **4.2.7. Newmill Bridge Repair Work**

Cllr Thomson reported that he contacted the Parks Department and they will look at the possibility of repainting the bridge, possibly using Community Payback Scheme from the Criminal Justice Dept.

#### **4.2.8. Road Repair Issues**

Cllr Thomson mentioned the poor condition of the junction where Lawhead Road West meets the Strathkinness Low Road with numerous potholes. He felt that past repairs had only temporarily worked and that the Council should try to find a more lasting solution, to which end the idea would be to have three trial holes as he thought there appeared to be an issue with the subsoil in that location making repairs problematic.

### **4.3. Keith McCartney**

#### **4.3.1. Potholes**

Cllr McCartney reported that inspections have been carried out and repairs actioned on Bogward Road, Canongate, Gibson Place (at junction with The Links), Hepburn Gardens, John Knox Road, Kennedy Gardens, Lawmill Gardens and Roundhill Road (at junction with Sandyhill Road).

#### **4.3.2. Street Nameplates**

Cllr McCartney reported that nameplates missing from Aikman Place (junction with Reid Gardens), Lamond Drive (junction with Largo Road) and Wardlaw Gardens (junction with Kennedy Gardens) have been reported. At present there is a significant backlog of road signs and street nameplates needing replaced and so it is not possible to give an accurate timescale for replacing street nameplates. It is likely this will be three to four months.

#### **4.3.3. Dead Tree in Forrest Street**

Cllr McCartney reported that – the tree has been inspected and will be removed.

#### **4.3.4. Street Naming Procedure**

Cllr McCartney reported that there are to be no changes to the Council's agreed approach, which is to consult Community Councillors and then Ward Councillors on proposed names.

#### **4.3.5. Street Lighting**

**Queen's Gardens** - the lighting columns have been inspected and it has been agreed that the columns need repainting. A list of columns that need painted is being compiled under improvement works and they will be added to the list.

**Lighting Column No.3, Kirkhill** - the column has snapped due to rust and will have to be replaced. A column has been found which will match what is already on site and officials are just waiting for a quote for the work.

**Lighting Columns in Union Street** – the new columns should be delivered by the end of June.

**Redundant Lighting Column in Lawhead Road West** – this column was replaced last year but the redundant column was not removed. Having been alerted to this an order was issued for removal and this work has now been carried out.

#### **4.3.6. Gates on Ladebraes Walk**

Cllr McCartney reported that it is hoped to have the Community Justice team in St Andrews during the summer to repaint structures in the Lade Braes.

#### **4.3.7. Railings along Kinnesburn on Kinnesburn Road**

Cllr McCartney reported that ownership/maintenance responsibility is being checked and the possibility of repainting being done under Community Payback considered.

#### **4.3.8. Stone Wall at Station Park**

Cllr McCartney reported that stonemasons have rebuilt the two sections of wall, which had partially collapsed, and the section, which had completely collapsed.

#### **4.3.9. Trees on Market Street**

Cllr McCartney reported that three out of the four trees on either side of Market Street between Subway and The Keys appear to be dead or dying. Soil samples have been taken and test results should be available soon. If no contamination is found and the failure of the trees has just been bad luck replanting will have to wait until the next planting season, which will start again in October.

#### **4.3.10. Jacob's Ladder**

Cllr McCartney reported that – the steps have been cleared of the areas of windblown dirt and dust into which weeds had seeded, brushed and tidied up.

#### **4.3.11. CCTV Camera Base, Bruce Embankment**

Cllr McCartney reported that the area of soil within the retaining wall is to be weeded and summer bedding planted in due course.

#### **4.3.12. Drain on Bogward Road & Drumcarrow Road**

**Drain on Bogward Road** – ponding issues at times of heavy rain have persisted at the dip in Bogward Road just before the junction with Windsor Gardens despite previous jetting of gullies. This location has been added to the ad-hoc jetting list and work will hopefully be carried out in the next month or two.

**Drains on Drumcarrow Road (at junction with Canongate) and Church Street (at junction with South Street)** – ponding issues at times of heavy rain have been reported. These locations have been added to the ad-hoc gully jetting list.

#### **4.3.13. Kincaple**

Cllr McCartney reported that the single-track road sign on the C4 at Kincaple, which has fallen over, is on the list of repairs.

#### **4.3.14. Balmungo Recycling Collection Appeal**

Cllr McCartney reported that the appeal by residents to have recycling lorries access the steading have been successful

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

Apologies due to other commitments.

### **5. Planning Committee**

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

##### **5.1.1. Madras College**

Mr Roberts made some comments to clarify the Community Council position in relation to Madras College. He noted that many local people felt that the recent consultation and its outcome meant that the Pipeland proposal was a done deal, which he added it wasn't, as the planning application had not been made yet. He then commented on a mistaken perception of some members of the community that the Community Council had objected to the proposals. He confirmed that this was not the case, but that the CC had only made its views known about the validity or value of the education consultation, but had not to date formally objected to the proposals. The CC would make its position known when the formal planning application was published.

He then pointed out that a letter sent by Mr Greenwell to the Area Committee had subsequently appeared as front page news in the local press and making it seem as if the CC was indeed objecting to Madras before any planning application had been published.

Mr Roberts sought the comments of the meeting about whether a decision by the CC on the Madras issue should come to the full Council for approval or could it be delegated to the Planning Committee, which met more often? Mr Paul reminded Mr Roberts about the guidance governing the conduct of the Community Council in such matters. Meetings at which such decisions were made had to have public access. Dr Goudie commented that the reason for having delegated powers for the Planning Committee was the tight deadlines for decisions in that area. He also recognised that important matters should come back to the full CC for consideration, as he felt that it would be no benefit to the Planning Committee to make a decision and then having that undercut by a subsequent CC meeting. Mr Greenwell added that anything to do with Madras would always come back to the full CC for approval. Mr Crichton reminded the meeting that in exceptional circumstances the CC could have a special meeting to make a decision.

##### **5.1.2. Green Belt**

Mr Greenwell commented on a meeting of the Planning Committee to which other local CCs were invited to discuss the defence of the Green Belt. The Green Belt Forum, retiring Chair, Sam Taylor also attended, as did the Chairman of the Preservation Trust, Graham Wynd. The meeting discussed matters at two levels, one of which was the tactical defence of the Green Belt from planning applications, while longer term he commented that there would be a more strategic co-operation.

### **5.1.3. Planning Applications**

Two planning applications worth noting included one from Knightsbridge/ Bield to build 78 retirement flats for over 60s in the walled garden of St Leonards. The planning committee has objected to that proposal on the grounds of overcrowding. He added that it didn't do anything for the affordable housing element.

A second planning objection related to the old Police Station, which the developer is proposing to turn into 17 two bed roomed flats. The complex would only have 14 parking spaces at the bottom of the building.

### **5.1.4. HMO Moratorium**

Mr Roberts reported that he'd received an email from Martin McGroarty asking the CC and the Students Association and other bodies how the moratorium had affected the town. As comments were required for the following day Mr Roberts had written requesting an extension of 2 weeks for responses.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Martyrs Monument Update**

The refurbishment has been completed and there has been a ceremony to rededicate and formally open the monument to the public. The total cost has still to be finalised, so that the grant application for a grant from the Fife Environment Trust can be completed and requested.

### **6.2. Craigtoun Park**

Mr Roberts gave the meeting an update on Craigtoun. The Friends of Craigtoun had had their AGM the previous week. The group has now become Friends of Craigtoun Ltd and the company has applied for charitable status. The association with the CC therefore no longer exists and the company will progress independently in trying to achieve its business plan. Mr Roberts reminded the meeting about the fun weekend at the end of June at Craigtoun.

### **6.3. Botanic Gardens Update**

Mr Paul reported back on the Botanic Gardens situation. The business plan has now been submitted and is now in the process of being considered by Fife council and the University.

### **6.4. Housing Commission**

Mr Roberts reported that work was ongoing but there had been delays in producing the draft report due to computer problems. It was now hoped that the draft report would be submitted by late June or early July.

### **6.5. Reports from Reps**

#### **6.5.1. St Andrews in Bloom**

Mrs Denyer reminded members that there was a report of the work of this group in her Recreation Committee report.

#### **6.5.2. Safety Panel**

Mr Crichton reported on the work of the committee, which looks at issues of concern and how to make the public aware of protecting themselves or their families from the issues being publicised. One way the Panel spreads the information is to encourage schools to involve their pupils in an activity such as designing a poster or writing on the issue of concern. The theme this year was the "Dangers of the Internet" with schools encouraged to participate. Mr Crichton was concerned that no school in St Andrews had responded to the invitation and information sent by the Safety Panel to participate. He added that there had been an increase in entries from schools outside

of St Andrews in the rest of Fife with over 800 entries. He is hoping to try and rectify this and in conjunction with HEW committee plans to possibly approach the schools via their PTAs. He recognised that the Safety Panel couldn't dictate to the schools about participating in their campaigns.

### **6.5.3. East Fife Sports Council Annual Awards**

Mr Crichton reported on his attendance at this event with Mrs Corbin. The Community Council sponsors a trophy for one of the categories awarded annually to athletes.

## **6.6. Any Other Matters arising**

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.2. Recreation Committee**

#### **7.2.1. Garden Competition**

Mrs Denyer announced that the poster for the competition had been designed and the closing date for entries would be the 19<sup>th</sup> July. Judging would take place between the 5-9<sup>th</sup> August. Mrs Corbin expressed concern about the judging date following last year's problems due to the poor summer. Mrs Denyer suggested that each group of judges use their own judgement when to do their garden visits.

#### **7.2.2. Coffee Morning**

Mrs Denyer reported that this event had raised £286.14. Mrs Denyer thanked those who had assisted on the day and in the preparation for the event. She was however disappointed in the lack of support from a number of Community Councillors and hoped that this would improve in future. She hoped that everyone would assist in some way, either with a donation or in helping on the day at the next coffee morning on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **7.3. GP Meeting**

No report

### **7.4. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs E Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Howell 3<sup>rd</sup> Dr Mills

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

Mrs Corbin reported on the ongoing progress of the installation of the defibrillators around St Andrews by Heartstart. Planning approval has still to be requested once the chosen sites have all been confirmed as acceptable.

### **7.6. Rail Sub – Committee**

Dr Goudie reported that the attempt to get the scheme nominated as a national development hadn't succeeded, but he felt that there had been some benefit emerge from that process, notably Fife Council backing the nomination to the Scottish Government as a nomination of their own. He reported that Tayplan was starting a similar exercise, with a category called "Big Ideas", so it would be likely that the committee would put in the Rail link scheme to that category.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Community Resilience Seminar**

For information. See Appendix B in agenda.

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Nothing to report apart from items already discussed this evening. Mr Roberts thanked Mr fforde for his contribution to the CC in the past year as Student President and wished him the best for his future. Mr Roberts also commented about two requests by bands to play at the Bandstand, one from a school Brass Band wanting to play on the 26<sup>th</sup> June as well as a Swedish Wind Pipe Band wanting to play later in the summer. Mr Roberts felt that it was important to encourage such events in the town.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

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

Mr Paul commented upon the relative success of the Coffee Morning with £246 as profit after expenses. He reminded the meeting that this was equivalent to 10% of the CCs annual budget. He thanked everyone who supported the event.

He reported that the CC annual accounts had been examined and accepted by Fife Council, so that the annual grant should be paid soon. The CC had also been awarded £550 from the Small Grants Scheme towards paying for the Bandstand Concerts.

### **9.3 Secretary**

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

Mr Marks reminded the meeting about an email received inviting the CC to send a representative to play in an annual Golf Competition, the Gumley trophy.

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

### **10.1. Loches Alliance Quiz Night**

Mrs Denyer reported on this event and the participation of herself, Mrs Corbin and Mrs Harding as part of a team on the night.

### **10.2. Preservation Trust – Hidden Gardens Event**

Mrs Denyer reminded the meeting that this event is to take place on the final Saturday of June. She was aware that it coincided with the rescheduled Craigtoun event, but hoped that this would not deter members from attending.

### **10.3. Student and University Recycling**

Mr Scott reported that this year the University and its students have made a major effort to recycle items previously wasted at the end of the university year when student left for the summer and sent away three large containers to raise funds for Frontline Fife.

### **10.4. Public Perception on Community Council**

Mr Cheape raised the issue of the public perception of the Community Council, especially after the recent publicity about the Madras College education consultation. Mr Roberts wasn't certain how this could be best resolved, but didn't think that the CC response to the recent consultation had been wrong. Mr Roberts acknowledged that CC members ought to be able to speak to all townsfolk and demonstrate that the CC could offer a balanced view of local issues, such as Madras. He asked the meeting for suggestions about ways to resolve this matter. Mr fforde asked about the way the CC was set up and how this made the CC representative of the town? Mr Paul explained the process and informed Mr fforde that in the past 10 years when there had been the elections there had never been enough candidates to actually hold a

proper election. Mr Fraser also explained the process of the CC election procedure and that current members cannot be blamed for the fact that there were not enough candidates to hold an election.