

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes –3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012

### For Approval

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## 1. Attendance

### Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Penny Uprichard, Kyffin Roberts, Izzy Corbin, Meg Platt, Andy Primmer, Callum Corbin, Carol Ashworth, Judith Harding, Robert McLachlan.

### Students' Association Representatives

Freddie Fforde

### Co-Opted

Svetlana Kukharchick-Redpath

### Fife Councillors

Keith McCartney, Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville, Brian Thomson

### Apologies

Niall Scott, Catherine Rowe, Ken Crichton, Lindsey Adam, Howard Greenwell, Meg Platt

## 2. Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012 Meeting

4.2.6. Dr Goudie commented that in the final paragraph on page 2 he'd meant the "early involvement of the wider public" instead of "the involvement of local stakeholders".

On page three under 4.2.6. Dr Goudie corrected the minute in the penultimate sentence to, "The main argument about size related to the range of subjects available on the curriculum, which he felt was not as insuperable as claimed".

## 3. Election of New Community Councillors

The election of two new Community Councillors took place. There were four candidates, Mrs Alice Alexander, Mrs Bernadette Cassidy, Mr Henry Cheape and Mr Tom Waterton-Smith. Mrs Cassidy was unable to be present due to health problems. All the candidates were asked to briefly state why they would like to be Community Councillors and what they might bring to the post. The Community Council then voted for the candidates and the Chair counted the ballots, with the count being confirmed by Councillor Brian Thomson.

Mrs Alexander and Mrs Cassidy were elected with Mr Cheape third in the election and Mr Waterton-Smith fourth in the election. Mr Roberts thanked the candidates for their interest in standing for election and added that should further vacancies arise in future the unsuccessful candidates would be contacted to see if they still had an

interest in becoming a Community Councillor. Mrs Alexander was asked to join the meeting.

## **4. Fife Councillors**

### **4.1. Frances Melville**

#### **4.1.1. Broomfaulds Avenue Road Repairs**

Cllr Melville reported that the work planned for this road was planned to start today

#### **4.1.2. Kinburn Bowling Club Premises**

Cllr Melville reported that Fife Council had not been keeping the Bowling Club premises wind and watertight. She reported that the premises were in a dreadful state and described some of the problems she had seen when she had visited the premises. She had contacted Building Services who have been working to repair the premises and hopefully make them once again wind and watertight as per the contract with the Bowling Club.

#### **4.1.3. University Planning Proposal for St Andrews Botanic Garden**

Cllr Melville reported that the University have put in an initial proposal for the Botanic Garden as part of a pre consultation alert to Fife Council and the Community Council. Miss Uprichard asked about the University application. Cllr Melville explained that it was a very basic statement of intent to alert the Planning Dept of a need to consult with organisations such as the Community Council on the future of the Botanic Garden.

#### **4.1.4. Little Carron 20 mph Sign**

Cllr Melville asked for views on a temporary 20 mph sign close to Little Carron. There have been requests for this to be made permanent. Cllr Melville acknowledged concerns as traffic does speed in that section of the road below the school. Mrs Ashworth supported the idea of the 20 mph zone as she regularly saw the speeding of cars at the area below Lawhead School. Dr Goudie expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the signs in the way they currently were set up to operate and felt that they could be more effectively focused.

#### **4.1.5. Parking at the Pends Traffic Regulation Order**

This order has still not been implemented, as there have been over 20 objections to the proposal to put double yellow lines in part of the area. The matter will have to return to committee and the eventual outcome may still require further consultation to seek a more acceptable alternative if it is accepted that the original idea was not appropriate.

#### **4.1.6. Extra Enforcement Officers**

Cllr Melville reported that the extra enforcement staff had been beginning to prove their worth in areas like the East Sands with fines for members of the public who let their dogs foul and didn't pick up the faecal matter.

#### **4.1.7. Planning Review Report**

By the time of the next Community Council meeting there may be a report available on the possible future of the local area Planning Committees. These may be subsumed into a more centralised structure, which Cllr Melville thought went against the talk about decentralising decision making. Miss Uprichard voiced concern that the review might see a centralisation of the Planning Dept. Cllr Melville reported that four options were on the paper she'd seen.

#### **4.1.8. West Sands - Travellers Caravans Problem**

Dr Goudie said he'd received a complaint about the West Sands and travellers in caravans staying there. Cllr Melville reported that Coastal Ranger Robbie Blyth had been trying to get the problem resolved as there were problems arising because of the way the traveller's presence was impacting upon the area where they were parked.

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Ladebraes Work**

Cllr Thomson reported that a section of the Ladebraes has been closed for around a month. This may be due to work relating to New Park School, though it has been an area, which has been prone to regular flooding across the path. He informed the meeting that he'd try to get more information on the matter

#### **4.2.2. West Port Tavern Covered Beer Garden**

This planning application was dealt with mistakenly by a Planning Officer as a delegated matter. An objection from the Preservation Trust hadn't been picked up by the official and was acknowledged as an administrative error. Mr Roberts also pointed out that the Community Council Planning Committee had written complaining that there had been no neighbour notification and that the posts on the original drawing had indicated that they would be wood but turned out to be metal. There had been a response to that letter to say that there would be a response to that complaint within 25 working days. Cllr Thomson agreed that the plans didn't mirror what had happened on the site.

#### **4.2.3. Madras College Future Update**

Cllr Thomson wondered if the community Council had received a memo from Cllr Alex Rowley and Cllr Brian Poole, which should have gone out to all local Community Councils? Cllr Thomson circulated a copy of a letter sent out on 31<sup>st</sup> August to Parent Councils of schools in the area and to other bodies concerning an update on Madras College Replacement. The main gist of the letter was to indicate that the Council had been speaking to local landowners of possible sites for the Madras College replacement. The Councils intention was to try and narrow down the list by the end of September. Once narrowed down the potential site options would be shared with stakeholder groups with a view to inviting feedback by 9<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **4.2.4. Curriculum for Excellence Implementation**

Cllr Thomson reported that he'd had email correspondence and discussion with Ken Greer, Head of the Education Dept and had received quite a detailed response which he has passed to Mr Primmer who had raised the matter at the last CC meeting. Mr Greer has apparently acknowledged that the implementation of the new Curriculum hasn't been communicated as effectively as it should have been.

#### **4.2.5. Greyfriars Gardens Improvement Works**

Cllr Thomson reported on attempts being made to rectify the mess made when this work was undertaken earlier in the year. A new chemical to remove the grout may have been found and work is proceeding on this problem.

#### **4.2.6. Old St Andrews Police Station**

Cllr Thomson had discovered that a promise by officials to undertake a feasibility study in relation to possibly having affordable housing in this building before it was put on the open market had been overlooked. Cllr Thomson had managed to get an

assurance that this would now take place and completed even though the property had been put on the property market by a different dept of Fife Council.

#### **4.2.7. Craigtoun Park**

Cllr Thomson reassured the meeting that rumours that Fife Council had been in discussions with Mr Kohler's company about the sale of Craigtoun Park were untrue. Fife Council had not had any discussions with the Kohler Company on this matter.

#### **4.2.8. Bus Stop – Cathedral End of North Street**

Cllr Thomson had checked on the possibility that a sheltered bus stop could be considered had come up with a negative response. The budget of the Transportation Department has been slashed and any chance of a sheltered bus stop is remote at this time.

#### **4.2.9. Melville Fountain**

Cllr Thomson commented that the Pilgrim Foundation was prepared to contribute towards the restoration of the Melville Fountain.

### **4.3. Keith McCartney**

#### **4.3.1. Bike Tagging**

Cllr McCartney described the way which abandoned bikes will be handled by the Police and Environmental Services. The Police will tag bikes they believe to have been abandoned and if these have not been reclaimed after 14 days Environmental Services will take them away store them for three months. If the bikes are not reclaimed in that time they will be given to Bikeworks for possible refurbishment or recycling.

#### **4.3.2. Lawmill Pond**

Cllr McCartney had alerted Fife Council to the state of the Lawmill Pond. Fife Council staff had investigated and discovered that part of the problem lay in a blockage at a sluice gate of one of the streams feeding into the pond. The blockage was removed to aid the flow of water and prevent the accumulation of silt. Cllr McCartney had asked for a microbiologist to look at what was in the pond to ascertain the state of its health and he'd asked Ian Barbour of Fife Council to attend a ward meeting later in the year with a plan about how to revitalise the pond.

Mr Marks suggested that part of the problems might relate to agricultural run off enriching the pond and creating the imbalance. He welcomed the prospect of an analysis by the microbiologist of the current state of the pond water.

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

#### **4.4.1. Crossing at top of Abbey Street**

Cllr Morrison reported that there is to be a crossing at the top of Abbey Street, unless public concern forces a rethink of the location. She is to speak to a concerned resident of the area on the matter.

#### **4.4.2. Toilets at the Harbour**

Cllr Morrison had discussed this issue with Mr Keith Winter at Fife Council, but unfortunately this toilet will close as part of a programme of toilet closures around Fife. Mr Winter thought that the Comfort Break Scheme could make up for this closure with the Cosmos Centre being one of the closest places operating in that scheme. Cllr Morrison expressed her disappointment at this decision but hadn't given up looking for alternative ways to keep the toilet functional. Mrs Corbin was concerned about the threat to the Harbour toilets and the effect on those with

disabilities who would struggle to access toilets further away and up slopes from the harbour. Cllr Morrison agreed that it wasn't right to close toilets but if Fife Council persisted with this decision an alternative solution would have to be investigated.

#### **4.4.3. Litter Bins at beaches**

There has been a regular problem with overflowing bins, which the gulls and crows attack and create additional mess. Robbie Blyth the Coast and Countryside Trust officer dealing with the beaches has found a larger bin, which might reduce this problem and stop the birds.

#### **4.4.4. Greyfriars Garden**

Cllr Morrison said that she was working with Cllr Thomson in trying to ensure that the mess created when this road was being relaid was cleared. She was concerned that it seemed to be quite difficult to remove the offending material blighting the pavements.

#### **4.4.5. Westport Hotel – Beer garden**

Cllr Morrison reported on the issues about this development, which had been passed by delegated powers despite objections. She reported on the poor communication and systems within planning, which had contributed towards this erroneous decision. She hoped that some of the issues could be rectified when the enforcement officer from Fife Council visited and inspected what had taken place and whether it was legally undertaken.

There was also an issue about the Westport Tavern requesting a variation in licence to allow opening until 01:00. She had objected to this request as the tavern is in a residential area and noise in the beer garden could disturb the local residents.

#### **4.4.6. "A" Boards**

Cllr Morrison had gone around town with a Fife Council Transportation Official to look at the "A" Boards situation and felt that it was very difficult to see what could be done. She also spoke to Mr Winter on the matter and had some discussion with the Merchants Association. There was a feeling that "A" Boards weren't really necessary for shops with street frontages but shops down side alleys did have more need. Cllr Thomson had also had a look at the "A" Board situation the same day. Cllr Morrison hoped that there would be some progress. Mr McLellan Head of transportation had asked Cllrs Morrison and Thomson to have another look in an afternoon at the situation. Mrs Corbin commented upon the increasing problem of "A" Boards as well. Cllr Morrison replied that she had been around the shops with Fife Council officials and they had also been around themselves to talk to shopkeepers about the location of their "A" Boards. She mentioned the possibility of leafleting the shops again to reinforce the message. She acknowledged that there was a need for officials to be regularly proactive in order to drive the message home to shopkeepers to properly place the "A" Boards as per regulations. Cllr Morrison also commented upon the added problem of cafes setting out tables and chairs and these creeping out into the pavement. Mr Fforde commented that the students were also concerned about the proliferation of "A" Boards and the problems these could create. He asked if there was any financial penalty in relation to this problem? Cllr Morrison in her reply mentioned that in Edinburgh cafes had to pay a rental for the privilege of using the pavements. She thought that this seemed a worthwhile idea given that the cafes would be benefiting from the extra space they had to attract customers at no charge currently and increase their trade. If the resulting income could be put into a fund for keeping the town centre clean that would also be a benefit.

#### **4.4.7. City Road House Problem**

Cllr Morrison mentioned that there had been a number of complaints in relation to a house on City Road, which had been recently converted. There had been a planning

condition to stop the waste bins being left on the street during the week. The Council had asked that as a condition of the conversion from shop to house the bins should be located in an area off the street when they weren't being put out for emptying.

#### **4.4.8. Flooding on John Knox Road and Spinkie Den**

Mr Primmer asked Cllr Morrison about flooding in these areas caused by heavy rain. Cllr Morrison reported that she had been trying to make Fife council officials aware of the problems and some action had been taken. However flooding had also taken place in a garden in Cairnsden Gardens nearby and it was recognised that the route of the old railway line was part of the problem and difficult for the Council to deal with as it was in people's gardens. The Council might have to look at the issue of field drains in nearby fields as well and try to get landowners to ensure these were in good order.

#### **4.4.9. Sign above Victoria café Entrance**

Mr McLachlan asked what was being done about the sign put up by the new owners of the Victoria Café. Cllr Morrison replied that enforcement action was being taken about the sign.

#### **4.4.10. New Police Station Opening Hours**

Mr Fraser sought Councillors views on the benefit of the new Police Station having a sign on the front door with details of opening hours.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Feddinch Appeal**

Miss Uprichard reported on a delay in the date of the appeal following Fife Council's decision. It had originally been thought that there would be an appeal soon after the original deadline, which was to be the end of July, but Fife Council still hadn't replied by the 27<sup>th</sup> August. Fife Council had moved the date for the appeal to late November as a result of the delay in response.

### **5.2. "A' Boards, Toilets, Bins etc**

Miss Uprichard reported that Cllr Thomson and herself had toured around the town and looked at some of these problems and were preparing a report to bring to the Community Council in November.

## **6. Matters Arising**

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

Funds have been secured and preparations for starting the work are proceeding. The stone is coming from Berwick.

### **6.2. Craigtoun Park**

The Friends of Craigtoun have been pleased to have visits from the Councillors and local MSP in recent weeks. Over the winter the Friends of Craigtoun will undertake some work to help restore some of the attractions such as the boats. They have been given use of workshops by Fife Council.

### **6.4. Botanic Gardens Update**

No update at this time but there will be a further meeting of the Friends of the Botanic Working Group to discuss progress in the plans for the Garden's future this week according to Mr Paul.

## **6.5. St Andrews Community Trust**

Mr Paul reminded the meeting about the date for applications for the next tranche of money to be awarded by the Community Trust. The Trust will meet at the beginning of October so applications should be in by mid September.

## **6.6. Reports from Representatives**

## **6.7. Any Other Matters Arising**

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Recreation Committee**

See report in agenda.

Mr Roberts reported on the Bandstand Concerts and reported that funds were in place to allow booking to start for next year. Some donors had agreed to fund for a longer period of time.

### **7.2. General Purposes**

A meeting is to take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> September partly to discuss Scottish Government about devolution of power.

### **7.3. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> No.39 Dr M Illingworth 2<sup>nd</sup> No.68 Mrs I Christie 3<sup>rd</sup> No.22 Jude Innes

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

#### **7.4.1. Seagull Problems**

Mrs Corbin reported that she'd been monitoring the seagull problem over the summer and had noted that the problem had moved when the birds of prey were being used in one area of town to another area. She had also noted that there was less litter around Bell Baxter School

#### **7.4.2. War Memorial Judging**

Mrs Corbin reported that the War Memorial was judged towards the end of August as part of the Britain in Bloom. The outcome of this is still awaited.

#### **7.4.3. Blue Flag Award**

Mrs Corbin had contacted SEPA to discuss the way they took their samples as she thought this might affect the outcome for the beach in a negative way. She had suggested that the sampling criteria be revised to get samples at times more representative of the state of the area not just after heavy rain when there would be run off.

### **7.5. Rail sub Committee**

Dr Goudie felt that the attached report spoke for itself and didn't require elaboration.

## **8. New Business**

8.1.

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Mr Roberts reported that he'd attended a couple of Fife Council seminars at which he'd learnt about ways to get funding. These seemed to imply that there was lots of

money available but Mr Roberts doubted that it was as easy to get funds when actually making an application unless one's criteria fitted exactly.

Nothing else to report.

## **9.2. Treasurer**

### **9.2.1. Treasurers Report**

The situation for the Community Council remains healthy with over £5200 in the main account. There is over £2000 in the account for the Bandstand Concerts with over £386 raised by Community Councillors shaking buckets at these events. He thanked the volunteers for their effort. The fundraising will pay for a concert.

Mr Paul will only send out printed accounts where necessary and will generally email out the accounts on a monthly basis.

## **9.3 Secretary**

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

Mr Marks briefly mentioned the correspondence received. There hadn't been a lot received over the summer period. He'd received DVDs about the approved Tayplan.

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

### **10.1. Wonderyears Nursery Planning Application**

Mr Roberts informed the meeting that he and Mr Greenwell had received letters from Freddie Fforde, Students Association President expressing concern that the Planning Committee hadn't approached the student body for their views on the Wonderyears application. Mr Roberts acknowledged that the Planning Committee should have considered the student view, but felt that it wouldn't necessarily have changed the view of the committee on this planning proposal.

It was pointed out to Mr Fforde that he could attend the Planning Committee when issues of relevance to students were being considered. Mr Fforde agreed that he might attend on such occasions.

### **10.2. Student Representation on the Community Council**

Mr Roberts sought clarification about the student representation on the Community Council. Mr Marks confirmed that there were automatically three representatives with voting rights. Mr Fforde detailed the representatives, who would include him, Jules Findlay and another as yet unnamed representative. Meg Platt is already an ordinary CC member and whilst she could sit in as a Student Representative, she has expressed a desire to remain as an ordinary member. Mr Fforde said that he had an enthusiastic third member to introduce to the CC whom he felt could make a valuable contribution to the CC. This new student representative is not an SRC rep but is an ordinary student under graduate.

Mr Roberts noted that there had been concern expressed by Miss Uprichard at the number of student members. Mr Marks noted that historically there had been in past years a varying number of students on the CC, with four not being unprecedented. He felt that the students had mostly acquitted themselves quite positively and he had no problem in the current arrangement. Mrs Corbin reminded the meeting that she is currently a student. Dr Goudie added that given student numbers the current representation is not an overrepresentation in the CC.

### **10.2. Table at Freshers Fair**

Mr Fforde mentioned about the possibility of a Community Table at the Freshers Fair to promote the Preservation Trust as well as the Community Council. Mr Roberts



indicated that he'd responded to that invitation indicating that the CC would be delighted to have a table.

### **10.3. Community Council Lunch – November**

Mrs Ashworth reminded members about the annual lunch started last year. There is to be a lunch on the first Sunday of November at the Scores.