

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes –3rd September 2018

0. Membership matters

0.1. New Member

The Chair introduced a new member Mrs Nikki Dillon. Mrs Dillon who has recently moved to St Andrews from Lincolnshire had been a Deputy Mayor of the Town Council in North Hykeham where she'd also been an independent councillor. She told the meeting that in her previous home she'd done a lot for the infrastructure of the town as well as charity work. She informed the meeting that now she'd moved she was very interested in getting involved in community issues. She also informed the meeting that she had degrees in journalism and counselling. The meeting agreed that Mrs Dillon could join the CC.

0.2. Retiring Member

Mr McLeod informed the meeting about the retriial of Mr Kyffin Roberts. Mr McLeod noted Mr Roberts's contribution in many projects of the CC as well as holding the role of Chair and more recently Vive Chair. His most significant achievement was getting Craigtoun Park back to functioning following decades of neglect by Fife Council. Mr McLeod said he'd written a letter of thanks to Mr Roberts in which his contribution to the town was noted.

An election followed for Mr Roberts's role as Vice Chair. Mrs Penelope Fraser was nominated by Mrs Harding and seconded by Mr Greenwell. Her election was supported unanimously.

Mr Stanis-Trachen's absence was discussed. He'd been granted a sabbatical period but this was several months ago and there was no sign of a return to the CC meetings. It was acknowledged that he appears to be active in other local groups such as STAR Link. After discussion it was agreed that no further action should be taken as elections would be taking place in a few months.

Mr Greenwell reminded the meeting that when he'd been Chair there had been a decision to say that if someone hadn't attended for 6 months. Mr McLeod confirmed the rule about 6 months and also commented that the sabbatical period couldn't be extended indefinitely. Dr Goudie who acknowledged Mr Greenwell's recollection of the 6 months rule and the circumstances under which it had used in the past. He also commented on the ability of organisations to take decisions, which didn't quite fit the rules. Dr Goudie thought that the meeting should accept that Mr Stanis Trachen should not be dismissed from the CC just because he'd not attended but was doing work behind the scenes. Mr Newton felt that there should be no decision to end his membership without direct contact to discuss the situation. Mr McLeod suggested he should write to Mr Stanis Trachen to establish his intentions, especially with the extension of the life of the Community Council until early in 2019.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Iain Munn, Greg Newman, Patrick Marks, Jamie McLeod, Penelope Fraser, Alistair Newton, Howard Greenwell, Judith Harding, Neil Cunningham-Dobson, Gordon Shepherd

Students' Association Representatives

Paloma Paige

Co-Opted

Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Brian Thomson, Dominic Nolan

Apologies – Dita Stanis-Traken, Niall Scott, Penny Uprichard, Izzy Corbin, Ann Verner, Lindsey Adam, Emma Shay

2. Minutes of July Meeting –2018

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the July meeting.

3. Presentations

4. Fife Councillors.

4.1. Jane Ann Liston.

4.1.1. School Budget Cuts

Cllr Liston reported that some 46% of the school budget cuts was being placed on the 3 North East Fife secondary schools with the bulk of Fife sharing the remainder of cuts. She wasn't certain about the rationale used to subject these schools to the biggest percentage of cuts, but thought it might have something to do with the percentage claiming free school meals. Whatever the reason she said it was worrying that 3 schools out of 18 should bear a disproportionate percentage of cuts.

4.1.2. Burger Vans at Schools

Cllr Liston had asked a question at a Council meeting about burger vans. She was informed that the Licensing Committee could set conditions as to how far from school the vans should be but she thought this was wrong and explained her understanding of the situation. She said that while alcohol licensing could take health issues into account, civic licensing, which regulates the likes of the chip vans could not. She thought it would require a different power agreed by the Scottish Government to allow restrictions. Fife Council she added was introducing vans selling healthy foods near schools but these weren't in North East Fife. She was sceptical of the likelihood that many pupils would forsake chips for healthy food.

On a related matter, Cllr Liston commented on the recent revelation about the very low uptake of school meals at Madras College with no meals having been sold for 2 years at the senior school campus!

4.1.3. Future of St Marys Place Office

Cllr Liston reported that a stand-alone decision had been made to close the St Marys Place office at the end of this year. At one stage there had been talk of moving services into either the Town Hall or Library or both but Cllr Liston had discovered that there were no plans to make any changes to the Town Hall. She added that there had been a comment that people could go to Cupar if they needed to discuss service needs an idea, which incensed Cllr Liston. She outlined the implications if services had no office to move to in the town and the StanDen organisation would be without an office. She had received assurances when she'd approached the Council that services would continue to be delivered in St Andrews, but felt that the recent plans to move Marriage Registration Services to Cupar were not a good precedent. Mr McLeod asked for confirmation that the building was to be sold. Cllr Liston confirmed this and added that the parking area would be part of any package for sale. Cllr Thomson said he'd enquired some time ago about this and had been told that the building was more valuable if it had the car park but no decision had been made about a sale as far as he was aware. No discussion had taken places with the 4 local councillors either. Cllr Liston acknowledged that there were some uncertainties about the whole situation and clarification was needed. Mr McLeod hoped that councillors could get a definitive plan for the premises and parking so that the CC could if necessary make representations on its future. Mr Jardine thought a stand should be taken on this proposal given the way it would affect how local people could do things like register marriages and births etc.

4.1.4. Street Name Plates

Cllr Liston commented on a project to put up nameplates making the public aware of the changes in street names. This was progressing and she'd keep the CC informed of its progress. Dr Shepherd asked for clarification on what exactly was being planned? Cllr Liston replied that the proposal was that an additional sign would be put under an existing one with the new sign having the old street name or names. She also thought there might also be a town crest if the CC agreed. She added that the research was very interesting as they were finding out about "lost" streets and closes and gave a couple of examples. She added that the Pilgrim Foundation were interested in the project.

4.1.5. Melville Fountain

Cllr Liston reported there had been a meeting with officers about the plans to manage the fountain's maintenance. Ms Adams will keep an eye on the fountain and report to officials any problems so they can be dealt with more speedily. Cllr Liston acknowledged that there was still quite a bit of work to be done in relation to the fountain, giving as an example the central jet, which isn't working well.

4.1.6. Recycling Centre

Cllr Liston reported that there have been problems at the recycling centre in St Andrews with commercial operators trying to evade paying to use the facility. She said that some people had been pretending to be domestic customers and others had been parking outside and walking in with their waste in an attempt to avoid the charge. The Council had reacted by deciding to ban access by foot instead of trying to identify the commercial customers, which Cllr Liston didn't feel was a good idea. The idea had been tried before a couple of years ago and had been abandoned. Cllr Liston felt it wasn't a good idea and thought it should with some thought be possible to continue to allow pedestrian access. An excuse that it was for health and safety reasons didn't convince Cllr Liston as she reminded the meeting that users in cars became pedestrians when out of their cars disposing of their waste! She said that the scheme was supposed to start from 1st January 2019. She suggested that members make representations to the organisation expressing their concern about the changes. Mr McLeod commented that he couldn't see why local people couldn't walk into the centre and was concerned that the company running it was simply thinking about its profit margin, whereas he felt it was a service for local people first. He commented as well on the reduced access times and queried why these restrictions were taking place given the inconvenience they could cause for users. He added that he was aware that there was a staffing issue. Cllr Thomson said he'd forward a report on the reason for the changes and these were purely for the lack of funding and that Fife Resource Solutions was not making any profit. He added that the company had been set up as non-profit making and it was simply a way for the council to save money and tax benefits. The closures were purely due to lack of funding. He also commented upon the problems of fly tipping and the attempt by private companies to pretend they were domestic users thus avoiding a charge. On occasion hazardous waste had been dumped forcing centres to temporarily close. He suggested that once the report he'd forward had been read it could be discussed at October's meeting. Mrs Fraser commented that she'd checked out the situation with other recycling centres and had found that not all were being affected in the same way as St Andrews and thought there should be a way to even out the situation. Cllr Thomson replied that the centres not facing cuts were associated with the landfill sites.

4.1.7. Lammas Market

Mr McLeod asked Cllr Liston for an update on the Lammas Market. Cllr Liston informed the meeting that the gentleman who thought of retiring hadn't retired so as far as she knew there wasn't any change. She thought it was a bit up in the air at the present time. Mr McLeod explained to the meeting that his enquiry had resulted from an email from Cllr Liston and given her comments he felt it was best to await a further update. Cllr Liston explained that the situation had started because of the possible financial implications if the official retired and wasn't replaced and the management of the Lammas was taken over by the Showman's Guild. Their management fees would possibly have to come from the Common Good Fund, which benefited from the Lammas rents thus reducing income to the CGF.

4.2. Dominic Nolan

4.2.1. Recycling Centre

Cllr Nolan commented on the reason for charging commercial businesses. He explained that it was illegal to allow them to dump free as it was viewed as a form of state aid.

4.2.2. Housing Meeting

Cllr Nolan reported that he and other local councillors had attended the meeting looking at issues such as HMOs in the town. He reported that there would be a consultation on the HMO situation early in the New Year.

4.3. Brian Thomson

4.3.1. HMO Provision Meeting

Cllr Thomson reported that the Housing Committee had decided to go with the recommendation of the North East Fife Area Committee. The decision had been to go for no more HMOs but that was out for consultation. He also commented on the fact that the CC hadn't been invited to the meeting and that he'd spoken to the Chair of the Housing Committee on this omission. He thought it was an oversight on Cllr Hamilton's part. Cllr Thomson wasn't certain how the consultation would be taking place but would ask that they consult the CC. The final decision would be made at committee in February.

4.3.2. Ladebraes Upgrade

Cllr Thomson explained that his comments were partly in relation to comments made by Miss Uprichard who was of the opinion that cycling shouldn't be allowed or encouraged in the Ladebraes. Cllr Thomson informed the meeting that cycling was legal in the Ladebraes and he was certain that would not change. In response to another of her comments, he said that in terms of the improvements in encouraging cycling, he took the view that given that it was legal it was important to make people aware that there could be cyclists on the path. Signage would be erected to remind users that it was a shared path and to ask cyclists to cycle responsibly and to alert pedestrians to their presence and to get off at narrow bends.

Miss Uprichard had also commented that the recommended width for a shared path should be three metres in the current guidelines. Cllr Thomson agreed but added that given it was an existing path where cycling was legal the guidance did not apply. He also informed the meeting that some sections of the path would be increased to three metres where possible.

Miss Uprichard had also suggested considering the south side of the Ladebraes as a more acceptable route for cyclists, but Cllr Thomson had advised her that this would be for various reasons a much more expensive option and was therefore not being considered under the present project.

Mr Greenwell wondered if the plans included speed bumps to slow cyclists down? Cllr Thomson thought that there were no plans for speed bumps but agreed to mention it to officers. Mr Greenwell confirmed he'd also mentioned this to officers at the consultation event. He was concerned about the risks in allowing cycling and felt that anything to slow cyclists down would be welcomed. Cllr Thomson advised that possible techniques such as rumble strips at certain locations might be possible, but otherwise cyclists could not be discriminated against if the activity was already legal.

Mrs Dillon commented that although she'd only been in the town a short time she'd already been knocked off her feet twice in one week. She added that she saw lots of older persons using the path and felt there wasn't room for a cycle path. She also wondered why the Council was wasting money painting white lines thus highlighting the fact that cyclists were allowed to use it? Cllr Thomson reiterated the fact that cycling was legal in the Ladebraes and he would want to encourage cyclists to behave carefully when using the path. He concluded by reminding Mrs Dillon that there was no proposal to paint white lines on the path. He reminded her that the deteriorating condition of the Ladebraes had been a longstanding issue not only for prams and wheelchair users but also pedestrians. He described the path as a complete mess

and the motivation for the improvement was not just in relation to cycling but to make the path fit for all users. In addition Cllr Thomson clarified to Mrs Dillon that he'd been pushing for an upgrade of the path for a long time. At a late stage he said Fife Council officers had thought about asking for additional funding from Sustrans. This would also allow signs related to taking care when cycling to be erected as well as allowing a better quality path to be laid. He advised Mrs Dillon that the CC Planning Committee's comments in relation to the plans had focussed completely on cycling, which was why he'd mentioned this activity in his update and response to the Planning Committee.

Dr Goudie felt that the cycling problem in the Ladebraes could be seen in context to the transport problems in the town as a whole. He wasn't certain where Cllr Thomson had got his figure of a million from in relation to the route on the south side. He wasn't against having a cycle path on the south side and thought that Sustrans had the expertise to do such a study and deal with access issues and possible costs. Cllr Thomson replied that the figure he'd quoted was based on his experience in relation to cycle paths. He added that in the current financial climate this route would not get priority.

4.3.3. Staircase beside former New Park School

Cllr Thomson informed the meeting that the builder of the staircase had not had planning permission and when this had been reported Planning Enforcement had asked for plans to be submitted. He thought that the outcome was better as a result and more in keeping with the Ladebraes.

4.3.4. Speed Survey Hepburn Gardens

Cllr Thomson reported that following complaints by residents about cars speeding a survey has been started to monitor the situation close to the school crossing.

4.3.5. Madras College Update

Cllr Thomson reported that the University and Council had eventually come to a decision about the access road and he thought it might be starting in September. He added that it would take 30 weeks to build the road and 2 years to build the school. He didn't believe official statements that the school would be ready for 2020/2021 sessions bearing in mind the timescale quoted. He still had no word from officials as to when the master plan for the school and area would be published.

4.3.8. Pedestrianisation

Cllr Thomson commented that whilst he had tried to stimulate a debate on the idea, Fife Council had no money to pay for a formal study. He had however spoken to the Playfair Consultancy Group, which is a student group at the University, and they have agreed to do a pro bono study later in September and will hopefully report back about November or December.

4.3.9. Car Free Day

Cllr Thomson mentioned "Car Free Day" on the 22nd September in Market Street, part of an international attempt to encourage this idea.

4.3.10. Withdrawal of Sunday Service for No.64 bus

Mrs Harding asked how the withdrawal of the No.64 on Sundays had been decided. Cllr Thomson advised that it might be due to a change of service providers when contracts were renewed. Mrs Harding thought this would have an effect upon users for a variety of reasons and asked if Cllr Thomson could ask for the reason. Cllr Thomson agreed to check but felt that it would be a commercial decision by the bus company.

4.3.11. Town Hall Flagpole

Mr Munn asked for an update on the Town Hall flagpole. Cllr Thomson thought that nothing had happened to date. He didn't think there had been any move to improve the access.

4.3.12. Uplighters by West Port

Mr Munn asked for an update in respect of malfunctioning Uplighters by the West Port. Cllr Thomson commented that this was still an ongoing issue.

4.3.13. Hollowhill

Mr Marks said that the condition of the area round the ancient grave area on Hollowhill had been brought to his attention. Mr Greenwell said that as a regular dog walker in the area he'd noticed that the area didn't receive attention to keep it clear of debris such as leaves. Cllr Thomson confirmed the responsibility of the Parks Dept and said he'd mention this to officers.

4.3.14. Jacobs Ladder

Mrs Harding asked about the area on Jacobs Ladder, which appeared very unkempt and wondered who might be responsible for managing it. Cllr Thomson said he'd try to find out how officers decided when to cut an area but reminded her that because of cutbacks such areas might be left for longer.

4.3.15. Bogward Road Bus Stop

Mr Jamie McLeod asked when the damaged bus stop on the Bogward Road would be repaired? Cllr Thomson acknowledged the concerns and was trying to get a response from officers on the timescale. He thought that they might not be viewing the current condition as much of a priority as he might. He also thought that the problem partly lay with the use of a private firm in Glasgow which seemed to be slow in responding to repairs and that Fife Council had no other company with whom they could set up a contract for the job. He felt the situation was ridiculous. He concluded by promising to chase up the matter with officials. Since the meeting the secretary chanced upon the repairer eventually coming and repairing the shelter!

4.4. Ann Verner

4.4.1. Events Attended

Cllr Verner reported that she'd attended many events during July/August. These included judging the Sandcastle Competition, attending the Harbour Gala, attending the Awards Ceremony at Cambo for Phoenix Futures Scotland (Recovery through Nature Scotland). She also attended the launch of the new Enviro 200 MMC Buses and an evening to celebrate the achievements of the Friends of Craigtoun. The SALJGA Prize giving was also attended and a Gallery opening in Strathkiness.

4.4.2. Scores Pavement

Cllr Verner reported that she'd raised this with Transportation who were looking into this and trying to find outside funding to allow work to be undertaken.

4.4.3. Market Street Drains

Cllr Verner reported that Scottish Water would be coming to do a major survey of the drains in a few weeks.

4.4.4. City Road Drains

Cllr Verner reported that this issue is being addressed by the contractor who did the recent works.

4.4.5. Balone Road

Cllr Verner reported that following a site visit Fife Council are going to do a scrape to re-establish the roads edge/verge break line and do some jet patching.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Committee Reports

5.1.1. Planning Committee Report

Mrs Fraser gave the report in Miss Uprichard's absence. The Planning Committee met twice in August and looked into 35 applications as well as other matters. It decided to object to 6 applications including the application for 22 Ladebraes where the previous application was withdrawn. An application for Century House in Hepburn Gardens has also come back again the last one having been withdrawn.

Mrs Fraser then went on to talk about the recent consultation meeting at the Town Library on the proposed improvements to the Ladebraes. She noted that no letters had been sent out to residents or any attempt to put leaflets up on the walk. The committee was told from the beginning that there was no intention to make a cycle path this really being a play on words with the Land Reform Act permitting cycling on the Ladebraes anyway. The committee felt that it was clear that there was an intention to encourage cycling because of the involvement of Sustrans and the proposal to put up shared path signs showing cycling and walking as well as the intention to remove the barriers to facilitate cycling. In response the committee expressed concern that the path wasn't fit for the mix of users as well as being a risk to cyclists due to the steep drop into the burn in places. The committee thought that there might be two aspects to the proposals, one being to construct a sub standard pathway of 2.5 ms width, the other to build one according to Scottish Govt specifications which would be 3ms and would require cutting down trees and straightening narrow bends a very expensive option. She concluded that as the Ladebraes was in a conservation area there would be a further consultation.

Miss Uprichard wrote on behalf of the committee to planning officials in Mid-May asking about the possibility of changing the planning in Market Street to diagonal parking, which she said would enable vehicles to enter, and exit parking spaces more easily and speed up the traffic. Having had no reply she had written again.

Mr McLeod commented about the benefit to the committee in being able to use the Students Association building in recent years. In the past a donation had been made to a Welfare Fund for students and he proposed making a similar donation for recent use. There had been a saving given the number of meetings held by the committee on an annual basis. The meeting approved the donation.

5.1.2. Change of Committee Name

Mr Newman proposed a change of the name of the Planning Committee to the Planning and Licensing Committee to reflect their role in looking at licensing applications from local businesses. The change of name was agreed unanimously. Mr Newman said that the Clerk to the Licensing Board would be informed of this decision.

Mr Munn noted that a new shop in South Street, which had replaced a restaurant, was selling Gin. He wondered whether it had a licence to sell alcohol? Cllr Liston confirmed that this should be the case. Mr Newman commented that the Licensing Board sometimes depended upon the public informing them if a shop had started to sell alcohol if the shop owner hadn't done so. It was agreed that the committee should pursue this matter.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Reports from Representatives

6.1.1. Mr Roberts Representative Roles

Mr McLeod had informed the meeting about the resignation of Mr Kyffin Roberts at the beginning of the meeting. He reminded the meeting that Mr Roberts had a number of roles as a representative on local organisations and these roles would have to be filled by a new CC representative.

His roles included the Lammas Market Committee, which Mr Dobson-Cunningham was happy to undertake. Mr Roberts had been a Director on Standen or St Andrews Environmental Network a role that Mr Newman agreed to undertake. Mr Newton would act as a representative on St Andrews Partnership.

6.2. Out of Hours Hospital Service Situation

Mrs Fraser reported about the ongoing attempts to persuade Fife Health Board to change its decision to close the local service despite the offer by GPs to continue to man it from the hospital. A petition had been started and was being circulated by Mr Rennie MSP. Mrs Fraser encouraged members to become involved in gathering signatures.

6.3. St Andrews Town Entry Signs

Mr Greenwell gave an update on the plans for the new signs. He confirmed that most of the new signs had recently been erected with only one outstanding sign for the harbour, as requested by Miss Uprichard. He reported that the project had come in under budget. As a consequence there had been no need to call on local area funds or CC funds.

Mr Greenwell then commented on the Fairtrade signs removal, which he claimed Mr Goodfellow had asked to be removed. He informed the meeting that he'd had a meeting with representatives from the Fairtrade Group who had only recently become aware of the removal of the signs and wanted an explanation and resolution of this matter. He'd given them the background, as he understood it to the removal of the signs. The group had also acknowledged their slow response to his July email and the poor state of the signs, however despite the communication glitch they were keen to see signs reinstated.

Mr Greenwell sought the views of the CC meeting. Mr Marks in general terms explained the reason for the communication glitch and reminded the meeting about the length of time signs had been up and the wide ranging number of shops and organisations committed to the Fairtrade philosophy by using the products of the small growers enrolled in the scheme. Mr Marks wondered if there was a technical reason as hinted by Mr Greenwell, which might preclude the signs going on the new town signs. Mr McLeod wondered if the sign could be added to the town sign? Mr Greenwell acknowledged that he needed to check out the situation, which had both elements of possible technical issues and political following a recent ministerial comment at Holyrood about Fairtrade signs. He explained that one contractor had claimed that the signs had to be at least 1500 mm above the ground under new regulations, though he acknowledged that the winning contractor hadn't made any comment on this issue. Mr Greenwell also reported that Mr Goodfellow wasn't aware of that regulation. Mr McLeod commented that there might be other competing organisations also wishing to have their name on the town sign, so did the CC feel that there was a case for the Fairtrade signs? Mr Marks commented on other signs he'd seen in town well below the 1500 mm level. Mr Greenwell thought that the regulation might only apply to new signage. Dr Goudie explained that there had been legislation at Scottish Parliament level to allow the Transport Secretary to ban Fairtrade signs if he felt they were inappropriate. However Dr Goudie added there was lobbying by MSPs to stop this action and get the original status quo reinstated.

Dr Shepherd asked what made a town a Fairtrade Town? Mr Marks explained the general rules for Fairtrade designation for which towns, cities and regions could apply and the local Fairtrade Group had a remit to monitor the situation in St Andrews and work towards encouraging use of Fairtrade products. They had recently had the designation reconfirmed by the Fairtrade Association. Dr Shepherd queried the number of traders who might be signed up and wondered if the rules applied if there were less than 50% actively promoting Fairtrade products. Mr Greenwell reminded Dr Shepherd that the R&A and the University both large organisations subscribed to Fairtrade in the products they used. The R&A heavily promoted the Fairtrade philosophy and products at the last St Andrews Open thus exposing its message to many thousands of visitors.

Mr Newman suggested that the CC invite the Fairtrade Group to a CC meeting to explain why they merited signs going up again. He said that he'd lost his respect for Fairtrade when the organisation made some contacts with Nestle. Mr Greenwell said he'd check out the areas about Fairtrade signs and the law regarding the allowed height on signposts as well as the position from the Scottish Parliament. Mr McLeod thanked Mr Greenwell for his work on the new signs.

6.4. Microphones Update

Dr Shepherd was asked to report back on his investigation into a suitable modern microphone system for use by the CC etc. Dr Shepherd outlined his progress. He had sent down the breakdown of costs to members and said he was leaving the screen and data projector out of the project at the present time. He was looking at Sennheiser and had met with the rep of the supplier who had told him that the firm's product would last a considerable period of time. Mr McLeod asked Dr Shepherd to put a proposal for the CC to vote upon regarding the product he thinks will suit the CC's needs. Dr Shepherd argued that the system proposed was for the common good and was portable and gave examples where it might be used. It would give a public meeting and conference facility.

Mr Greenwell queried how often what was partially a mobile PA system would be used given the small number of meetings he'd known the CC to organise in the last five years? Dr Shepherd wasn't willing to discuss Mr Greenwell's query and indicated he could walk away from the project in the light of such comments or if the proposal didn't get a seconder. Mr Greenwell still didn't see that it was worthwhile spending £3000 on the mobile aspect of the system. He cited the Recreation Committee spending a lot less on a mobile sound system for the Bandstand Concerts and couldn't see the justification in spending as much as the quote was suggesting given the few times the system might be used. He acknowledged the quality of Sennheiser product but wondered why the CC needed the quality of equipment in the quote.

He thought that a much cheaper system could be found without too much difficulty. Dr Newton also queried the cost without a clear indication about the way it would be used. He thought that a clearer steer on its use by the CC and the broader community might be helpful before going to the expenditure the current quote would involve. Mr McLeod thought the system would be used not just for CC meetings but also for meetings in the town hall by other groups. He viewed it as a community asset to benefit the community and he cited the poor facilities at the meeting about the hospital.

Mrs Harding wondered how this system would be stored? Mr McLeod agreed that there would have to be secure storage.

Dr Goudie said that the presentation of this as a funding application to the CGF was rather crucial. He thought that the CC should not be seen solely as the beneficiary of such an application but thought that the benefit to the town of having a decent PA system for things like public meetings might be more acceptable.

Mr Greenwell suggested that if the system was going to be of such a benefit to the town perhaps the cost as with the Ladebraes should come from a number of sources, not just the CGF. Dr Shepherd refused to take on the task of looking for funding from other sources. Mr McLeod asked members if anyone was willing to undertake this task. Cllr Thomson suggested looking towards the Locality Planning Budget, which he said, was quite healthy for this year.

Mr Cunningham-Dobson felt that good quality sound was important to have in any equipment purchased. He related his own experiences in the importance of quality equipment. He also felt that it was important how the equipment was managed if used by other groups.

Mr Newman seconded Dr Shepherd in his proposal that the CC were applying on behalf of the Town Hall to purchase the PA equipment for use by the CC and other organisations.

Mr Greenwell thought it was premature to discuss purchasing an expensive system before being clear about its management. He objected to Mr McLeod's assumption that because there wasn't a counter motion that the motion to purchase the equipment would automatically be accepted without a vote. Mr Greenwell decided to put a counter motion to the effect that the proposal should be sent back in order to get a proper management plan in place before anything was approved. Dr Goudie seconded Mr Greenwell's motion. Seven supported Mr Greenwell's motion and seven plus the Chair supported Dr Shepherd's motion. Dr Shepherd's motion was therefore carried.

6.5. Community Council Election Date

Mr Marks gave a summary of the ongoing process set in motion by Fife Council for Community Council elections in October. Partly due to Cllr Nolan requesting that the election date be set back to a later date to allow student participation, Fife Council's Chief Executive decided to delay the election until an as yet unspecified date in early 2019. Mr McLeod asked for members' thoughts on a date in the coming year. Mrs Dillon thought it would need to be in the spring. Mr Newman thought it would either have to be before Xmas or possibly February/ March if the students were to be voting, though as it is a postal ballot that might not be as relevant. Cllr Liston advised that the election register wouldn't be up to date if the election was held before 2019 due to the timing of updates. She thought there wouldn't be any updates between September and the New Year, effectively meaning that students returning soon wouldn't be on the register. Mr Munn noted that if the election wasn't until March anyone elected from the students would only be around for a couple of months before the end of term.

Mrs Fraser thought that the register was updated every month, but that a person's name could still take a few weeks before it formally appeared on the register. She understood that anyone registering could still vote even though they hadn't formally appeared on the register.

Mr Marks informed the meeting of a communication from Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive of Fife Council in which he said he'd asked the Electoral Services Manager to review the provisions regarding the future date of elections in St Andrews as part of a local review of election rules. He hadn't specified a date apart from indicating it was likely to be in 2019. He'd asked Mr Melville to look at options for a date and the latter would be in contact with the CC on this matter soon. Mr McLeod concluded that when approached by Mr Melville a March date would be suggested as acceptable despite Cllr Thomson then pointing out that 18th March was the start of the student mid term vacation.

6.6. Other Matters Arising

6.6.1. Planning Committee Meeting Time Change

Mr McLeod advised that in future Planning Committee meeting would start at 19.00.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Recreation Committee

Mr Jardine reported they'd had a meeting on the 1st August and although Mr Roberts later resigned from the CC he'd indicated that the Bandstand Refurbishment would still go ahead.

The summer concerts were successful until the last three lost due to wet weather. Over £700 had been collected from the public during those concerts, which had taken place. Mr Jardine also thought that the CC should thank Mr Roberts for his work on the bandstand refurbishment project.

Mr Jardine then advised and reminded members about the annual Putting Contest at the Himalayas Putting Green taking place the following day.

Mr Jardine then proceeded to discuss the next Coffee morning on the 29th September. There was a strong feeling that Coffee Mornings were not really fulfilling any real purpose and had lost their appeal to the public. The function and location of Coffee Mornings was discussed with Mr McLeod speculating about whether a change of location and even time might make them more attractive. The content of the Coffee Mornings was also debated with questions being asked as to whether they fulfilled any real function in making the public aware of the role of the CC. It was agreed that the fundraising aspect was not the prime motive, more an educational role. Mr Cunningham Dobson suggested that people might be drawn in by the possibility of an interesting talk and he offered his services talking about shipwrecks his area of work. It was eventually agreed to go ahead with the September Coffee morning despite misgivings and to review after the event. It was also agreed to invite the Ukulele Band mentioned by Dr Shepherd to entertain those attending the event. The possibility of changing the venue would also be examined with Holy Trinity being an option to be investigated.

Mr Jardine then discussed the Garden Competition. He was concerned about the way the competition was being managed as he'd received very little information about the progress of

this event. He had however recently received a list of the prizewinners and was informed that the winners would be awarded their trophies or certificates on 13th September. He sought CC advice on how to proceed as he felt that the date suggested was too short notice for him. He wondered about the winners receiving awards at the Civic Reception in November? The meeting agreed to this change in the awards date. Mr Greenwell added that the winners of the putting competition could also be awarded their trophies at the Civic Reception.

Mr McLeod thought that it would be right to change the date of the awards ceremony for the Gardens Competition. He made the members aware of the costs of the previous year's ceremony, which had amount to hundreds of pounds. He felt that such costs were not acceptable.

Mr Jardine then mentioned the Civic Reception informing the meeting that Dorothea Morrison would be the guest speaker. He was also working on the Senior Citizens Treat checking the list and ensuring that invitations were correct. He planned to phone or contact all potential participants to check if there was any change in their circumstances, which might affect their attendance.

7.2. GP Meeting

No meeting

7.3. 200 Club

1st Mrs Munday 2nd Mr Marks. 3rd Mrs Howell

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No report

7.5. Rail Committee

Dr Goudie reported on the award of £40000 from the Local Rail Development Fund to Starlink. This would be used to assess transport needs and opportunities in and around St Andrews. The funding would cover the STAG reappraisal and the Part One STAG appraisal. He added that the award was the biggest boost to the campaign to reinstate a railway link though there would be other stages to the process. Michael Matheson the minister involved chose to come to the site of the former St Andrews Station to announce the awards to ten campaigns including St Andrews.

7.6. Community Engagement Committee

Dr Shepherd reported that the committee had met a couple of times since the last CC meeting. At the last meeting they'd had Dorothea Morrison and Ray Pead attend. He acknowledged that work was still at the embryonic stage. He was going to attend an East Neuk Community Forum meeting to get an insight as to how they were operating. He also proposed buying two roller banners/ wall panels for future use, one with the CC Crest and the other with a collage of St Andrews. He asked for approval from the CC to buy the banners which would each cost £99 plus VAT. The meeting agreed this expenditure.

8. New Business

8.1. World War One Centenary

Mr Jamie McLeod due to time constraints said he'd email his thoughts out to members.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Mr McLeod said he'd circulate his Chair's report to members

9.2. Treasurer

Report as on website – no outstanding bills etc

9.3. Membership Secretary

New member Mrs Dillon.

9.4. Secretary

See agenda for emails/letters received - comments welcomed. Mr Marks also informed the meeting that he'd be away for two months, most of October and all of November. He'd try to forward relevant email correspondence to members when he had Internet access but would require someone to act up in his absence in relation to taking minutes in November and possibly typing up the October notes, as he would be departing abroad on 4th October.

10. Any Other Competent Business

None