

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – 5th June 2017

0. Membership Resignation

Mr McLeod announced the resignation of Mr Kenneth Crichton who has been a longstanding and very active member of the Community Council. A deterioration in his health has brought about his decision. Mr Crichton, Mr McLeod reminded the meeting was a former Chairman and latterly served as Convenor. Mr McLeod with the agreement of members asked that the minute record appreciation of the service Mr Crichton has given to the Community Council and the community of St. Andrews.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, Izzy Corbin, Patrick Marks, Judith Harding, Greg Newman, Harry Stewart, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Ken Crichton, Penelope Fraser, Jamie McLeod, Kyffin Roberts, Penelope Fraser, Dita Stanis-Traken, Howard Greenwell, Iain Munn,

Students' Association Representatives

Hannah Raleigh

Co-Opted

Niall Scott

Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Dominic Nolan, Ann Verner

Apologies –Alistair Newton, Aine Bennett, Lindsey Adam, Ken Crichton, Charlotte Andrew, Hannah Raleigh, Jane Ann Liston

2. Minutes of Meeting – May 2017

The minutes were accepted as correct with a couple of corrections. Mrs Corbin corrected 6.1.1. In relation to the sports award which should be the Masters Award.

Under 6.5: Mrs Corbin asked that “more than the official capacity of 50 or so” be removed. Mrs Corbin also pointed out in relation to the discussion about the General Election Hustings that the bowling club had not been suggested at that time.

3. Presentations

4. Fife Councillors.

4.1. Jane Ann Liston - apologies.

4.2. Dominic Nolan.

4.2.1. Bus Stop – Abbey Park Avenue

Cllr Nolan would be enquiring about the possibility of the erection of a bus stop for elderly residents of the retirement flats at Abbey Park Avenue, an issue that had been brought to his attention.

4.2.2. Pedestrian Crossing – South Street (near Janettas)

Another issue being investigated by Cllr Nolan was the possibility of a crossing to allow safe crossing of the road on South Street between Janettas and the Bridal Shop.

4.2.3. HMOs

Miss Uprichard asked Cllr Nolan about his views on HMOs. She said that he had been quoted as saying that “the biggest problem the student population is the housing crisis due to the HMO ban”. Why did he think that was a crisis? Cllr Nolan said that many struggled each year to find a house for themselves. He was not saying whether the ban should go or not but was simply acknowledging the possible effect on the student population. Miss Uprichard in reply asked if he acknowledged that the problem wasn’t helped by the increase in student numbers? Miss Uprichard also asked Cllr Nolan if he knew how many HMOs there were in St. Andrews and how many more did he want? Cllr Nolan replied that he didn’t have a number and wasn’t going to try and guess. Miss Uprichard said there were over a 1000 in St. Andrews, over 95% of the HMOs in Fife, so she thought it was relevant that she should ask how many more he thought there should be? Cllr Nolan refused to be drawn on the matter. Mr Scott in reply to a comment made by Miss Uprichard about the rapidity of the increase of student numbers reminded her that the increase in numbers was being done in a slow and planned way. The need for accommodation was being addressed and the University he reminded the meeting was working hard with the Housing Group on the issue of housing in St. Andrews.

4.3. Brian Thomson

4.3.1. New Administration of Fife Council

Cllr Thomson gave the meeting a description of the plan to revamp the way Councillors in the new Administration would manage Fife Council. The SNP and Labour Party had decided to work together. There were to be co-leaders with Cllr David Ross from Labour and Cllr David Alexander from the SNP. Mr Jim Leishmann is to remain as Provost. The General Election has delayed the full implementation of the new committee structure with Chairs to be elected at the next full Council Meeting on 15th June. The Executive of the previous administration is to be abandoned and replaced by Committees covering strategic areas such as Education, Transport etc. The chair of the North East Fife Area Committee will be Donald Lothian with the Vice-Chair being Cllr Ann Verner.

Miss Uprichard sought clarification on the nature of the new committees being set up by the new Council. Cllr Thomson explained the situation reminding the meeting that the previous Council had abandoned a longstanding committee structure, which is now being revived. Cllr Thomson thought that the return to this structure would give more Councillors say in decisions compared to the Executive structure.

4.3.2. Parking Ticket Machines

Cllr Thomson was still chasing officials about the wording to do with amount people would have to pay if paying by mobile. The charge isn’t stated on the machines.

4.3.3. Cycle Parking

Cllr Thomson reported that Councillors are soon due to receive proposals about the cycle parking outside Tesco and by the West Port.

4.3.4. Kinburn Park - New Play Area

Cllr Thomson reported that the costs for this development have been put together and amount to £91000. There is to be a sensory element to the area and a beech maze. Work is due to start in a few weeks.

4.3.5. Pipeland Park

Cllr Thomson reported that he’d been working with the local group on the plans to improve the facilities. The skate park element will cost about £100000 with funding confirmed in Fife Council’s capital plan. They are also looking for other funding to put in new play equipment and do some landscaping. The total projected cost is about £245000. Funding from other

sources will need to be found for the play area and landscaping work. Work may start in the New Year on this project.

4.3.6. Lade Braes

Cllr Thomson gave an update. £50000 had been agreed from the Common Good Fund and £50000 from Fife's capital plans. He reported that Council officers were also keen to get funding from Sustrans and to date £10000 has been awarded to undertake a feasibility study. It was hoped that further funding could be obtained once the study had detailed the plans in the next financial year. It was hoped to get between £50-75000 from Sustrans. This would allow work to be done to improve the situation at pinch points. He added that there was a choice between going ahead with some of the work or wait until the next year in the hope that the extra money could be obtained and all the work done at one time. He personally thought it would be worth waiting but said that the four local councillors would probably take the decision. If it is decided to wait he added that he would push for some of the low-grade maintenance elements of managing the area to be done.

Miss Uprichard asked about the proposal to get funding from Sustrans and she assumed that this would be to make the route favourable for cyclists! Cllr Thomson explained that the aim would be to improve certain points, which might be dangerous for both cyclists and pedestrians. He added that it would be meant to be a shared route as it is at the moment. Miss Uprichard mentioned the historical background to the Lade Braes and queried whether legislation overrode the original gift's conditions and whether it overrode the Highway Code?

Cllr Thomson reminded the meeting that there had been a byelaw, which had prohibited cycling until the 1990s, but it had been overridden by access legislation he thought. He added that he'd been advised that the Land Reform Act had overruled the byelaw. He offered to get that confirmed with Fife Council's legal department.

4.3.7. Air Quality

Cllr Thomson reminded the meeting about the locations of various air quality monitors around the town, details about which he'd sent earlier in an email to the CC. Results to date show that St Andrews is within acceptable levels. The results from newer testing areas such as Lamond Drive are still to be reported back.

4.3.8. New School

Cllr Thomson reported that at the moment there will be three planning applications. One for the Western Extension, one for the access road and one for the new school itself. The latest information suggests that the consortium hopes to have applications in by September 2017.

4.3.9. Bins Issue

Mr Marks asked whether Fife Council might look at bin management in a similar way to Edinburgh Council? Cllr Thomson acknowledged that he'd asked officers to look into that idea and would pursue the matter to check on what progress if any had taken place. He felt that the Edinburgh initiative appeared to be worth pursuing.

4.3.10. Do Not Feed The Gulls Sign

Mrs Harding observed that when she'd recently been in Dundee she'd seen a large sign asking people not to feed the gulls. She didn't think there were any in St. Andrews but might be some in Kirkcaldy. She thought that there were enough seagulls in St. Andrews to warrant such a sign.

4.3.11. Big Belly Bin

Mrs Corbin asked where the Big Belly bin had gone as she'd not seen it since the 24th April. Cllr Thomson advised that the particular bin had been on loan from Anstruther for a trial period. He thought it had been quite successful and that moves were afoot to try and get one or more introduced into St Andrews. He agreed to try and get an update on the matter. Mr Jardine commented on the difficulties that Fife Council workers had had in understanding the management of emptying the bin and also mentioned that Dave from Clean and Green was looking at the possibility of purchasing one of the bins though he acknowledged they were very expensive. Mr Greenwell explained that while the bins were around £4000 to buy the

company had a lease scheme in which Councils could lease the bins for a monthly charge. He acknowledged that in the lifetime of the bins the manufacturer would get more money by this type of scheme but for Councils the cost would be spread and more affordable. If some were leased it would be a matter of looking for the best places to place them.

4.3.12. Greenside Place

Mr Greenwell brought up the issue of the need to repair the deteriorating road surface on Greenside Place where he lives. He wondered if anything had happened in relation to getting the road on the repair list? Cllr Thomson said that nothing had happened since his report last month and he'd had very negative feedback from an official in Transportation on the possibility about repair in the foreseeable future. Cllr Thomson acknowledged that it had been the No.1 issue when he'd been campaigning during the Council election.

4.3.13. Queens Gardens - One Way System Proposal

Mr Stewart asked about an update on plans for Queens Gardens one-way proposal. Cllr Thomson said that he understood the local community had been consulted and had backed the proposal. Mrs Harding thought the traffic should be directed down the street rather than coming up from Queens Terrace, a view echoed by Mr McLeod.

4.4. Ann Verner

4.4.1. Community Hub Consultation Event

Cllr Verner had attended the recent Community Hub Consultation meeting. She thought it was a worthwhile project.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Report

Miss Uprichard presented the report of the Planning Committee. She reported that the committee had met twice in the past month. They had considered 23 applications and objected to 3. These were the return of the pergola at the West Port hotel, the proposal to build a triple garage in the grounds of a listed house in Hepburn Gardens and the proposal to demolish a house and build flats in St Leonards Road.

In relation to the new pergola application she said that the aim was merely to move it a few yards and she felt it would still have considerable impact upon the conservation area and on residents particularly in the flats in the West Port building and John Coupar Court.

The planning committee also decided to put in a complaint about the state of the road at Greenside Place.

She also commented that Emac planning who are agents for Fife Council announced the PAN for the new school on The 26th April. There had already been one consultation event and there was due to be a further event on 23/24th August. Miss Uprichard also commented that the earliest date the formal application could be put in was about 27th July, but Cllr Thomson in reply thought it wouldn't be until a date in late September based on information he'd received.

Mr Stewart asked about the situation with the air conditioning unit on the side of the Students Union building? He wondered if it had been resolved? Miss Uprichard replied that the matter hadn't been resolved and had been going on for the past year. The committee had written twice to Mr Hamilton for an update to no avail.

Mr Scott commented that the University had looked at a number of mitigation measures but this looks unlikely as the cost for complete removal and other work done to replace with a more acceptable system would cost £4 million pounds and the closure of the Students Association for up to a year, which he felt was not viable. The options being looked at the moment include cosmetically changing the profile with work being done in close consultation with the neighbours. Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting that the ducting had been installed without planning permission. Mr Scott added that Fife Councillors are taking enforcement action and that this seemed to be satisfying Planning.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Facebook

Mr McLeod reported that the traffic on the site varied from week to week depending upon the subject matter being reported and discussed. He thought that more postings were required.

6.2. General Election Hustings

Mr McLeod thanks Mr Stewart and Mrs Harding for their work in organising the event. All five candidates had attended. Between 80-90 members of the public had attended the event. He also thought that the Bowling Club was an excellent venue. He thanked Geoff Ashcroft who was Chair.

6.3. Nominations Committee for St Andrews Community Trust

Mr McLeod reported that he'd met with Danny Campbell, Commercial Director of the Links Trust recently. They put forward names to the Directors for further consideration. One proposal is that one Trustee continues for 2 more years, a second continues for one more year and a new Trustee would also be appointed to serve for three years.

6.4. Reports from Representatives

6.4.1. St Andrews Community Trust

Mr Greenwell reported that the partner directors of the Community Trust had met to consider the report from the Nominations Committee. There has been a slight delay, as CVs hadn't been requested for the two female applicants. However the Trust will consider the applications soon. There has also been a delay in receipt of the annual accounts from Henderson Black so the AGM may have to be delayed. A meeting will however be held to look at further awards. They were also going to follow the guidance of the Nominations Committee in relation to the way the directors would be appointed and rotated.

6.4.2. Standen Annual General Meeting

Mr Greenwell reported on the Standen AGM, which had recently taken place. Jane Kell had given a very comprehensive update on the work being done by Standen. He felt that lots of good things were happening with the project. Funding had been acquired for a further year's work in various areas of environmental concern. There was also talk about trying to commercialise aspects of the Clean and Green operation in conjunction with BID.

6.4.3. Lammas Fair Liaison Group

Mr Roberts reported on his involvement on this group. This was the group, which co-ordinated the safe working of the Lammas Fair and he feels it worked very well. The date of this years Lammas was a bit controversial being on the 15/16th August and this related to the way dates fell as it is usually based on the second Monday and Tuesday and this year Tuesday will be the 1st August so the second Monday and Tuesday won't be until the aforementioned dates. According to Cllr Thomson as the Showmen's Guild had pre-booked the days and had other locations either side of the St Andrews dates the dates couldn't be moved. According to officials the Showmen's Guild had the final say.

6.4.4. Pilgrim Foundation

Mr Stanis-Traken reported that the Pilgrim Foundation has a new Chair in the person of Mrs Isla Ashworth. The Foundation recently enjoyed an informal meeting with members of the St Andrews Partnership to explore how the two groups might collaborate on future projects.

6.5. Other Matters Arising

6.5.1. Rotten Railings

Mrs Harding mentioned that she recollected taking pictures of rotten railings, which Dorothea Morrison had done something about and wondered if there was any more news about sorting out the railings? Cllr Thomson thought that Common Good Fund had paid for repairs to railings but agreed to check out the situation. Mrs Harding recollected that there was some

talk that the work could be expensive depending upon the way the railings were fixed/replaced.

6.5.2. Town Hall Shop

Mr Newman wondered if anyone knew anything about the shop on the ground floor in South Street, which is part of the town hall. Mr Greenwell added that as Mr Newman had queried the “TO LET” sign had disappeared so someone must be planning to rent the premises the rent of which goes to the Common Good fund. Mr Greenwell added that the name of the new leaseholder usually becomes known when a planning application is put in for any work needing done to the premises. Dr Shepherd wondered if the premises could be advertised on the facebook page? Mr McLeod thought that could be done.

6.5.3. Reformation Quincentenary

Per request of the Community Council Chair I contacted Dr Revd Iain Bradley, Principal of St Mary's College, on the Community Council's behalf and am pleased to inform those present that a number of events are planned for the Quincentenary of the Reformation in October. These events are detailed on the website: <http://2017.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

6.5.4. Whyte-Melville Memorial Fountain

I am pleased to inform the Community Council that a group of individuals comprising myself, Community Cllr Isobel Corbin, St Andrews Merchants' Association Chair Lindsey Adam and former Fife Councillor, William Sangster have come together as the “Friends of the Whyte-Melville Memorial Fountain” in order to ensure the structure’s future success as a functioning fountain.

We have been joined in this endeavour by Kevin Smith of Fife Council’s Transportation Division; Mr Smith is liaising with the local authority in order to ascertain within which area or areas of Fife Council the fountain’s operation should properly sit.

We are indebted to Cllr Brian Thomson for providing information on the proceedings of the NE Fife Area Committee, which has helped clarify the situation vis-à-vis the fountain’s Common Good funding. We are likewise indebted to Cllrs Nolan and Verner for their expressions of support.

The Friends of the Fountain have been inducted in the use of the fountain’s operational control mechanism and we have already ensured that a timing error has been rectified and the flow rate adjusted downwards until the finial canon has been fitted with a diffuser, which will disperse the fountain’s pinnacle jet and thus prevent the current “hosepipe” effect, which generates a degree of splashing onto the adjacent roadway.

The Friends hope to look at how the fountain’s stonework might be cleaned and damaged parts made good; also at unblocking some of the improperly functioning canons on the second and third basins. We are likewise considering the matter of vehicular parking at the fountain and how best to prevent this in future (the fountain’s non-function in 2016 was in consequence of vehicular impact and all members of the Friends of the Fountain have seen vehicles regularly parking at the fountain, particularly at the fountain’s west face). We intend to raise monies in addition to Common Good funds for the care and upkeep of the fountain and will keep the Community Council abreast of our progress.

6.5.5. Argyle Street EVCP

I have since September 2014 been reporting problems with the Argyle St EVCP; since that time the unit has fluctuated between 3-6kw (so much so that some vehicles were unable to draw power), the unit rocked on its base and functioned erratically on at least one of its connectors. The lighting in the area is quite poor in the evening and charging cables, when not tucked under cars but strewn on the pavement, have presented a trip hazard.

These problems were reported to “Charge Your Car” (the company which operates the charger) and to various personnel in Fife Council, all seemingly without result.

In desperation, I raised the matter with former Cllrs Melville and McCartney, and then with the Community Council, via which, Cllr Thomson again raised the matter with Fife Council personnel.

In April of this year, the situation remaining unchanged, I reported the matter to Cllr Lesley Laird, Deputy Leader of Fife Council, having noted Mrs Laird's concern over malfunctioning EVCPs in other parts of Fife, as described in a newspaper article at that time.

I am pleased to inform the Community Council that the Argyle St EVCP was in May removed and reinstated within a protective metal barrier; the matter of poor lighting remains unaddressed, but the unit does at least for the moment appear to be securely fixed to the ground.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Recreation Committee

Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that the Bandstand Concerts had been booked with seven concerts from mid-July through August. The Kelpies will be in position beside the Golf Museum from 29th July. The hope is that they will attract a lot more visitors to town with the spin off benefit for the bandstand concerts if more folk are around. He is looking for volunteers between 2-4 pm for those Sundays.

7.2. GP Meeting

No meeting

7.3. 200 Club

1st Mrs Sangster 2nd Miss M Baird 3rd Mr A Tero

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin reported that she continued to attend various meetings connected with the NHS. She had also been looking at the Safety Panel and she had confirmed that it covered St Andrews. She felt that it was something in which the CC should have some involvement. She informed the meeting that she'd make further enquires. Mr McLeod reminded the meeting about Mr Sangster's request that the CC take over running this panel and he recollected that it used to be called the St Andrews Crime Prevention Panel. He thought he'd been the first Chair of that panel. He suggested that the matter should be revisited at the next CC meeting.

7.5. Rail Committee

Dr Goudie reminded the meeting that he'd forwarded the St Andrews Transport Study – Policy Review to members earlier in the day. Starlink he said had organised a launch event for the Policy Review to be held on Friday 16th June – 2-4 in the Students Union. John Purvis former MEP will be involved in the meeting. Mark Ruskell MSP has set up a new Mid-Scotland and Fife Rail Forum and has invited Starlink to participate.

Mrs Corbin suggested that the Rail Sub-Committee should really be a full committee and Dr Goudie agreed arguing that it had never been a sub-committee of any of the other CC committees. Mr McLeod confirmed that it would be termed Rail Committee in the future.

8. New Business

8.1. Town Hall Flag

Mr Jamie McLeod brought up the matter of the absence of a flag on the Town Hall. He wondered why this was the case. Mr Roberts said that he'd mentioned to Fife Council that the Town Hall hadn't got a flag flying on St Andrews Day. Fife Council sent up steeplejacks to check the flagpole and they deemed it to be unsafe. The intention at that time had been to replace the old flagpole and replaced with one, which could be hinged so that it would be much easier to put up a flag etc. He wasn't aware that this work had been done. Mr McLeod

thought that it should simply be a matter of obtaining funding from the Common Good Fund to replace the flagpole. He recollected that the saltire was meant to fly from 1st April to 30th September and a few other occasions such as St Andrews Day. He felt that the matter needed to be pursued. Cllr Thomson advised that Health and Safety in Fife Council had condemned the flagpole in November so it will have to be replaced. He offered to chase up why this hadn't taken place to date. He also added that there was an issue with the Town Hall bell, which needed repairs to make it safe as well. Mr Jamie McLeod agreed to take the matter forward as well. Cllr Thomson said that the Fife Council official responsible was a Gary Daniel, Community Resources Team Leader. Miss Uprichard suggested that the Chair should write a stiffish letter

Mr Stanis-Traken informed the meeting that he thought that the bell referred to was the oldest bell in St. Andrews. James VI gifted it to St. Andrews at his jubilee. He asked if the repair of the bell could also be looked at though he acknowledged that it would be more expensive than a flagpole. He reminded the meeting that in the past Councillor Liston had had the bell rung for the death of David Niven and Patrick Cassells. He thought it would be nice to have it available on future to ring on suitable occasions. Mr McLeod aid that on a past occasion when the repair of the bell had been investigated the CC had been given the impression that they would have to pay for the cost of finding out how much it would cost to repair the bell and he thought it could have been a 4 or 5 figure amount or about 10% of the estimated cost.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Nothing to report.

9.2. Treasurer

Treasurers Monthly Report on the website.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence

Mr Marks reported on the emails received and forwarded on subjects such as the Community Hub a new project being developed in the town. The organisers were hoping to get premises in the St Davids Centre, a Fife Council resource. Another email related to the 20 mph Bill being steered through the Scottish Parliament by Mark Ruskell seeking views on the proposed bill. Finally there had also been an email from Fife Council covering a range of topics including a Scottish Community Councils Newsletter, legacy tree planting, the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act. Mr Marks suggested that there might some interesting possibilities for other activity in which CC members could participate or engage and items could be discussed at next month's meeting if members were interested.

Mr Greenwell reminded the meeting that at a past date the Planning Committee had put together a letter suggesting that the whole of the St Andrews Conservation area be made a 20 mph zone. This proposal was endorsed by the whole CC in 2014. He thought that the CC could review this if necessary. Mr Marks commented that he didn't think it would be as easy to get this implemented based on comments by Fife council officials who wouldn't see it as possible in certain parts of the conservation area such as North Street, which is a through road.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Police Attendance

Mr Stewart commented that the police attended randomly, particularly if there was a new Community Police officer who might attend to introduce him or herself, but otherwise they didn't attend as much as hoped. He suggested that the CC should write to ask about attendance. Mr McLeod acknowledged the issue despite the claims by the Police and their level of community engagement. Mr Marks agreed to write a letter to the Police asking about this matter.

10.2. Graffiti Removal

Mr Jamie McLeod asked about the removal of graffiti. He was told that there was a Fife Council official with responsibility for organising removal. Mr Greenwell said he'd try to find a contact on this matter for Jamie.

10.3. Kate Hughes – Retirement

Mr Roberts suggested that there should be an email or card sent to Mrs Hughes who is retiring at the end of this week from Fife Council. He said she'd been very helpful to the CC over many years and the CC should show its appreciation. The Chairman agreed to send a card on behalf of the CC.

10.4. Convenor's Post

Mrs Corbin informed the meeting that with the retirement of Mr Crichton, he'd suggested that the CC appoint her as his replacement. Mr McLeod and Mr Greenwell reminded Mrs Corbin that it had been agreed at the AGM that when Mr Crichton retired the post of Convenor should be not be continued.