

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes –5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Kyffin Roberts, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, Iain Munn, Izzy Corbin, Patrick Marks, Henry Paul, Harry Stewart, Penny Uprichard, John Jardine, Jamie McLeod, Chris Wallard, Howard Greenwell, Greg Newman

#### Students' Association Representatives

Charlotte Andrew

Aine Bennett

#### Co-Opted

Niall Scott

#### Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville

**Apologies** - Keith McCartney, Lindsey Adam, Zara Evans, Ken Crichton

### 2. Minutes of Meeting –July 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the July meeting apart from a couple of errors pointed out by Mr Newman in the report on his membership. He asked that “Ways & Means” in the first paragraph be altered to “Amenities”. In the second paragraph Mr Newman asked that the end of the sentence be changed as it appeared he was criticising only the University, so “University” to be changed to “Other organisations”. Miss Uprichard had noted a couple of minor errors in the planning report which Mr Marks had amended.

### 3. Presentations

#### 3.1. Byre Theatre – Stephen Sinclair

Mr Sinclair started by talking about the plans for the next six months at the Byre and he had the new programme of events with copies for all members to distribute. He explained that the Byre under the new management had been open for about a couple of years and he thought that it had been an exciting times with audiences coming back in increasing numbers. A wider range of events was being promoted from talks to films and music events and theatrical events. They were working in conjunction with other organisations and businesses. He cited the production of “Me & My Girl” by the Anstruther Theatrical Group as an example of outreach. Events are happening in day time as well such as a film club. Live screenings were also taking place in conjunction with NPH. A late night horror film season aimed at attracting students in particular was a new venture. He talked about attracting both the tourism market and the local market. He acknowledged that there was a constantly evolving process in managing the Byre in order to keep audiences coming in good numbers and giving good feedback.

He reported on the season of the Byre at the Botanics and the success of that venture in conjunction with the Botanics. Such joint activities he thought benefited both organisations. He welcomed ideas and suggestions from CC members to keep the Byre relevant to local people and tourists.

Mr Newman asked Mr Sinclair if he was getting anywhere to restoring the Byre's position as a production house? Mr Newman thought that this was a very important way to get listings in national media if there were premieres in the Byre. He thought that once such things had stopped happening the Byre went down hill. Mr Sinclair acknowledged the deterioration in the situation commenting how by 2006-7 the theatre couldn't afford to put on new original productions. The new management at the Byre he added is now looking at how they can co-produce original work in conjunction with partners and hopefully also looking at longer runs. He acknowledged that it was a slow process.

## **4. Fife Councillor.**

### **4.1. Frances Melville**

#### **4.1.1. New Common Good Fund Expenditure decisions**

Cllr Melville commented that at a local ward meeting it had been decided to make use of a substantial amount of CGF money on larger projects. One planned project is maintenance in the Ladebraes to bring it up to standard. £50000 had been allocated towards this project although to do a complete job in the Ladebraes she acknowledged would cost a lot more. Another project would be repairs to the railings along the Scores and the third will be towards work in improving Church Square which has suffered from heavy vehicles parking and damaging the slabs. The project will be a bit more than this basic replacement of damaged slabs.

Mrs Harding asked about the total amount planned to be spent from the fund and whether the four local Councillors were the only ones tasked with deciding the expenditure? Cllr Melville in reply acknowledged that there were plans to use a considerable amount of the fund's available money. She explained the way the Council managed the fund with officials deciding without consultation to transfer funds from the current account to a capital or investment account if they felt there was too much sitting unspent in the annual income. Councillors had decided that they wanted to have more say in the use of funds including decisions to transfer without consultation. In reply to a query from Mrs Harding she informed the meeting that the railings were budgeted at £15000 and the Church Square improvements would see a contribution of £66000 from the capital fund towards the improvements.

Mrs Harding also mentioned the plans for funding assistance towards a play park at Kinburn to which the CGF contribution will be about £4000. The project is the action of the Kinburn All Together Group as well as the Cultural Trust and Café. £10000 is coming from the North East fife community budget according to Cllr Morrison amongst other sources. Cllr Morrison added that money had become available following the closure and demolition of the West Sands play area in the form of the maintenance costs which are no longer needed.

Cllr Melville confirmed that the various projects listed would use virtually all of the current financial year's income. Mr McLeod echoed the feeling that there was some merit in using the money in ways which would have a lasting benefit to the community rather than accumulating yet more in the capital fund. Mr Greenwell as supportive of spending money on the Ladebraes. He also hoped that before the Church Square work was started that bollards would be installed to stop the ongoing abuse by vans etc which has caused damage.

Dr Shepherd asked about the scope of the Ladebraes work for the sum mentioned. He said that he was concerned about the trees and felt that the area was very overgrown. Cllr Melville replied that Iain Barbour of the Parks Dept had given Councillors a run down of the costs of work to improve areas of concern in the Ladebraes. Cllrs Thomson and Morrison also commented on aspects of the Ladebraes situation. It was mentioned that the current funding would only cover part of the costs so officials had been asked to identify the worst areas of erosion etc needing maintenance to make them safe and useable. As more money became available more work would be done as identified. However total costs could reach six figures. Cllr Melville volunteered to look out an email with relevant information on the subject.

Mr Roberts commented that the total cost of the Kinburn Playpark he'd seen was around £60000 with about £14000 coming from the CGF and local budget. He wondered how an application could be considered for the CGF grant as it required the applicant to be able to confirm that other funding was in place or available. Cllr Morrison that the balance was being accessed indirectly by using a fund which was involved in training young people so the cost balance was being viewed as the cost of the labour etc for the trainees.

#### **4.1.2. East Sands Dumping**

Councillors had a final update earlier today about the East Sands. Robbie Blyth had reported on information from SEPA that following discussions with all parties it was agreed that the beach could be reopened as waste had been removed and was going to a suitable place for disposal. In order to establish the full picture of what took place SEPA will still investigate this matter with a view to ensuring that future waste is correctly managed. Bathing water quality at the East Sands is not at present adversely affected. SEPA officers will continue to monitor the area until early September to ensure that there is no problem.

#### **4.1.3. Planning Meeting with Pam Ewing**

Cllr Melville announced that she had arranged a meeting with Pam Ewing to discuss various issues such as the HMO decision in the Kinnesburn area. This application had been to make these new build flats HMOs with owners claiming they'd been lived in thus allowing them to bypass the new build regulation on HMOs in the area. The request was eventually refused not because of the new build or old build argument but because they were flats.

She also wanted to discuss the issue of internal reports not usually available to the public concerned about specific planning matters. She hoped that in future all such reports would be made available at planning meetings. She thought that many of the reports were innocuous so she couldn't see why they shouldn't be seen by Councillors.

#### **4.1.4. Section 42 reports**

These reports related to applications requiring a change in consent. New legislation now allows that anything brought to committee under this section could see the whole application being allowed. The planning committee can put a timescale on any changes which wasn't the case previous to the new legislation.

#### **4.1.5. HOM Moratorium**

Councillors had also called for a delay in the lifting of the moratorium on HMOs in order that further research could be undertaken to give members a better idea of how to make decisions on the moratorium and HMOs.

#### **4.1.6. Westport Hotel Pergola issue**

Cllr Melville reported that this saga was still ongoing. A meeting planned with a reporter in the near future had been changed as the new owners had withdrawn their objection to the decision. Scottish Government minister still had to make a decision on what to do about the pergola but it was assumed that they'd let the Council decision for discontinuance stand.

#### **4.1.7. Pedestrian Barriers – City Road/Double Dykes Roundabout**

There had been some correspondence on the future of the barriers which get damaged by traffic and often ignored by pedestrians. Officials were minded to remove them but Councillors felt they should stay. Mr Jardine thought there wasn't enough railing. He felt that the students often tried to take short cuts as it was too easy to walk across the junction and didn't use the two crossings. He thought it was only time before a student would be hit by a vehicle.

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Hepburn Gardens & Abbey Walk Road Works**

Cllr Thomson reported on the resurfacing project which will start in October in Hepburn Gardens and also Abbey Walk. Cllr Thomson said he'd been urging the Council to resurface

from as far west as Lawhead Road East. This will be extended to the roundabout with Buchanan Gardens. The Council he advised was also looking to impose a 20 mph speed limit in the west end of Hepburn Gardens. These measures might be implemented next February/ March.

#### **4.2.3. Students Union Air Conditioning Plant**

Cllr Thomson reported that the application for the plant on top of the SU had been refused. There will be a meeting between officials and the University to look at how to resolve this matter.

#### **4.2.4. East Bents – Flower Meadow**

Cllr Thomson reported that part of the East Bents had been dug up to plant a flower meadow.

#### **4.2.5. Recycling Changes**

Cllr Thomson reported on major changes to the recycling management and rules in Fife. Fife Council he said had set up an arms length company called Resource Efficient Solutions to run the recycling centres. A major cut in funding to the department in question had led to a review of how to manage the cuts and keep up the recycling. The main users of the recycling centres to be affected will be the businesses who have to bring waste such as landscape gardeners on a regular basis to the recycling centre. There has been an annual charge for businesses until the recent review. There was to be a new regime from 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Anyone using a van and /or a trailer non commercially will have to give notice the day before to be able to dump their waste. From that same date commercial operators will be charged £37 for a van or £41 for a trailer per trip. Cllr Thomson had made representations to the Council to express his concerns but hadn't managed to get any change in the decision to charge etc. Mrs Harding expressed concern that this could lead to people fly tipping. Mrs Harding also sought more information on the nature and timescale of the new regime and whether Fife Council might have any say in relation to the charge level. Cllr Thomson in reply said that he didn't know if there was a contract in place but the way the company was created was similar to Fife Cultural Trust, a sort of arm's length company not a profit making one. At present the Trust will be trying to cover its costs which it hadn't been doing prior to its set up. He could understand from a financial point of view why the company might be wanting to implement new costs. He was however concerned that the new charges could hit small businesses which had regular need to dispose of waste.

Mrs Harding wondered if there was any way people could object to these new charges? Cllr Thomson in reply said that people could express their concern through the usual channels. Cllr Melville echoed the need for people to make their views known about the charges. Cllr Thomson added that there could be occasions in which landscape gardeners could need to make use of the centre a few times in a day. He added that the new company had offered to speak to traders but as far as he could make out would be the offer of hiring a skip.

Mrs Harding asked Cllr Thomson who people could write to on the matter. Cllr Thomson replied that a Mr Chris Ewing at Resource Efficient Solutions was the contact. He offered to get the email address so that enquires could be emailed.

Mr McLeod commented that he thought that this wasn't what the recycling centres were for and he viewed them as places where local businesses could dispose of the by-product of their business. He felt that the planned charge could put businesses out of business and hoped it wouldn't lead to fly tipping. He asked the meeting whether the CC should be writing to condemn the high charges planned. There was general agreement that this might be appropriate. Mr Greenwell was alarmed at the possible risk of an increase in fly tipping and wondered if Mr Ewing might have any responsibility for dealing with this issue.

Cllr Melville suggested inviting Mr Ewing to attend the CC at the next meeting to explain the logic behind the charges. Mr Marks to write to Mr Ewing to invite him to the October CC meeting. Cllr Melville added that small businesses had a pre warning about the planned

increases and change in charging arrangements a few months ago. Cllr Thomson said he'd forward the briefing note on the matter to the secretary to aid him in his correspondence.

#### **4.2.6. Car Parking**

Cllr Thomson mentioned that both he and Cllr Morrison were on the BID group and this group was looking at parking issues in the town. One plan is to have some students study the possibility of a Park & Ride scheme in the town. This will start in the coming month. Funding any scheme and identifying a site will be the main challenges.

BID have put forward a number of suggestions to transportation officers as to how things could be improved. One suggestion which has been made is the extension of half an hour parking in the town centre outside the current Market Street, Bell Street and Greyfriars Gardens. Officers have claimed that to introduce half hour parking to South Street would see a loss of about £250000 in revenue. Cllr Thomson was a bit sceptical about this claim and said he was going to investigate the statistics further and on what officers were basing their estimate. If this went ahead it would have to be funded through the local area budget, money which they don't have in that amount. Cllr Thomson then informed the meeting that there was 95% occupancy of parking in the town centre annually, much more than other Fife towns. Payment of parking by mobile phones may be introduced next year. When any existing meters need to be replaced the new ones will have the facility to accept cards.

Mr Greenwell asked about the 30 minute proposal and thought that the official estimate for losing revenue was in his estimation too high. He thought that the "lost" half hours would be filled by another car requiring the space. He thought that officials should come to the CC and try to justify their figures. Cllr Thomson also acknowledged his scepticism of the figure given by officials. Officials had advised that if drivers only used a space for say 20 minutes and had paid for the hour there would be a doubling of income when another driver used the space. Officials claimed to have some robust rationale and statistics to back up their claim. The figure quoted also takes into account the proposed Sunday charge. He suggested as with the waste issue that the CC invite an officer along to answer questions and argue their case.

Mr McLeod asked members if they wished to invite a transportation official along to a meeting to discuss the issues.

Mrs Corbin asked why some areas of Fife such as Glenrothes didn't have charges and St Andrews she felt was being hit hard. Cllr Thomson explained that the three main streams of parking revenue in Fife came from St Andrews, Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline with each bringing in around a third of the parking income annually. He explained that the reason for the Council introducing charges in these towns was for car parking management as due to the volume of traffic it was not viable to allow people to park all day hence the time restrictions and charging. Cllr Thomson informed the meeting that the Council parking charges brought in about £600000 net income annually in Fife with St Andrews bringing in about a third of that amount. Total income was nearer three million with costs around management costs around £2.4 million. The figures quoted earlier for changes in income for half an hour charging were net income.

Mrs Harding said that according to a letter she'd seen Fife Council claims to send out 8 traffic wardens to St Andrews on a Sunday but she'd never seen any of them.

Miss Uprichard asked about the plan for traffic calming at the west end of Hepburn Gardens. Cllr Thomson said that officials hadn't come back with firm proposals for this possibility. Any plan wouldn't be implemented to February. Miss Uprichard also commented about the state of Howard place and Cllr Thomson said it was on his list to mention to officials.

Mr Jardine asked about resurfacing Pipeland Road and Cllr Thomson said that this had already been scheduled for work. Mr Jardine commented upon the changing parking habits of people in the town with a lot of commuters parking out on roads like Langlands Road and nearby roads. He added that this parking was disrupting buses going down some of these roads. He felt strongly that there had to be a traffic management plan for the town. He also

asked why there was still free parking in part of North Street given the pressure on parking mentioned.

Mr Greenwell repeated his support for the introduction of the half hour parking feeling that it could see a greater use of spaces within the hour as shoppers popped in for a quick shop or call at the post office or bank etc for a short time.

Miss Uprichard asked why income from parking generated in St Andrews couldn't remain for use locally? Cllr Thomson replied that this was the policy adopted by officers. He didn't know if it had been considered by Fife Councillors. An official view might be that the income generated helps maintain car parks across Fife. He reminded members that a significant element of parking charges did stay locally and ended up in the Common Good Fund. This was income from the Bruce Embankment car park. He explained that half of the income went to the R&A as they'd refurbished the car park many years ago and this had been the arrangement set up. The other half went into the Common Good Fund. Miss Uprichard was still unconvinced that the system for the bulk of the income outwith the Bruce Embankment should go to pay for areas outside the town given the huge visitor number received by St Andrews and the pressure on the roads etc. Cllr Thomson thought that the decision had been taken possibly in the early days of the Council. Mr McLeod thought that the question of why the parking income was not used locally might be better addressed by someone in Fife Council with access to that information. Whether that decision could or would be reversed was yet another unknown.

Mrs Corbin voice her opinion that the first half hour of the parking should be free.

#### **4.2.7. Cycle Parking**

Cllr Thomson reported some progress in this area. Additional racks are to be put outside Tesco, which will involve a TRO. Planning permission will also be required. The proposal is to take out the existing racks and double the area and build up the former parking space to the same level as the existing racks. This is to reduce the risk of racks being hit by vehicles.

There is also a proposal to put racks by the West Port near the private flats. This will also need planning permission. Funds will have to be allocated as well and an estimate for this is £15000. Other currently missing racks will also be replaced. The missing racks outside Nardini and other locations will be replaced by the end of October. The requirement for a number of cycle parking spaces at the Students union is also being addressed as this requirement of the redevelopment hasn't been fulfilled. There is to be a meeting between the University and officials in the coming week.

Mr Marks asked about the possibility of using one of the Commonwealth games racks in an area like the West Port but Cllr Thomson said that these racks weren't considered right and those racks will remain at the University in the various locations.

#### **4.3.8. Pavements**

Mrs Harding said she was concerned at the workmanship when pavements were dug up and when work was completed the pavements had only been left half filled thus a hazard. She wondered who was overseeing the work once completed to ensure it was up to a satisfactory standard? Cllr Thomson agreed to follow up Mrs Harding enquiry with the transportation officer.

#### **4.2.9. Kinnesburn Bowling Club & Play Park Funding**

Mr Stewart reminded members when the development at the Kinnesburn Bowling Club had been approved there had been a condition that they had to put money towards the redevelopment of the neighbouring play park. He wondered what was happening with that money? Cllr Thomson in reply confirmed that there was a deal to assist towards the play park redevelopment but it was only payable in instalments as the new flats were occupied. He agreed to check on the status of the money promised.

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

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

Cllr McCartney reported that 75 bikes were 'tagged' following which 25 remained and were removed.

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

Cllr McCartney reported that name plates to replace those missing from Sandy Herd Court, Trinity Place, Priestden Place and Kinnessburn Road are to be ordered and should be erected this autumn.

#### **4.3.3. Market Street Fountain**

Cllr McCartney reported that repair work involving the lifting and resetting of three large coping stones was planned to take place last week (w.b. 29/8/16) after which the fountain could be switched back on without water leaking out onto Market Street.

#### **4.3.4. Road Markings**

Cllr McCartney reported that work to refresh the 'give way' lines at the junction of Greenside Place with Abbey Walk was done in August and work to refresh the 'give way' lines at the junctions of Pipeland Road with Lamond Drive and Carron Place with Lawmill Gardens is expected to be done in September.

#### **4.3.5. Bike Racks**

Cllr McCartney reported that the go ahead has been given to replace the cycle racks outside WH Smith where it is expected the work will be completed by 6<sup>th</sup> September. The re-design is still ongoing for racks outside Sainsbury's.

#### **4.3.6. Street Lighting Improvement (update)**

Cllr McCartney reported that work began in August to replace the existing lighting columns on Broomfaulds Avenue, Clatto Place, Drumcarrow Road, Horseleys Park and Spottiswoode Gardens with new ones with the aim of upgrading the overall lighting provision in the interest of public safety and general efficiency of the lighting installation.

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

#### **4.4.1. Kincaple Roadworks**

Cllr Morrison reported on a plan to do some vital road maintenance at the Kincaple Junction of the A91. The plan was to close the road at that junction over a weekend to allow the work to be done.

#### **4.4.2. Robertson Homes & Affordable Housing**

Mr Greenwell remind the meeting that as part of the Robertson Homes development of the Abbey Park area the had been a condition that they build nine affordable houses fronting on to Greenside Place. He discovered that Robertson Homes had informed Fife Council that the top block next to the new sixteen flats (of which 4 were meant to be affordable houses) are now to be sold off by the company not as affordable housing. He found out as well that Robertson Homes had stated that they weren't going to build the remaining five affordable houses. He wondered what happened to the nine affordable houses supposedly promised as a condition of the development in that area? Cllr Thomson replied that as far as he was aware the firm were still meant to provide the full number and these were to be delivered via kingdom Housing Association. He added that he and his fellow Councillors would check out the situation. Mr Greenwell added that two of the block of four flats supposedly due to be affordable had already been sold otherwise.

Mr Greenwell also pointed out that it appeared that Robertson Homes had removed all the hedges from the garden of 22 Greenside Place and appeared to be building flats within that property's garden. The flats were 8-10 metres above the property at that address which he thought was horrendous.

#### **4.4.3. Waste Bins & Sea Gulls Culling**

Mrs Corbin noted that due to the nature of the waste bins in Anstruther that seagulls weren't getting at the contents and causing a mess. She then went on to talk about the culling of seagulls. She said that certain measures were legal, even shooting seagulls as well as destroying nests and eggs. Miss Uprichard added that she had installed spikes on areas of her roof to discourage seagulls nesting and that responsible householders should also install obstacles to stopping the gulls nesting on their roofs. Mr Jardine mentioned that the problems weren't always the seagulls. He commented on the habit of Madras pupils at lunch time feeding the seagulls with some of their chips etc. This behaviour has led to problems for local householders at lunchtime with the risk of seagulls defecating as they fly in pursuit of the food thrown at them by pupils. Mr Jardine thought that pupils needed to be educated not to feed the gulls which have learnt to gather in anticipation of the free feast. He added that at Arbroath there were signs about not feeding the gulls.

## **5. Planning Committee**

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

The planning committee had looked at 14 planning applications and decided to object to 4.

24 Murray Park had been objected to as there had seemed to be no provision for emergency access. Despite this the application was approved. The committee queried the decision and were told that it was a legal matter covered by a building warrant but to date there had been no application for such a warrant. At 4 Ladebraes there was an application for a garage and a workshop. The concern was about the trees on the site. At Kinkell Braes Caravan site there was an application for an extension to allow 43 more static caravans to be installed with associated access and drainage. The extension is in Greenbelt so the committee plans to object.

Miss Uprichard then went on to discuss the ongoing saga of the West Port pergola. The new owners had decided not to continue to appeal the Council decision for discontinuance though Scottish Government ministers would have had the final decision. There is a belief that the owners will be looking to put in a fresh application for a structure in a different part of the garden.

Sunday parking charges were the next item mentioned. Miss Uprichard reported that the committee didn't think that the advert placed by Fife Council in the Courier was competent as it was a single line concealed in a larger advert about the Leuchars car parking development. She added that correspondence was ongoing about the plans.

The Planning Committee had also submitted a complaint to the Fife Council CEO in relation to the Gatty planning report and the handling of the Pergola application. There has been a partial response to date.

Miss Uprichard also informed the meeting about the issue of internal reports and have written to the Council expressing their concern that these sometimes contain material not mentioned in other publically available reports.

On a positive note Miss Uprichard reported on the extension of the conservation area further out Hepburn/Buchanan Gardens and also down at the Kinnessburn to include Park Street and one other street. She felt however that the delay in implementing these extensions had had an effect upon the areas in the last few years since they were proposed.

Mr Roberts commented on the plans to extend the Kinkell Braes caravan park and noted that for a previous extension there had been a condition about tree planting which never took place. He hoped that this would be rectified before permission was given to this extension plan. Miss Uprichard commented that the proposal was similar to the Fairmont also proposing to plant trees. SNH had advised that this wouldn't work in the location and thought that this might also be a problem at Kinkell Braes.

Mr McLeod then brought up the subject of the need for the Planning Convenor to have a couple of Planning Cabinets. Mr McLeod agreed to investigate the price of a couple of cabinets with the treasurer. Mr Greenwell brought up the need to have some storage place for such items if there was any problem for a convenor in housing them. Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that the CC still had a cupboard full of documentation in St Marys Place.

It was agreed to purchase two filing cabinets and review as necessary. Mr Munn pointed out that this matter in his opinion could have been handled by email instead of spending time in the main CC meeting. Mr McLeod felt that this was a fair comment. Dr Shepherd wondered about getting the archival material scanned as a way to reduce the amount of material needing to be stored.

Mr McLeod concluded the discussion on planning related matters by reminding the meeting that for the past year and more the Students Union had allowed the committee to use one of its rooms free of charge with facilities such as wifi and data projection. He proposed making a donation to the welfare fund of the Students Union as a thank you. Mrs Harding seconded this proposal and the meeting unanimously agreed to the donation.

Miss Uprichard advised members that for the next few Planning meetings they would be starting @ 19.30 instead of 19.00 to see how it worked.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Reports from Representatives**

none

### **6.3. Mini Golf Proposal**

Mr Marks reported on continuing correspondence about the proposal by Andy Tracey for a mini golf development at the East Bents. Andy has indicated a continuing desire to speak to CC members and will be in St Andrews during the Dunhill in early October either the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr Marks asked if members could indicate if they were willing to meet up with Andy on either date to discuss his proposal. Mr Marks agreed to try and get more detail about the proposal although it may be similar to what he has developed in Lytham St Annes.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Recreation Committee**

Mr Greenwell started his report by thanking those Community Councillors such as Mrs Corbin and Mr Roberts who had actively supported the Bandstand concerts. He thought that there had been a good series of concerts.

He reminded members that there will be a Coffee Morning on 8<sup>th</sup> October. He asked members for their support in running the event.

There will also be the Putting Competition on 19<sup>th</sup> September organised by Dr Shepherd. This will start at 16.45.

Mr Greenwell asked for members views on a date for the Civic Reception. The meeting decided to have this event on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Mrs Corbin reported on the plans for the Gardening Competition in the Burgh chamber as usual. Mrs Corbin asked for volunteers to assist with various aspects of this event.

Mr Greenwell also mentioned the need to have a Recreation Committee meeting within the next month.

### **7.2. GP Meeting**

Mr McLeod wasn't certain about the purpose of the GP Committee. He was wondering about it as a pre-meeting before the main meeting to discuss the agenda etc?

### 7.3. 200 Club

1<sup>st</sup> Miss Cantley 2<sup>nd</sup> Miss F Smith 3<sup>rd</sup> Valerie Reed

### 7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin reported that she hoped to get someone to give a talk to the CC from the newly emerging Health & Social Care Partnership in the next meeting.

Mrs Harding brought up the issue of defibrillators and wondered if it might be possible to have a map with locations in case one machine wasn't working. Dr Shepherd replied that there was a map on the Heartstart website and they'd also be producing a map. Dr Shepherd said he'd look at getting a map in the CC notice board by Trespass

### 7.5. Rail Sub Committee

Report from Rail Committee for Community Council of 5/9/16.

A meeting was held on July 27 with Dougie McDonald of Peter Brett Associates. He is currently working with a number of rail-related campaigns across Scotland, including those for the re-opening of Beattock station, for re-opening of lines to the north of Aberdeen and for upgrading the double track East Coast Main Line in East Lothian to quadruple track. Following an excellent presentation by Dita Stanis-Traken of StARLink, the current position of the campaign to re-establish a line to St Andrews was talked through in detail. Locally, the last major step forward occurred with the publication of the Tata Steel High Level Report in 2012. As Tata Steel were seeking an opportunity to use new route optimisation software

for the first time in the UK, this report was provided for the bargain-basement price of £4500 + VAT, with £1000 of this being provided by the Community Council. The report identified an alignment for a 4.88 mile line from St Andrews to Seggie joining the existing line from Cupar to Dundee with both north and south-facing chords. The report also included some initial costings and estimates of predicted usage. Since that time it has been recognized that the next major step is to get a STAG (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance) study done. Such studies usually cost in excess of £100K. Although the work already done by Tata Steel would be expected to reduce this figure somewhat, the likely bill has remained daunting. Following an approach to Nicola Sturgeon last year, three representatives of Transport Scotland came to St Andrews towards the end of last year, and they indicated a willingness to consider and comment on whatever statistically-based arguments towards a draft STAG case we (as non-transport professionals) were able to produce. I am still working on various aspects of that draft, and still hope that it can make a useful contribution (and further reduce the remaining cost). Nevertheless it has always seemed likely that we would need the assistance of transport consultants at some stage to get the information in the required form for the government. We are also conscious of the important role that a transport consultant played in the successful Alloa campaign. It therefore seemed appropriate, once we had explained our quandary in some depth, to ask Dougie McDonald how Peter Brett Associates might be able to assist. His enthusiastic response appears to offer a very promising way forward that we had not envisaged before the meeting on July 27. The first key point was the willingness to undertake the STAG study in a number of separate stages. The tightly defined structure of a STAG lends itself well to such an approach. In fact, as the discussion progressed, it was agreed that the first step could simply comprise the Policy Review that is needed for a STAG. The second, to my mind unexpected, element was that Dougie McDonald emphasized that, in carrying out particular stages of the STAG, interaction would be needed with a number of relevant organisations, including ones which, if sufficiently impressed by the growing credibility of the project that the STAG conferred, might be willing to contribute towards the costs of later (more costly) phases of the STAG. This might significantly reduce the amount of local Fund – raising that would be required. The first step is therefore to find the money needed for the Policy Review, and the Rail Committee hopes that the Community Council will be willing to assist. We hope that the Chair will be willing for us to discuss the detail (in camera?) at tonight's meeting. We see this as real opportunity for

the Community Council to make a significant contribution to the town.

## **8. New Business**

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Mr McLeod reported that the Community Trust Nominations Committee had recently met and discussed the issues requiring resolution about appointment of co-opted trustees. These trustees will now be asked to put themselves forward for 1,2 or 3 years to ensure a rolling turnover of trustees from 2017. At present the trustees have been in place for several years and it has been accepted that a system to allow for fresh appointments needed to be in place.

Mr McLeod then reported on the situation on the town hall bell. He'd been informed that if the bell needed repair the Council would have to get an estimate and the CC would have to pay a 10% fee of the cost for getting the estimate. Mr McLeod couldn't see the need for this and thought that the normal idea of getting the estimate without having to pay for getting the estimate seemed more logical. He said he'd investigate matters and report back again to the CC.

The Commercial Director of the Links Trust, Danny Campbell has invited CC members to visit this arm of the Links Trust on 15<sup>th</sup> September. He will do a presentation on the commercial arm of that part of the Links Trust.

Mr McLeod reported he attended the Freshers Ceilidh as a representative of the CC the previous day.

Mr McLeod also noted the news that Maureen Ferrier, regular reporter from the Citizen had informed the secretary about her retirement from the paper. Mr McLeod asked if members wished to note her retirement in the minutes or to send a separate note to her? Mrs Corbin suggested a card or a letter might be appropriate and Mr McLeod said he'd send a card from the CC. Mr McLeod added that her retirement potentially left the CC without a reliable source of publicity. He wondered about the need for some form of press releases and who might do them? He asked CC members to give the matter thought and get back to him.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Accounts for July/August are on the members only part of the CC website with all accounts paid up to date.

### **9.3. Secretary**

#### **9.3.1. Correspondence**

Mr Marks commented briefly on the small amount of correspondence received. He also made members aware that he'd be on holiday on October so minutes would have to be taken by a volunteer. Mr Roberts volunteered his services as he had helped with the minutes on past occasions. Mr McLeod offered to compile the agenda for November.

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

### **10.1. Rail Campaign**

Discussion held in camera but after discussion: "The Community Council agreed to provide £1250 towards the cost of the Policy Review component of the STAG, conditional on the remaining part of the cost being funded from other sources."

### **10.2. Facebook**

The issue of Facebook and the use of it by the CC was put back until the October meeting though not all members were happy with that decision.

### **10.3. GP Committee function**

Dr Shepherd suggested that the GP Committee should be considered as a sort of executive committee at which contact with officials or organisations wanting to speak to the CC could be organised instead of taking up part of the main CC meeting. The outcome of any such meetings could be reported back to the main CC.