

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes –5th November 2012

For Approval

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1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Penny Uprichard, Kyffin Roberts, Izzy Corbin, Andy Primmer, Carol Ashworth, Ken Crichton, Alice Alexander, Ronnie Murphy, Judith Harding, Howard Greenwell, Callum Corbin, Robert McLachlan .

Students' Association Representatives

David Patterson

Ali West

Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

Niall Scott

Fife Councillors

Keith McCartney, Dorothea Morrison, Brian Thomson, Frances Melville

Apologies

Bernadette Cassidy, Henry Cheape, Catherine Rowe, Freddie fforde

2. Minutes of Meeting

These were accepted as correct as read.

3. Presentations

3.1. Madras College – presentation by Cllr Bryan Poole

Cllr Poole started with a resume of the situation with the proposals for the new school and comments from the Inspectorate about how they viewed the situation. The Inspectorate were critical of the possible impact of the decant if the Kilrymont refurbishment went ahead as proposed by the previous administration and were also critical about way the previous consultation had resulted in a divided community. It was suggested that the new administration should take cognisance of these comments when trying to progress the matter.

He went on to say that the new administration thought that it would be better to review the sites as much as they could partly because the new administration didn't think that the Kilrymont rebuild was the best option. He started by saying that the new build option for Kilrymont was quickly discounted and the possibility of redeveloping the South Street site was also quickly discounted because of space problems. Langlands University playing fields site was also discounted early on due

to the university connection. Strathkiness High Road and Craigtoun Park were also ruled out as impractical. Strathtyrum was also ruled out partly because it wasn't for sale. The Botanic Gardens as a site was also discounted. This process of elimination has led to sites such as Petheram Bridge being considered. Cllr Poole informed the meeting that this site met the requirements but was at the smallest end of suitable sites and would require the building of a school on several floors and would require a connection to Station Park. There would also be challenges in relation to the loss of parking. Overall the site would be problematic. In relation to the pond site Cllr Poole he understood that there would be abnormal costs associated with the development of the site. Cllr Poole believed that the report available to the Council talked about £10 million of additional costs. The Councillors have asked for a break down of that figure. He added that the University had attached conditions to a sale of the site. He felt that a key issue attached to the pond site was the price. The Council he reminded the meeting could only buy a site at up to the District Valuers valuation and the Pond site was significantly more than this valuation.

He finally arrived at the Pipeland site and talked about how it was a clean site, therefore easy to develop, but he acknowledged that it was in the green belt and on the wrong side of St Andrews.

He went on to briefly comment on the idea of a Kilrymont rebuild but admitted that he didn't think the site was appropriate for a school for the 21st century and talked about the problems of decant and other factors which he added went against its possible use. He added that this was a personal view of himself and the administration, not the Council.

He finally concluded that the choice was between the Pipeland site, Kilrymont rebuild, the pond site and Petheram Bridge.

Miss Uprichard asked Cllr Poole if he agreed that development at the Pipeland site would be significantly against the development plan? Cllr Poole replied that he'd want to take advice from the planners on that possibility and wouldn't want to be quoted on that, but was aware that Pipeland was in the greenbelt. Miss Uprichard in reply quoted Mr Alan Paul, a senior Council official who had stated that this site would be significantly against the local plan. Cllr Thomson commented that Mr Paul wasn't qualified to state a view, as he wasn't a qualified town planner.

Mrs Corbin raised the issue of the need to reduce the carbon footprint and felt that putting a school at Pipeland wouldn't achieve that aim. Cllr Poole acknowledged that there was a significant carbon footprint challenge wherever the new school was built in the town because two thirds of the pupils were from outside the town. He added that his own preference was for a school site in the west of St Andrews but the difficulty lay in identifying a site.

Mr Marks raised the possibility of a two-school option as had been once considered years ago. He felt that this would deal with the carbon footprint challenge to a good extent as well as reducing the difficulty in finding a site for a smaller Madras replacement in St Andrews. Cllr Poole acknowledged that the two-school option might reduce the carbon footprint but he thought that it would present a number of other challenges including financial, site location and the position of pupils in communities equidistant from both St Andrews and the Taybridge area. He added that a school in the Taybridge area might end up serving only three or four primary schools and with parents choice he felt that would be very difficult to manage. On the financial side he claimed that it would cost significantly more than the allocated £40 million to build two smaller schools. He finally acknowledged that should a new site not be found in St Andrews the Council wouldn't rule out looking outside St Andrews.

Mr Primmer questioned why the Council couldn't get together with the University and thrash out a deal on the pond site. He said that this was the most acceptable site to the town and had other advantages over sites the other side of town. In reply Cllr Poole said that the University was looking for £3.5 million for the site, which was unaffordable to Fife Council. He added that if the University came back to the Council with a more affordable deal then the Council would seriously look at it. He thought that it was up to the University to make a move not the Council following the previous protracted negotiations, which failed.

Mr Roberts asked Mr Scott if he could comment on behalf of the University. He told the meeting that the University had from early in the new Council administration said that it would be happy to receive a clean offer, but the Council had not responded.

Mr Murphy voiced the view that the Council should still try to look at a deal for the pond site, but if this wasn't achievable he thought that there was no other acceptable site in the town, so the Council might have to look at a Bridgehead school option and retain a smaller Madras College. In response Cllr Poole reiterated the administration view that Pipeland was still viewed as an option.

Mr McLachlan suggested that the Council might need to use compulsory purchase powers to buy the pond site. Cllr Poole in reply said that he didn't think that the Council would want to go down that road with the University, and added that if that was considered it could take years. Mr McLachlan disagreed that it would take years.

Mrs Harding wondered if the Council had taken into account the money that could be realised from the sale of the Madras Kilrymont site? Cllr Poole replied that the Council had considered this but added that the current policy for the money obtained from sales is to go back into a central pot, though that policy could be changed should the need require. Cllr Poole reminded the meeting that the current £40 million allocated in 2008 would be devaluing and that some had been spent by the previous administration on site preparation, as well as money on a feasibility study.

Dr Goudie said that a disconcerting aspect of the saga was the way that the Council seemed to have changed the criteria it used for site assessment over the years. He also felt that figures produced from Fife Council needed to be treated with a degree of caution from his past experience. He wondered about the exclusion of Station Park as an option whilst acknowledging the likely opposition of the golfing community to that site. He went on to suggest that the eastern end of Station Park, not the western end was more logical as it would be easier to lose a building against the backdrop of the entrance to the town. He felt that the footprint of a school on the site would still leave a sufficient area for playing fields and it was Council owned. He thought that the site should not be ignored. Cllr Poole replied that the Station park site fell into the same category as the Pipeland site in that there would be lots of groups opposing it. He felt that the risk at Station Park was greater than at Pipeland in the council view at this time. Dr Goudie questioned that the Pipeland site would be any less opposed given the local fight to retain the southern hillside since 1994. He felt that it would be shocking should the Council impinge upon the Greenbelt so recently adopted in the Local Plan.

Mrs Corbin wondered how the Council could sell a site with a listed building, namely the Kilrymont site. Cllr Poole replied that if the Council wasn't using the site, it would be offered for sale with the condition of the retention of the listed building. However if it didn't sell within a few years, it might then be possible to knock down the building and sell without that obstacle to development. Cllr Thomson confirmed that if Kilrymont were no longer used because a new school was built then it would be initially put on the market to be sold as a building for educational use. If after a couple of years there were no purchasers the Council could ask for the listed building status to be revoked and the building could then be knocked down and the site sold.

Mr Primmer asked Cllr Poole about the commercial value of the Pipeland site. Cllr Poole wasn't certain if that information should be in the public domain, but after being pressed as to how it would compare with the pond site, he acknowledged that it was coming in at a price acceptable to the regulations by which Fife Council could purchase land.

Mr Roberts then took questions from the public gallery. Ex-Councillor Ron Caird started the questions. He first asked about the site prices, noting that while the pond site price was known, the Pipeland site was still unknown, making it difficult to get a balanced view. His second question related to the Langlands B site. He said that at the time of this site being considered a parcel of land was meant to be available from the University to Fife Council as an excambion against the Madras South Street property. He wondered if the same idea could now be considered between the pond site and Madras South Street? Cllr Poole kept to his stance about the commercial confidentiality in relation to the Pipeland site. In relation to the University he reiterated that it wanted a clean deal in relation to the pond site and Fife Council couldn't move on the asking price.

Mr Lindsay Matheson, ex-rector of Madras College asked if hypothetically Fife Council and the University were able to have a grown up conversation about the vital future of education in St Andrews would Cllr Poole be in favour of the pond site? Cllr Poole said that he hadn't seen the fine detail of the pond site development requirements, but he thought that irrespective of any financial deal with the university the site remained very difficult. He went even further saying that the problems of the site were probably beyond Fife council's ability to affordably develop it, irrespective of any financial deal with the university. He then acknowledged that his preference would be to have a school on the Western approaches to St Andrews. He added that if all the problems about site choice etc could be solved the new school could be up by 2015. He wanted as much as anybody not to keep the parents and teachers waiting another few years before a decision was made.

Mr Colin Brown, a parent representative put in a plea for the school development to be progressed as fast as possible, commenting upon the need for better educational conditions as vital.

Miss Uprichard asked Cllr Poole if he'd be willing to attend next week's Planning Committee meeting to inform members about the planning and legal status of the various sites. Cllr Poole said that he'd check his diary but couldn't promise he'd be able to attend, however if he was sent a list of the questions on the subject he'd see what he could do to get answers if publically available. Cllr Poole confirmed a comment from Cllr Melville that all relevant information on the sites wasn't yet available but it was hoped that it would be soon.

Mr Joe Peterson asked what other sites outside St Andrews might be considered if a site within the town wasn't available or acceptable? Cllr Poole acknowledged that he'd been pressed at a meeting in the Taybridgehead area on the same matter. He added that he felt that the local community might have to make compromises on the matter to avoid delaying the plans for the future of secondary education facilities.

Mr Niall Scott reiterated that there weren't any major problems in the relationship between the University and the Council, apart from a very fine point in relation to numerical values about the pond site. He added that there had been discussions between senior officers from both organisations about how to maximise the benefit to the pupils of the new school of the relationship with the university wherever it might be built.

Cllr Melville listed some extra costs from the document relating to the pond site, which included pedestrian underpass £2.3 million, existing services upgrade

requirements £0.95 million, ecological and environmental requirements £0.6 million, Swilken burn diversion etc £1.4 million, distributor road etc £8.95 million.

Mr David Middleton acknowledged that it was good that the university was prepared to talk to the Council, but that the Council had been slow to speak with the university. He felt that a new approach was required, but reiterated the view that the Pipeland site if mooted would face stiff opposition. He recognised that some would argue that the children's education would be the key issue, but felt that the whole town's interests had to be also taken into account. He then commented upon the possibility that development of the Pipeland site could take a long time because of the fact that it was in the greenbelt and he was concerned that the Council might be prepared to breach the Local Plan, which it had so recently agreed. He finished by reminding Cllr Poole that even if the pond site might cost a bit more, the Council would have the resources of the Old Madras and Kilrymont to call upon to help defray extra costs.

Mr Roberts in concluding the discussion commented that the subject of Madras had always been a contentious issue even within the Community Council. He recognised that there had to be a need for compromise some where along the line as well as consensus. He felt that there was a strong consensus towards the pond site within local organisations.

Dr Goudie was concerned that there had been an ongoing issue about the interaction between the new school site and the western development. He still believed that the original reason for the school site had been in relation to the western development proposals and that the Kilrymont proposal could have been a way to avoid it coming on to the housing asset line and thus affecting the western development. He thought that the figures quoted earlier by Cllr Melville seemed to indicate that there was a connection with the western development, with the relief road being added on to the school proposal.

Cllr Melville expressed her concern about the ongoing delay. She'd recently been to the new Dunfermline High School and had been impressed by the facilities etc, which could be similar to those that new Madras would have and was sad at the problems in progressing the new Mad

Cllr Thomson reminded the meeting of the poor and deteriorating working conditions for the pupils and staff at Madras.

Cllr Poole asked the meeting what would happen if the pond site couldn't be acquired?

Mr Primmer thought that Cllr Poole was completely underestimating the planning issues of trying to develop the Pipeland site given its greenbelt status and its place in the local community who have fought to protect the area. To break the local Development plan so quickly would be horrendous he thought as it could open up the southern hillside to further development, so he thought that the only realistic option was the pond site or Station Park.

Dr Goudie thought that it was very obvious that there had been considerable opposition to development on the Southern hillside over many years. He also thought that it was possible to look at more than one goal simultaneously, suggesting that if the Council were to look at a Bridgehead School the St Andrews problem would become a lot less with the potential for retaining the South Street site. He wondered if there might be money available from the Scottish Government in relation to a development in which the carbon footprint was being reduced?

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. Little Carron Area Speed Limiters

The concerns about speeding close to the Little Carron area were discussed at the ward meeting. Speed limiters might be installed to reduce traffic speed.

4.1.2. Accidents on A91

Cllr Melville has asked for a road safety assessment of the A91 following recent accidents and local residents have written expressing their concerns. She has asked for such an assessment to be brought forward as one had been planned for an unspecified date in 2013.

4.1.3. Meeting with University re Strategic Agreement

Councillors and officials will be meeting with the University this week to review a strategic agreement drawn up some years ago between Fife Council and the University.

4.1.4. Ladebraes

Cllr Melville had had a walk with Mrs Ashworth to look at the work going on by Newpark and had received an email about a temporary closure of viaduct walk later in the week for some work to be done. Mrs Harding asked Cllr Melville whether she could ask officials to check on the drainage work being done by Newpark as she had noted that there was still some flooding, so further work might have to be done by the Newpark contractors to improve the drainage.

4.1.5. Madras College Site Visits

Councillors are to be going on visits of the potential sites for new Madras at the end of the week.

4.1.6. Younger Gardens Shared Ownership land

Cllr Melville informed the meeting about new legislation, which clarified responsibilities for the management of land jointly owned by housing areas. There have been some issues in the past about the management of some land by Younger Gardens, which is commonly used, so hopefully by next year this will be managed more effectively.

4.1.7. Pipeland Road Skate park Litter Problem

A resident of the area who had been cleaning the litter from the area had approached Mrs Corbin and she wondered why Fife Council hadn't been cleaning the park area? Cllr Thomson replied that it should be part of the schedule for litter clearance and would check out the matter.

4.1.8. Car park beside tennis courts – status

Mr Mclachlan wondered who was responsible for the small car park beside the tennis courts which is meant to be for 2 hours, but he thinks its being used as an all day parking area. Cllr Melville replied that it is now the responsibility of Fife Council and the enforcement of the regulations should now come under the changes to parking enforcement responsibilities, which have been decriminalised.

4.1.9. Waste Collection Problems

Cllr Melville reported that there had been quite a lot of waste collection problems particularly for commercial premises, not just in this area. Part of the problem is the use of outside contractors. One suggestion had been to collect on a Sunday when many businesses were closed, not acceptable Cllr Melville felt. She hoped that this could be sorted out when the Councillors had their next ward meeting. Student rep

David Patterson highlighted a problem for student flats in the town centre where they used plastic bags and weren't allowed to put out more than two at a time, which in a large flat with several students was proving problematic. He wondered if there was any solution to this problem? Cllr Melville agreed to take this query on board

4.2. Brian Thomson

4.2.1. Westport Pergola

Cllr Thomson confirmed that the pergola breached planning permission on two fronts. First of all the PVC skirts at either end didn't comply with approved drawings and the pergola is attached to the listed building. Listed building consent hadn't been sought to allow attaching the pergola. The applicant would now have the option of removing the skirts and detaching the pergola from the listed building or seeking permission with a fresh application for the altered skirts and an application in relation to the listed building.

4.2.2. Recycling Point at Students Union Building

The recycling point at the Students Union building will no longer be available once the new extension to that building has been built. A meeting is to be arranged between University officials and Fife Council officials to seek a solution as the site is well used.

4.2.3. Melville Fountain

Complete funding for the refurbishment of the Melville Fountain is now in place. Cllr Thomson hoped that as a result the fountain would be up and running as soon as possible. Mr Roberts raised a slight concern about a report that a funding contribution from the Common Good Fund might be in doubt. Cllr Thomson replied that he'd be meeting with a Fife Council official involved in the project to confirm the status of funding.

4.2.4. Castle Sands

Work is to start soon following delays due to technical difficulties.

4.2.5. Query about Social Work Department Reorganisation

Mr McLachlan asked Cllr Thomson about the reorganisation within the Social Work Dept. His query related to a change in the timing of the homecare service and the staff providing the service. When his neighbour asked if she could retain her original time and carer she was apparently informed that this wouldn't be possible but she could be supplied with information if she wished to arrange her care privately instead from a private agency. Mr Thomson agreed to look into the case

4.3. Keith McCartney

4.3.1. Hope Park Roundabout

Mrs Alexander suggested to Cllr McCartney that the barrier around the roundabout by Hope Park should be extended as it was proving less than effective with some pedestrians taking short cuts instead of going to official crossings, thus potentially creating a hazard to themselves and traffic. She felt that as a driver it could be quite alarming to see jaywalking pedestrians. Cllr Morrison replied that the barriers had originally been a concern of Cllr Sangster, but he'd been informed by Transportation that they couldn't be extended. She thought that the length of the barriers was part of the problem as it encouraged people to take short cuts. Student representative commented that the problem was more complex as the footpath could get crowded along that area at specific times when students were going to and from lectures and

there was often no room on the pavement. She thought that extending the barriers would exacerbate the crowding. She thought that if there was an additional route for students it might ease the problem at certain times of day.

Mr Primmer suggested that perhaps the barriers should be removed altogether and Cllr Thomson wondered about putting obstacles on the road to slow traffic near the roundabout. Mr Greenwall suggested about converting the roundabouts into junctions with traffic lights.

4.3.2. Outhead Area – West Sands

Cllr McCartney informed the meeting that one reason the grass wasn't baled was the presence of ragwort in the grass, so this couldn't be offered to farmers as that plant is poisonous to cattle. It is hoped that in future the ragwort can be cut separately by hand so that a clean cut of the grass can be made and the grass baled and sold / given to a local farmer for animal fodder.

4.3.3. Madras South Street car park

The car park has been tarmaced having been in a poor state with potholes until recently.

4.3.4. Disabled Car Parking Space – Queens Gardens

Mr Crichton asked about progress on his query about the car parking space, which he thought was illegally painted as a disabled space. Cllr McCartney reported that this space hadn't been repainted yet, while Mr Roberts would ask about the legality of the space being thus designated, but missing a sign to confirm the legality.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. A Boards/Bins

Cllr Morrison briefly mentioned the ongoing issue of obstructions on pavements from A Boards to bins. The new bin collection system means that bins may be left out for longer periods. These will be obstructions not only to disabled persons but also to mothers with buggies etc. Members will be raising the issues again when they meet with Transportation Services.

4.4.2. West Sands

Cllr Morrison investigating concerns raised about behaviour by a beach polo player had discovered that there had been more than one polo match. One match had been officially approved as payers had been unable to use Strathtyrum land due to wet conditions, but a second match didn't appear to have permission. This was being investigated by Robbie Blyth of the FCCT.

4.4.3. Grass Cutting at end of West Sands

Cllr Morrison had investigated reported concerns about inappropriate disposal of cut grass by burning. In future there will be a rotational cut, which should benefit wildlife. There was some discussion about the issues around cutting the grass and this will be further discussed within the West Sands Management Group who have some members knowledgeable in grassland management.

4.4.5. Westport Tavern

Cllr Morrison added a few comments about the need for the Westport to accept the need to accept that it would need to follow official advice as detailed by Cllr Thomson. Mrs Corbin informed the meeting that the Westport owns a plot of land next door to the pub and thought that the pergola might be moved there.

4.4.6. Possible Charge for Tables/Chairs on pavements

Cllr Morrison mentioned that Councillors would be discussing this idea with officials at the next local meeting. She didn't think that any charge should be too high in case it affected the businesses concerned and it had to be accepted that it helped bring trade into the town if customers could sit outside a café/restaurant.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. HMO Appeal

Mr Greenwell reported that an appeal by a property owner for refusal of an HMO licence had been dismissed, a success for the Planning Committee who had put in an objection. He recognised the need to maintain what was in the Local plan.

5.2. Montessori Nursery – South Street

The application for the proposed nursery at 44 South Street was refused. The Planning Committee had objected to this application

5.3. McCarthy & Stone Development

McCarthy & Stone had met with the Planning Committee to discuss their proposal for the development of 18 flats in the Knightsbridge site. The Planning Committee had raised several concerns about the proposals, which it was felt would overlook Greenside Place amongst other concerns. The company went away from that meeting supposedly to revise their proposals but eventually had come back with an attempted justification for their development and that they were only cutting down seven trees and not nine. The Planning Committee has urged Councillors to turn down this application when it goes to the Area Planning Committee.

5.4. Other Objections

Mr Greenwell mentioned other objections that the planning committee were making from a planned development at Balmungo in the greenbelt to an infill at 199 South Street and a plan for 11 flats and 2 restaurants at 157 South Street and the conversion of another commercial premises into a restaurant at 5 Logies Lane opposite the library which included external tables.

5.5. Feddinch – Formal Complaint

The Planning Committee have put in a formal complaint to Scottish Ministers with regard to their handling of the appeal about Feddinch. This related to the refusal of the Community Council statement, which had been out in before Fife council's final statement. Miss Uprichard added that the complaint sent in contained 12 points, but the reply from the head of the Appeals Directorate didn't answer any of the specific points and was mainly a recital of the procedure for planning appeals. Miss Uprichard felt that this letter was a delaying tactic and a classic way of dealing with complaints.

PAN Notices

Several PAN notices have recently been received from Knightsbridge, Grange, the Old Memorial Hospital site and Hamilton Hall. A PAN is a Pre Application Notice issued by developers to inform the community of their intentions. Miss Uprichard commented as well upon the Hamilton Hall PAN and the indication that the developer wanted a major variation to allow some properties to be sold freehold. Cllr Morrison in reply said that it would not be possible for the Hamilton Grand to have properties used as permanent homes as the regulations for this in planning would not allow properties sold as permanent homes to overlook or be overlooked by

temporary accommodation. It is permissible for a hotel to overlook another hotel, as the accommodation is only temporary. Cllr Morrison added that Councillors would be advised legally at the next area-planning meeting about the situation. Mr Murphy asked about the air conditioning units on the top of the Hamilton Grand. Mr Greenwell confirmed that these had not appeared in the plans for the development and were therefore not approved.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Martyrs Monument Update

Mr Roberts reported that the work is ongoing and on time.

6.2. Craigtoun Park

There was a recent update at the Cosmos Centre arranged by the Friends of Craigtoun. Mr Roberts acknowledged that the turn out to the event had not been great. There is to be a Christmas Fair at the park on the 15th December with Santa and other festive style events.

6.3. Botanic Gardens Update

Mr Henry reported that they were waiting for the details of the university intentions following the issuing of the PAN. Mr Paul encouraged everyone to attend this when the date was confirmed.

6.4. St Andrews Community Trust

Mr Paul reported that grants to the amount of £81000 had been made close to the amount received. The next meeting will be in February with applications to be in by mid-January.

6.5. Reports from Representatives

6.6. Any Other Matters Arising

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

7.1.1. Civic Reception

Mrs Denyer reported on progress with the arrangements for this event. Some 70 plus persons had responded. Mrs Denyer noted that as Fife Council had sent out invites some recipients had replied direct to Fife Council hence her list might be inaccurate.

7.2. General Purposes

7.3. 200 Club

7.3.1. Report

Mrs Harding reported that there had been a reduction in applications, which she thought might be due to the presence of the St Andrews Community Trust. She would advertise the 200 Club's presence to try and remind potential recipients that funds were still available.

7.3.2. 200 Club Draw

1st I. Methven 2nd C Ashworth 3rd A. Humphries.

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

7.4.1. Scottish Human Rights Commission

Mrs Corbin reported that the Scottish Human Rights Commission is to co-ordinate Scotland's first national action plan for human rights.

7.4.2. Food label Traffic lights

The Scottish Minister for Public Health is going to announce a traffic lights system for Scottish food labels.

7.5. Rail Sub Committee

7.5.1. Sub Committee Report

Ms Liston had circulated a report prior to the CC meeting and Dr Goudie brought a more recent report received today to the meeting. Ms Liston according to Dr Goudie had given a presentation to officials in Fife Council Transportation Services as well as Cllr Brett. The presentation had been viewed favourably and Fife Council had agreed to take it further with a view to SESTRANS carrying out a STAG exercise...

8. New Business

8.1. Allotments

Mr Paul had sent out a report prior to the meeting and encouraged anyone interested to put his or her name on the list. Mr Paul reported that the Council budget for allotment development had been steadily decreasing and he felt that it would be cheaper to get set up if Fife Council gave the community the land to progress the plans. There is to be a meeting at the Cosmos Centre to allow interested persons to register their interest in November. In response to a question from Mr Crichton as to whether war wounded veterans might get free allotments, Mr Paul told the meeting that the allotment priority system allocated allotments purely on the time someone was on the central list. The person need not even be local, which Mr Paul felt was ridiculous. He added that as the land belongs to Fife Council any constitution would have to be the Fife Council devised one, which operates the waiting list on a time on list basis. Annual rental would be £26 p.a.

8.2. Poppy Appeal/ Remembrance Day

Mr Paul thanked those who'd volunteered to assist with the poppy collection. Mr Crichton reminded the meeting about the Remembrance Day set up. Mrs Corbin will lay the wreath for the Community Council as Mr Crichton has been asked to lay a wreath for the Royal British Legion. There will be tea and nibbles afterwards at the Burgh Chambers.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Mr Roberts mentioned the Housing Commission which has now been set up with a questionnaire to be sent out soon and it will be available online.

9.2. Treasurer

9.2.1. Treasurers Report

Mr Paul reported that the Coffee Morning raised £232 net before room rent was deducted. Mr Paul reported that the general finances were in a healthy state. Mrs Audrey McAnaw had given the Community Council a generous donation at the Coffee morning as well. Mr Roberts asked that this generous donation from Mrs McAnaw be noted for the record.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see Appendix A.

No other correspondence of note apart from recent emails from Fife Council about some housing consultations taking place on housing needs of some user groups such as the elderly. There had also been an email about Climate Challenge Fund grants now available. Mr Murphy commented that Mr Yarr was also aware of this funding and was suggesting a possible project to use food waste to generate energy.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Possible RAF Memorial

Mrs Corbin had attended the Leuchars Liaison Committee on 9th October at which the Station Commander had talked about a memorial to go somewhere in St Andrews to celebrate those who had served at RAF Leuchars. This would be a gift from the station to the community of St Andrews. The funding was available and the main issue was to find a suitable location.

10.2. Possible closure of Cupar Sherriff Court

Mr Murphy informed the meeting about proposed changes to the Sherriff Courts, which could mean the closure of the Cupar Sherriff Court. He felt that there had to be opposition to this closure to try and reverse this decision, as it would affect not only the criminal side but also the civil side of court work. Mr Murphy said that this was essentially a cost cutting exercise but he said that the savings for the Court Service in closure would be small compared to the running costs of keeping Cupar open. Mr Murphy would like assistance in getting out petitions to protest about the proposed closure.