

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – February 2012

For Approval

(Copies of Agendas and Minutes of the Community Council are held at Fife Council's Local Office, St Mary's Place and the Town Library, Church Square. Those from late 1997 on are on line at <http://www.standrewscc.net/>)

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

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

Students' Association Representatives

Nominated

Niall Scott

Lindsey Adam

Fife Councillors

Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison

Apologies

Catherine Rowe, Frances Melville, Bill Sangster, Meg Platt

2. Minutes of January 2012 Meeting

3. Presentations

3.1. Community Council Research Project – Lisa Coles

Lisa who is a student on placement with the Fife Council Local Planning Group at Cupar presented the outline of her project. She is working with three Community Councils and is looking at practice and procedures. Her plan would be to send out a questionnaire to CCs and then would look for 4 volunteers to interview in more detail. A focus session would be the final part of her study. Lisa asked for volunteers for the one to one interviews. After she completed her project participating Community Councils would receive a copy of her report. Mr Marks, Mrs Ashworth, Mr Roberts and Mr Paul agreed to participate in Lisa's study.

3.2. Fife Diamond Garden Festival – 18-20th May 2012

Mrs Lindsay Murray presented the details of this Festival set up in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The event is being organised by the Scotland's Gardens Scheme – Fife Branch. Twelve gardens will be open across Fife for this event. The event will raise funds for charity with 60% going towards the Charities supported by the scheme and 40% will this year go to AICR the St Andrews based Cancer Charity. On Friday 18th May there will be an official opening at Cambo, with the remainder of the gardens open on the 19/20th May weekend. Two gardens in St Andrews will be open, namely 46 South Street and the grounds of St Leonards School. On Saturday there will be a tea at 46 South Street, but there will be a Big Tea in St Leonards on the Sunday from 1-5 pm. She hoped that the Community Council would give moral and possibly practical support to the event. Mr Roberts in reply said that if there was any way the CC could assist, Mrs Murray should ask and the CC would try to assist.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville -apologies

4.2. Bill Sangster – apologies – report sent in detailed below

4.2.1. Melville Fountain

The contractors have approached a company, which has just completed the refurbishment of the Dalton Fountain in Glasgow. They may be able to carry out the necessary work to get the fountain in Market Street working once more. It is more than 50 years since the Melville Fountain last worked, so a number of repairs will have to be undertaken, least of all the repair to a crack in the large bowl at the base of the fountain. If it is at all possible to have the fountain in working condition for this summer season, it will be an extra attraction to the newly finished first class improvement to Market Street. I have requested more seating around this area of the fountain to enable shoppers and tourists to relax and enjoy the scenery.

4.2.2. Scooniehill Road resurfacing

Because of the very poor condition of the roadway surface it has been brought forward in the Transportation Programme of Works, so that the work should go ahead during the schools Easter break period.

4.2.3. Police Station move

The police Force have now acquired the keys of the vacated Health Centre in Pipeland Road and work to the interior structure is proceeding to make it fit for purpose. It is the intention for a complete move from the North Street site to the new location in the latter part of this year. This is a very positive move, which will give the Police a far better position within the centre of the community. It is still hoped that there will also be a Police contact point within the town centre and this is still being investigated. I have suggested the Town Library in Church Square instead of the Local Office in St Mary's Place because of the reduced operating hours there.

4.2.4. Cockshaugh Park Facility

The new male/female sports changing facility for Cockshaugh Park is ready for installation and will be sited and ready for handover on the 30th March all going well. Because this unit is larger than the last one and to make it fit for the next 40 years or so, there is a great deal of extra fittings and connections to be installed. I do know however that this changeover has meant a lot of disruption during this transition period, but I am certain that the finished facility will be much appreciated by all users in the future.

4.2.5. Graffiti

The graffiti at the East Sands has been reported once more.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Parking Plan

Cllr Waterston confirmed that ½ hour parking would be introduced in Market Street, Bell Street and Greyfriars Gardens. He thought that it might be charged at a lower rate rather than being free. The change will take place about the middle of April.

4.3.2. Planning Regulation Changes

Cllr Waterston announced that changes had come in nationally in relation to permitted developments. The range of those not requiring planning permission was being extended. Restrictions will still apply in conservation areas and for listed buildings. The Council might still be able to issue a certificate of lawfulness for any minor work to houses and this would probably have a cost. Cllr Waterston explained that this might be useful in situations such as a neighbour taking out a legal action against a development, as it would validate the development in the Council view. Mr Greenwell added that in the legislation

making these changes there were rules about what was permitted which included aspects like the distance from a neighbour's property etc.

4.3.3. West Sands Management Plan

Cllr Waterston gave details of a shortcut to access the current information on this ongoing development. He advised the meeting that it was possible to access it on Fifiedirect at www.fifiedirect.org.uk/wsmanagementplan. There is to be a public meeting on the 22nd February in the Burgh Chambers to see what interest there might be in forming a new user group. He thought that this could potentially provide a forum for different organisations and individuals to talk to each other about the varying user needs, which could cause conflict and required resolution.

4.3.4. Botanic Gardens Update

There had been a recent meeting at which it had been agreed to issue a letter to find a consultant to look at the business case for a proposed Trust to run the Botanic Garden.

4.3.5. Community Council Newsletter

Cllr Waterston had noted in the newsletter that one of the questions was asking whether Fife Council officials might have ulterior motives. He hoped that in the future there might be an attempt to improve the relationship between Fife Council and the Community Council. He didn't think that the officers colluded in ways to do down St Andrews.

Cllr Waterston then commented upon the comments in the newsletter about Station Park as a possible site for the new Madras. He expressed surprise that this site should be suggested as a possibility given the past history of the CC in fighting to protect the visual landscape of St Andrews. He cited the Alison Grant report about the landscape and wondered whether the CC had considered this when inserting the comments about Station Park as a possible site in the newsletter.

Mr Primmer criticised the quality of the information provided about the decant arrangements which would be necessary and what impact it would have upon the children. Miss Uprichard in response to Cllr Waterston's comments about the Alison Grant study reminded him that that study hadn't stopped Fife Council from proposing development in the western extension, a much bigger visual intrusion upon the landscape of St Andrews than a school at Station Park. Cllr Waterston replied that he wasn't trying to defend the planners but he would have expected the CC to show more consistency in its stance.

Mr Roberts added that the Madras question was a really difficult one with no simple answer causing controversy even in the Community Council.

Dr Goudie reminded the meeting that at the meeting on the 12th January about Madras officials had commented upon how little use was made of Station Park and had gone on to say that most sports activities could be conducted at Kilrymont. This comment concerned Dr Goudie as there might be a risk of that site at a later date being sold, so he felt that the town needed a guarantee about the long term future of Station Park.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. Decriminalise Parking Scheme

Cllr Morrison wondered if Community Councillors were aware that Fife Council wanted to adopt this scheme. It would be the intention of the Head of Transportation to write to the Scottish Government to go ahead with this change in parking management. In answer to a query from Mr Paul, Cllr Morrison explained that at present parking management in the streets was a police responsibility and offences were technically criminal offences. If Fife Council adopted the decriminalising scheme then they would use their own traffic wardens and the management would not involve the police.

4.4.2. North Street Carriageway Work

Notification of the restarting of work in resurfacing the road in North Street from early February for about 6 weeks. This will take place in stages with the road closed in varying places.

4.4.3. Kinnesburn Road – New Traffic Order

At the junction with Auldburn Road there will be new traffic restrictions due to parking problems.

4.4.4. Scooniehill Road Work

Road repair work will be done at the end of March to coincide with the school holidays. Mr Primmer asked Cllr Morrison to confirm that the road would be repaired properly given the heavy traffic using it. Cllr Morrison confirmed that the work would be a proper resurfacing not a patching up of holes.

4.4.5. Wonderyears Nursery – Student Flats Planning Application

Cllr Morrison had sent out details by email of some details about the situation with the Wonder Years site and when it had been sold etc following queries from the Planning Committee. St Andrews University had sold the land to Fife Council. Ms Uprichard added some further details to the history of the site, including details of waivers and the fact that in 2007 the site was sold to Wonder Years nursery for over ½ million pounds. Ms Uprichard followed with three questions on the matter, first she wondered why there wasn't any consultation about the sale and wondered whether Councillors had been aware of it or if it had all been decided by officials, secondly given that it was sold why wasn't there any description about the nursery continuing, and thirdly what arrangements had Fife Council put in place to ensure that the protected open space designation of the area was maintained? In reply Cllr Morrison said that permission was given on the site of the nursery for a building on that footprint and that any development could only be on that footprint. In the past inquiry about the site the Reporter had considered that there could only be a low level building on the site. She also confirmed that the rest of the site was protected green space and that the East Sands Management Plan would be used in any planning decision. Cllr Waterston added that the land wasn't Common Good Land having been bought by North East Fife district Council from the university. Cllr Waterston added that a planning officer did not have the authority to refuse a planning application on any grounds, other than if the application form hadn't been filled in correctly. A planning officer can't refuse an application on the grounds that they might recommend it to members for refusal later.

4.4.6. Four Bin Introduction

Mrs Harding had a query about the starting of this scheme and how it might affect her in a location where there were several flats down a narrow lane. She had calculated that there would have to be 32 bins if all flats were serviced with 4 bins. She wondered about the possibility of a communal bin to be considered before the roll out of the scheme in the coming month? Mrs Corbin had heard that there was no legal obligation for householders to have the four bins. Cllr Waterston said that he and his colleagues would try to get some answers to these problems and suggested that other questions be reserved for the visit next meeting by the Council official. He thought that there would be special arrangements made for the centre of St Andrews and that there would be teething issues. He added that the scheme had been very successful in other parts of Fife. Mr O'Hare commented on the enthusiasm of students for recycling but acknowledged that a problem might be communication of the system especially as students might only be in the town for a year for their studies and would struggle to know what to do initially.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Feddinch Application

Mr Greenwell reported on the new application for the development at Feddinch, which includes a 41-bed hotel, spa and Golf Club centre etc. The Community Council has put in a letter raising various concerns about the development. Mr Greenwell had managed to get the Community Council listed as a statutory consultee despite a quibble by Fife Council that the greenbelt was out with St Andrews Community Council area. The Planning Committee has put in a request for an extension of time to consider the proposed development.

5.2. Local Plan

Mr Greenwell reported that the Reporter had notified him that there would be news about the Local Plan by the end of February. Mr Paul asked when the Local Plan would then become 2 months. Cllr Waterston replied that it would take 2 months. This might partly depend upon the changes requested by the Reporter and if these are agreed he thought about 2 months. Miss Uprichard commented upon the Green Belt and how this might be determined by the reporter, despite the fact that the boundaries of the western extension had not yet been set. After this she added would come master planning, which she said that SNH had viewed as a discussion between Fife Council and the Developers with little if any involvement from any other stakeholders. She did not believe that the Master Plan Handbook followed this route and felt that the Master Plan would require careful examination. Finally she concluded that any bits left over would be designated as Green Belt. She viewed it as a long and unsatisfactory process.

5.3. Protected Cost Orders

Mr Greenwell announced that the Scottish Government had launched a consultation on Protected Cost Orders, which will run through April. The Planning Committee will make a submission to this consultation.

5.4. Housing Commission

Mr Greenwell reported that the Housing Commission initiated by the Preservation trust has had its first meeting. Mr Roberts had attended the meeting at which it had been agreed amongst other things to set up a reference group. There had also been an agreement to approach potentially suitable candidates to participate in the Commission and Reference group and as Assessors.

5.5. Statutory Consultee Status

Mr Greenwell announced that because of problems with getting paperwork at times the Planning Committee had decided that they would request to be Statutory Consultee for all relevant applications. Miss Uprichard suggested that a complaint should be put in about paper copies not being put into the local office. She felt that it was a retrograde step for the public for paper copies not to be available for consultation. Mr Murphy asked about the amount of use. Miss Uprichard thought that local people did go to look at plans. Mrs Harding reminded the meeting that the Local Office was only open three days a week now.

5.6. Students Association Redevelopment

Mr Scott informed the meeting that there would be an announcement about a redevelopment of the Students Association Building in the near future.

5.7. Kilrymont Consultation

Dr Goudie reminded the meeting about the request from the group Parent Voice as to whether the CC could clearly voice its views to Fife Council on the situation re Kilrymont. Dr Goudie thought that the situation was now different from the previous one when there was still some uncertainty about the final site. He now thought that it might be correct to state the CC view on the proposal at this stage rather than wait until a planning application was received later in the year. He wondered if it was possible for the CC to take a decision at the meeting? He reminded the meeting that the CC had hoped last autumn that there would have been an opportunity to examine a detailed objective assessment of the various possible sites. Mr Paul agreed with Dr Goudie reiterating that he didn't believe that it had been a competent consultation and that Fife Council had treated the parents with contempt. He felt that the CC still hadn't had proper access to all the questions it had asked. Mrs Denyer confirmed that the preservation trust had similar reservations and she also felt that local residents were not happy that they had not been approached. Mr Primmer also added his support for these views and he felt that there still wasn't enough information available to allow a positive response. Mrs Harding added that she felt that Fife Council had been riding roughshod over any arguments against their proposal. After a query from the Chair it was clarified that the CC would put in a no to the consultation with a comment that the CC was dissatisfied with the consultation. Mr Primmer added that the CC would like to have been able to look at the detail about the various sites considered before coming to a final conclusion as had been the position of the CC last autumn before the Kilrymont proposal had been announced.

5.8. Statement by Miss Uprichard

Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting that her struggle in the courts against the Structure plan had been going on since July 2009. After losing the appeal in December she decided that she could go no further, wait for the decision on costs and pay what was required with the help of £30000 raised from supporters and resume some sort of normal life. The hearing about costs was held last November, with the reasons for the decision being announced in December. The claims for costs from Scottish ministers and Fife Council for considerable sums of money were approved by three judges. The total costs of the case were £173000 and this resulted in considerable media interest. Clearly this decision was viewed as a deterrent for others and a punishment for challenging the views of officials. The cost reason ran to eleven pages and seemed to raise substantive issues in relation to the case as well as costs. I was therefore given legal advice to apply to the UK Supreme Court. My application has been accepted by that court and my application for a protected cost order should be heard in the next week or ten days, after which no doubt a date with in due course be set for the Hearing. If I can get a protected costs order for a low amount I will then try and continue to fund raise to continue the case. Without considerable support from people in St Andrews I am not certain if I will succeed.

As an environmental lawyer said recently, 2011 was been a disastrous year for environmental litigation and cited my case, the Hunterston Power Station, the Trump Development and the Aberdeen Bypass. The real loser is the landscape in Scotland, nearly ¾ of which is affected by visual impact. Thank you.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Martyrs Monument & CGF

Mr Roberts reported that funds were now at over £120000 with £25000 from the Common Good Fund. This was from the assets rather than the interest and was a concern to Mr Paul. Mr Paul acknowledged that the Council had every right to spend CGF money as long as it is spent appropriately in St Andrews. His concern was that the money awarded had come from the assets with the result that there will be a reduced income next year. Mr Paul reminded the meeting that Fife Council had in the past promised to sort out the income for the CGF and for him the biggest earner was the Bruce Embankment Car Park with an income last year of £47000 in parking charges of which none is used locally. He thought that Fife Council should be obliged to rent the Bruce Embankment from the CGF and pay a rent into the CGF. It concerned him that Fife Council was quick to spend some of the CGF assets in this case instead of sorting out the income. Mrs Ashworth reminded the meeting that Cllr Melville had stated that this grant was a one off in its nature.

The Martyrs Monument proposal has gone out to tender for a consultant to work up a proposal for the work needing done.

Mr Crichton queried whether this decision to use CGF assets should remain unchallenged. Mr Murphy agreed feeling that this could lead to eventual erosion of the assets and he suggested that the award should be rejected because of its basis. He thought that the level of funding coming into the Martyrs Monument appeal would soon see it reach the required amount without the CGF award. Mr Primmer also thought that any award from the CGF should come out of the income rather than the assets. Mr McLachlan agreed that the income side of the CGF needed to be sorted out by Fife Council. He felt that money was being taken out and not enough was being put back in. Mr Paul agreed to draft a letter on the decision.

Mrs Ashworth expressed her concern that fundraising was not going quite as glowingly as presented and that if there were not sufficient funds available at the necessary time, work might not go ahead this year. Mr Crichton felt that there was a principle at stake in the nature of the award that must be sorted out.

6.2. StandEN Report

Now that Christmas is out of the way work is picking up. 6 visits were carried out this month & 7 people were dealt with in the drop in clinic. StAndEN also attended the ESSAC event in the Scores Hotel on Wednesday 18th Jan to announce the extension of the Fife Solar Hotspot scheme until March. We have a number of leads from that event to follow up throughout this month in connection with the installation of PV's.

The bid for a joint project with Transition University of St Andrews which was lodged with CCF in November for three years funding to continue our work within the KY16 postcode will be put before the panel at one of two sittings to be held at the end of January or the end of February so it could be early March before we get a decision.

We will also be looking at other funding applications to allow us to expand our services within St Andrews and beyond 4 applications will be submitted this month

StAndEN has been asked to provide training for the staff at KK Electrics and this will take place later this month, the training package is well underway and should be completed next week.

The Newburgh & Glenrothes projects are on going.

As we were unable to book the Town Hall for February and could not find another suitable venue the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Technologies Fair will be held in the Town Hall on the 13th & 14th of April. Invitations will be sent through the secretaries to all community councillors within the KY16 postcode. We will also attend the green week event in Students Union on 25th February with TUSA.

StAndEN would like to thank the community council for its continued support.

Mr McLachlan wondered if StandEN could do something like an energy saving tip in the Citizen on a regular basis? Mr Murphy in reply admitted that there wasn't a lot of standEN work going on in St Andrews as they were heading out to other local areas and further afield with some of their work as detailed in the report. If the group manages to get the grant in conjunction with the University Group local work would increase again.

6.3. Craigtoun Update

A meeting is to take place on the Wednesday 29th February at the Burgh Chambers at 19.00. Mr Roberts reported that Fife Council are working to try and get tenders for some activities to run at Craigtoun for this coming season. Mr Crichton expressed concern about Public liability costs for possible providers of activities. Mr Roberts thought that Fife Council procurement should have an idea about all that should be incorporated into any tender such as public liability.

6.4. Botanic Gardens Update

Dealt with earlier by Cllr Waterston's report

6.5. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Mr Roberts reported that the Byre Theatre had approached the Community Council to ask if they'd like to get involved with a festival they were organising in the grounds of St Andrews Football Club over a 3-4 day period at the time of the Jubilee weekend. The Byre would like to have a Family Community Day on the Monday 4th June. Mr Roberts and the Recreation Committee felt that it was a good idea to be involved with the Byre for that specific event. Planning Meetings will be taking place.

6.7. Reports from Representatives

6.7.1. St Andrews in Bloom

Mrs Denyer had recently attended a meeting of this group. The group is planning to participate in Fife in Bloom and from that Britain in Bloom. They are trying to involve other local groups such as the gardening Club. Keith Jackson from Fife Council is involved.

6.8. Any Other Matters Arising

No other matters arising

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee held their first meeting of 2012 on Thursday 26th January. Under discussion were the forthcoming events of this year.

1. **Olympic Torch:** Mr. Roberts reported that the Olympic torch would arrive in St Andrews at 7.30 am on the morning of the 13th June. There will then be photo opportunities for invited guests at the R & A and possibly the West Sands. It will then move to St Salvator's Quad where there will be a lighting ceremony involving the Provost and the Rector of the University. There will be 200 invited guests in the Quad at that time and about 100 school children. The torch after it is lit will be run a couple of times around the Quad and then out in North Street and eventually out of town. This is all supposed to happen by 8sh. He added that there is some funding available in relation to the event, though exactly what this may be has yet to be decided. There is some hope that once the torch has gone that there can be some sort of ongoing celebrations. He concluded by saying that there might not be a lot for the Community Council to do as things stand. Mr. Paul suggested that perhaps Sir Menzies Campbell be asked to participate in the ceremony rather than the Provost. Mr. Paul reminded the meeting that Cllr Melville might not be the Provost after the May election hence his suggestion. The meeting also congratulated Mr. Paul after Mr. Roberts revealed that Mr. Paul had been selected to participate as a medal "bearer" at Medal ceremonies in the Olympic Games this summer.

2. **Jubilee Lunch / Celebrations:** Mr. Roberts will give us an update on this too.

3. **Coffee Morning:** The Supper Room has been booked for the first available date, which is Saturday, April 14th. Details to follow after our next meeting.

4. **Garden Competition 2012:** It is proposed to advertise this earlier for entrants with judging taking place in Mid-July. Advice will be sought regards this from Hamish Matheson of "The Gardeners' Club". The awards will take place in September as usual.

5. **Bandstand Concerts 2012 :** All in hand but Kyff will give another update on these.

6. **Sandcastle Competitions 2012:** The Recreation Committee wondered whether the HEW Committee would consider taking this under their remit? We would hope that any CC members free during these summer events would lend a hand with this? As it stands the Cosmos Centre will be contacted to see whether this no longer comes under their “Summer Activities” for visitors & locals.
7. **Art & Photographic Exhibition 2012:** This will be under review as a couple of new venues have been suggested, so “watch this space!”
8. **Civic Reception:** The gathering in Holy Trinity Church Hall last year was seen as highly successful. We would ask members to consider this as the venue for this year, allowing us to invite more guests than the 60 allowed for the Burgh Chambers. We would also like to invite in future, the members of the St. Andrews Pipe Band to warm themselves after a cold November performance.
9. Finally we would like to thank Carol Ashworth for agreeing to join our committee. She is replacing Audrey's role, with “catering” for forthcoming events as her “forte”. From her service background and the help she has ably provided with CC social events in past years we are glad to welcome her aboard!

7.2. General Purposes

No meeting report

7.3. 200 Club

1st Mr K Crichton 2nd Mrs Methven 3rd Mrs Murray

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin distributed leaflets detailing the new Victoria Hospital facilities.

8. New Business

8.1. West Sands Users Forum

This had previously been detailed by Cllr Waterston

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

9.1.1 Chairs Report

Mr Roberts thanked CC members for their tremendous efforts in distributing the newsletter, particularly Mrs Corbin and Mrs Ashworth. Dr Goudie added his thanks for the effort.

Damage to the noticeboard, which is on South Street, was discussed. There will be an attempt to see if it can be repaired.

9.2. Treasurers Report

Mr Paul commented on his report. He said that it wasn't a busy time for CC finances. He talked about applying for grants towards the Bandstand Concerts and had had some success and some refusals. He will apply to Fife Council as well. Mr Roberts made an appeal for help for the Bandstand Concerts of which there are going to be seven.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

The secretary commented that correspondence of interest was listed in the appendix of the agenda. The secretary briefly went through correspondence for the benefit of the meeting. He had given some letters from Fife Council relating to Licensing Applications for his to respond to on behalf of the CC.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Miss Uprichard's Legal Action

Dr Goudie reminded the meeting about Miss Uprichard's legal action and her principled stance, which will cost her a large amount of money in legal expenses. He wondered whether it might be possible for the CC to wish her well in her legal action, which is now going to the Supreme Court. Mr Roberts recollected that the Community Council while it couldn't offer financial support had previously indicated a willingness to offer moral support. This was discussed a bit further and Mr Roberts concluded that the support on a non-financial basis would remain the stance of the Community Council.