

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Minutes – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### 0. New Member

Mr McLeod introduced Mr Newton who had sent in his CV prior to the meeting for members to study. Mr Newton thanked members for the opportunity to speak about his application. Prior to retirement he and his wife had had a property in the town, but had moved to their current address in more recent times. He had until recently been involved in a number of Charity jobs but had now given up most of these posts and felt that he'd now like to putting some effort into supporting the work of the Community Council.

Mr Crichton asked Mr Newton if he was aware of the CC constitution and the need to abide by the rules and regulations governing CCs. Mr Newton affirmed that he had studied the literature relating to the CC and its governance. Mr Stanis-Trachen extended a welcome to Mr Newton prior to the formal approval of his request to be a CC member by the meeting.

Mr McLeod asked if members agreed to elect Mr Newton to the CC and asked Mr Newton to sign the declaration of office. There was general agreement and no objections to Mr Newton's election.

### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, Iain Munn, Izzy Corbin, Patrick Marks, Judith Harding, Greg Newman, Harry Stewart, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Ken Crichton, Niall Scott, Dita Stanis-Trachen, Alistair Newton

#### Students' Association Representatives

Aine Bennett

#### Co-Opted

Niall Scott

#### Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Frances Melville

**Apologies** - Keith McCartney, Charlotte Andrew, Kyffin Roberts, Lindsey Adam, Dorothea Morrison, Jamie McLeod, Henry Paul, Howard Greenwell

### 2. Minutes of Meeting – November 2016

The minutes were accepted as correct.

### 3. Presentations

#### 4. Fife Councillor.

##### 4.1. Frances Melville

##### 4.1.1. St Andrews Community Trust Articles Report

Cllr Melville announced that the report on the changes to articles of the St Andrews Community Trust will go to Committee at the end of the month and will hopefully be approved without query.

#### **4.1.2. New Bus Stop on the Canongate**

Cllr Melville announced that it had been agreed that there would be a new bus stop on the Canongate between Broomfaulds Avenue and Drumcarrow Road.

#### **4.1.3. Pipeland Skate Park**

Cllrs Melville and Thomson commented on this matter, which had been overlooked by official. There was supposed to be an application submitted the previous year for funding for the replacement of metal skateboard ramps, which had been dismantled because of safety concerns. Councillors had suggested to officials to put in an application for funds to replace the removed ramps but this had never been done. Officials had however also worked up a plan with local children to put in a proper skateboard park and a group of local parents are keen to progress the idea. It was recognised that proper concrete ramps, which would last longer, were a more expensive option. Local parents do however appear keen to take the idea forward.

Mr Stewart recollected that the Bowling Club beside the Skate Park had agreed as part of planning permission to help towards improving the facilities. He wondered what had happened about that promise of financial support? Cllr Thomson replied that there had been a commuted sum of £15000 agreed to be paid by the developer but only after a certain number of flats were sold. He added that the funds weren't necessarily for the Skateboard Park but could be for any aspect of the facilities in the park. Councillors would seek advice from officers about how the money should be spent.

#### **4.1.4. Bell Street Taxi Rank**

Cllr Melville said that the opinion of the CC was being sought on the situation about the Bell Street taxi rank. There apparently have been issues leading to heated exchanges because of mixed usage. Councillors would be discussing the options to try and resolve the tensions at the local ward meeting. Miss Uprichard acknowledged that they'd been aware of the issue at the last Planning meeting but had decided to defer until the next Planning meeting.

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Bus Shelter @ Morrisons**

Cllr Thomson reported that there had been a delay but the contractor is now to do the work on the 9<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **4.2.2. New Park Playing Fields Planning Appeal**

The appeal against the refusal of planning permission for housing on the former New Park playing fields had been dismissed.

#### **4.2.3. Cycle Action Group**

Cllr Thomson announced that there was to be a press release going out in a few days and a public meeting has been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> March to take place at Hope Park Church Hall to publicise and launch the new group which has the aim of making St Andrews the most cycle friendly town in the country.

#### **4.2.4. Damaged Barriers @ City Road Roundabout**

The damaged metal barrier at the City Road/ Double Dykes side of the roundabout at Hope Park Church have still to be replaced. Cllr Thomson is pursuing officials about the delay.

#### **4.2.5. Cycle Racks**

Cllr Thomson announced that cycle racks in the town were being upgraded, including the missing ones at Sainsbury's, which officials had forgotten to replace after the St Andrews Day celebrations. Mr Marks said that he hoped there would be a new design of cycle rack with enough space between them to allow the space to be used for two bikes unlike the present ones.

## **4.2.6. Cycle Issues**

Mr Newman reminded Cllr Thomson that he'd asked some time ago about a bike attached to a bent sign at the end of Argyle Street car park. He went on to say that the sign had been removed but there was now a bike attached to the sign detailing the parking fees. Mr Newman asked who was responsible for removing bikes locked to public signs and often abandoned to rust and sometimes cause an obstruction. Cllr Thomson said that if the bike were causing an obstruction in the footpath it would be the responsibility of the Council. He said he'd speak to officials to try and get the bike removed.

## **4.2.7. Street Lighting – East Scores**

Mrs Harding asked if it might be possible for the Council to use traditional style streetlights on the East Scores to fit in with the character of the area. She recognised the benefits of the newer LED lights but felt that the more modern lighting columns weren't in character with the area. Cllr Thomson said he'd check if it might be possible to get some of the "Heritage" style lights.

## **4.2.8. Argyle Street Car Park Sign Boards**

Mrs Harding wondered why the new signboards about parking in this car park were placed half way up the poles and not at the top? The old signs had been at the top of the posts. Cllr Thomson agreed to check out this matter.

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

### **4.3.1. Bus Shelter**

Cllr McCartney reported that the damage to the panels on the bus shelter in Pipeland Road beside Pipeland Park has been repaired.

### **4.3.2. Street Lights**

Cllr McCartney reported that the following street lights, which were not working, were reported for repair :

Double Dykes Road – lighting column number 2

Petheram Bridge Car Park Access Road – lighting column number 5

Petheram Bridge Car Park – 13, 31, 38, 42, 43

### **4.3.3. Illuminated Street Signs**

Cllr McCartney reported that the following illuminated road signs on which the lights were not working were reported for repair :

City Road – 'roundabout' sign (J)

Drumcarrow Road/Canongate junction – 'roundabout' sign on west side of Drumcarrow Road

Gibson Place/Grannie Clark's Wynd junction – 'One Way' sign on west side of Grannie Clark's Wynd

Grannie Clark's Wynd/The Links junction – 'No Entry' sign and 'No Right Turn' sign on east side of Grannie Clark's Wynd

Pilmour Links – 'roundabout' sign on north side of road immediately west of the roundabout at the junction of Pilmour Links and City Road

The Links/Gibson Place/Old Station Road junction – 'No Entry' sign

West Port – 'One Way' sign on north side of road

West Port – 'No Entry' signs

#### **4.3.4. Potholes**

Cllr McCartney reported that the following potholes were reported for inspection and repair as necessary:

Craigtoun Road – south side of road at brow of hill at entrance to Balone Steadings

Greenside Place – centre of road across from lighting column number 6

John Knox Road – on south side of road by lighting column number 14

Largo Road – west side of road approx. ten yards south of lighting column number 33

Repairs have been carried out at all the above locations.

#### **4.3.5. Pedestrian Crossings**

Cllr McCartney reported that the light on the belisha beacon at the following location was not working and was reported for repair:

Bell Street – on east side of Bell Street at its junction with South Street

Petheram Bridge Car Park Access Road – the lights extending above the belisha beacons on the same columns and designed to illuminate the crossing were not working and were reported for repair

#### **4.3.6. Street Nameplates**

Cllr McCartney reported that the nameplate missing from the south side of Kinnessburn Road just before its junction with Langlands Road has been replaced

#### **4.3.7. Car Parks**

Cllr McCartney reported that the damage to the retaining walls of the flowerbeds at the entrance to Argyle Street Car Park from Argyle Street has been repaired

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison - apologies**

## **5. Planning Committee**

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

#### **5.1.1. Bell Street Taxi Rank**

Miss Uprichard started her report by discussing the proposal in respect of taxi parking in Bell Street. The proposal was for 6 taxi bays and 4 loading bays. A possibility had been to remove the taxi bays to St Marys Place but the taxi drivers had opposed that idea. Another proposal had been for ten permanent taxi bays all the time or after 6 pm in Bell Street. She said that she couldn't see the sense in having ten permanent taxi bays in Bell Street. The proposals would be discussed more fully at the next Planning Meeting and response sent to Councillors. Mr McLeod added that members should look at the original email detailing the proposals and send comments to Miss Uprichard for compiling and sending to Fife Councillors. Mr Newman added that at the present time there were actually ten bays being used by taxis and this was adding to traffic flow problems when taxis had to pull out round the parking meter as spaces became available in their queue. Mr Newton also wondered with modern communications whether taxi drivers needed 10 spaces at that location? He felt that six spaces were enough and this would reduce episodes of traffic flow if the other spaces were returned to metered parking.

#### **5.1.2. Planning Report**

The Planning Committee met twice during January, and discussed 18 applications. It decided to object to five.

Among other matters discussed were:

The proposal by the Old Course Hotel for sports pitches and facilities at Winthank Farm. This is in Green Belt, but STACC is not allowed to be a statutory consultee in the St. Andrews Green Belt.

The review of the Scottish Planning System by the Minister for Local Government and Housing, Mr. Kevin Stewart. This consultation lasts until 4th April. The Planning Committee has been notified, but if anyone else wants to take part, please ask Mr. Marks to forward a copy of the information.

Feddinch Mains – applications for this site have been around for 14 years, and on three occasions Fife Council has failed to determine them, leaving the applicants free to go to appeal. The latest appeal has resulted in it being upheld by a Scottish Government Reporter, who felt the applicants should be given another chance to complete the development. After 14 years, during which not even the golf course has been completed, I am not happy with this decision. The site is in Green Belt, Countryside and Agricultural Land.

A consultation on St. Andrews West, the proposal to add a minimum of 1,000 houses to St Andrews, running from the A 91 to Craigtoun, is taking place on 22nd and 23rd February. The initial proposal is a pre-application notice for I believe 88 acres. I have always thought that this proposal would destroy St. Andrews, which is why I lodged a legal challenge, and lost in the Supreme Court. Fife Council and Scottish Ministers founded on the statement in the Alison Grant Study that there was some scope for development to the west. Correct - there was 22 hectares. This figure was mentioned in the Judgment. The fact that the western extension would take 115 hectares was not mentioned.

In connection with St. Andrews West, Alison Grant was asked in 2009 to produce a Visual Analysis and safeguarding of key views of St. Andrews, mainly from Strathkinness High Road. She was also asked to suggest developable areas in Green Belt. The page I am showing you now demonstrates how the views of the town will be virtually blotted out by the western extension.

Priory Gardens – we did not discuss this, because the STACC Planning Committee did not object to the proposal by the New Park Educational Trust to build 37 houses on a site designated as Protected Open Space. There were about 60 objections. The application was recommended for refusal and was refused by the North East Fife Planning Committee. The applicants then appealed, and a Reporter has just dismissed the appeal.

In a number of cases, mostly about large developments, the Council announces a consultation period – perhaps of six weeks. After that period the Council and the applicants continue in discussion, and a number of other documents are accepted. The public and voluntary bodies are not allowed to take any further part. Obviously there must be discussion between these two parties, but why exclude the public, when in some cases the application has still not been decided after a year?

After her planning report Miss Uprichard then commented on the number of applications associated with the University at a variety of stages in the planning process, from pre-application to post approval and being built. These include the Kenly Wind Turbines, the Gatty, the cable for the Kenly Wind Turbine, housing to the West of Grange Road, more student accommodation as well as a major mixed use development in the west off Strathkinness High Road for several hundred houses, university, business and other types of development. The latter is part of the western extension proposed by the University and developers. She noted that there were ten applications or pre applications associated with the University at the present time. She was concerned about the impact, which this amount of development would have on the town. Mr Munn queried the reason for commenting on applications before they had been formally made and the details known? Mr McLeod replied that the planning committee would look after eventual applications in detail and accepted that Mr Munn had made a fair point that this was emerging information.

Mrs Harding asked about the proposed new Music Centre and why it was needed and would it be replacing other University facilities such as the Younger Hall and the Byre? She was also concerned about the short notice for the consultation. Mr Scott explained that the consultation ran for about a week and that the event had been publicised for the previous two weeks in the press and elsewhere. He explained that the Music Centre was considered to be a valuable part of the student life in St Andrews and that the facilities at the Younger Hall were not ideal. He

added that the Music Centre would be open to the community and would offer first class acoustics. It would also allow them to do much-needed repairs to the Younger Hall. It wouldn't have any knock on effect on the Byre.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Facebook**

Mr McLeod acknowledged that he'd not been able to hold a meeting of the committee to review how things were progressing in the past month. He reported that the activity varied and he'd like to see more people using it to advertise things going on. He'd only had to refuse two messages due to inappropriate content. Dr Goudie asked if a monthly aggregation of statistics about usage could be obtained? Mr McLeod said he wasn't certain how such statistics could be obtained and sought help from the meeting on this matter. Mr Munn explained how monthly statistics could be obtained.

Dr Shepherd was concerned that posting would make his personal facebook page accessible and wondered if there was a way administrators could assist by putting up posts on behalf of members like himself. Mr McLeod thought that this might be possible and explained how this might work. He also explained who were admins and explained the difference between admins and editors. Mr Munn also commented on how posts in relation to CC business would appear under the name of the person submitting the post and wasn't happy at this taking place. Mr McLeod conceded that it was a fair point and need further investigation but as he wasn't an expert on how to manage such issues he'd have to consult with others more adept at such matters.

### **6.2. St Andrews Community Trust**

Mr McLeod reported that he and Mr Marks had attended the Nominations Committee of the St Andrews Community Trust. The committee is now looking to create a pool of applicants for the three posts, which will be vacant at the AGM in May. The three current directors have had their tenure extended until the AGM although under current rules should have stood down at the end of last year. They can also apply for a further period of up to 3 years according to when they originally joined as co-opted. Applications for the posts will be advertised and Mr McLeod is writing an article for St Andrews in Focus. Applications need to be in by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Another change is being considered to help the Trust run more smoothly. Mr McLeod explained that as well as the Trustees/Directors and the Nominations Committee there was also going to be a sort of "Partner Liaison Group" which would meet once a year to review the workings of the Trust. One possible change to the running might be for a former Trustee/Director to be on the Nominations Committee instead of the CC Chair who would be on the new PLG.

Mr McLeod asked members to spread the word about the vacancies, which will arise.

### **6.3. Microphones**

Dr Shepherd expressed his disappointment about the decision by the CC in respect of his original proposal and said he'd been looking at other microphone systems. He hadn't found anything cheaper, and suggested he could make further enquires of someone knew who was replacing their microphone system.

Mr Stewart said that there were alternatives such as renting and there were companies offering such deals. He thought that this might be a cheaper option given the relatively small number of times they would be required by the CC.

Mr McLeod asked members for their views and made it clear that he didn't want the matter to be dragging on indefinitely. Mr McLeod thought that the possibility of getting hold of equipment becoming redundant to another organisation such as Fife Council was worth exploring. Mr Marks said he could check with Fife Council if there might be any available. Mr Crichton reminded members that the current microphones at one time had to be collected

when required from the Council office in Cupar by the janitor and returned to Cupar after each meeting.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Recreation Committee**

Mr Greenwell was not present to speak to the report about the activities of the Recreation Committee in the past couple of months. Mrs Corbin a committee member said that in relation to events such as the Civic Reception it was vital to get accurate numbers to ensure that the amount of food required could be accurately estimated. At the 2016 Civic Reception, Mrs Corbin had been told to cater for a certain number but the number attending was significantly less thus leading to a lot of food remaining uneaten. Mrs Corbin did manage to ensure that the surplus food wasn't wasted but felt strongly that this shouldn't have happened and shouldn't happen in future.

Mr Munn objected to some of the wording in the Recreation Committee minutes and Mrs Corbin explained the background to the comments made. It was however acknowledged that the wording did not correctly convey the situation as described and needed to be amended before being accepted and published as approved.

Mrs Corbin advised about the use of emails to invite people to the Civic Reception. The invites had been by email which she didn't feel was good etiquette and that those invited should receive invites by mail with a request to RSVP. Mr McLeod agreed that this was a good point.

Dr Goudie felt that the current system of sending committee reports out to members by email was not always user friendly. He reminded the meeting that in the past the minutes of committees had been attached to the CC agenda when it was published. Mr Marks advised that he'd be happy to add committee minutes to the agenda if that was the will of the meeting.

### **7.2. GP Meeting**

No meeting

### **7.3. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Keracher 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Reed 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr Kyffin Roberts

### **7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee**

Mrs Corbin reported that Mr Hamish Mathieson who was a stalwart of the Gardening Club had died. He'd done a lot of work with disabled children in schools in relation to gardening. Mrs Corbin was hoping to take over his role as she felt it was important to continue his work.

### **7.5. Rail Sub Committee**

Dr Goudie spoke to the report he'd circulated and gave a brief update.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Police Attendance @ CC Meeting**

There was discussion about the difficulties of accessing the police at the new office in the former GP surgery even when it was alleged the office was meant to be open. There was discussion about the possibility of writing to Police Scotland to ask about the way to ensure greater accessibility to the Police and possibly asking the local senior officer to attend a CC meeting to explain the issues about manning the local station. Mrs Corbin, who worked for the ICVA and SPS, said that previously the Police had attended most CC meetings, but since the inception of Police Scotland this was discouraged. Recent developments have seen this trend reverse, as it is now seen as useful.

### **8.2. Financial Request from new Cycle Group**

Mr Marks explained that there was a new group being set up to look at promoting cycling in St Andrews in all its aspects and it was going to be holding a Public Meeting in March in the Hope Park Church Hall. The group headed at present by Mr Tony Waterston was seeking a small amount of financial support to help fund the meeting. Mr Marks said the group was looking for a couple of hundred pounds for this meeting with associated publicity and refreshments. Mr Marks suggested that the main CC could give a similar amount towards the meeting as it had to the organiser of the Community Kitchen, with any further funds to be applied for through the 200 Club. Mr Marks explained the background of the group and how the CC had been approached with the request. He suggested that a member of the group could give a presentation at the next CC meeting.

Mr McLeod proposed that the CC should offer the same as it had the Community Kitchen and that any more could be applied for from the 200 Club. Mrs Harding felt that this was an appropriate way to deal with the funding request.

Dr Goudie whilst supportive of the funding request sounded a cautionary note about financial expenditure based on past experience when the CC had been in receipt of a sizeable sum of money and this had eventually dwindled to very little leaving the CC struggling to fund activities. He thought that a financial strategy needed to be developed now that the CC would be receiving the annual payment from the St Andrews Community Trust.

Mr McLeod thought that the General Purposes Committee might need to meet to look at developing a financial strategy for appropriate expenditure of these additional funds.

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Mr McLeod informed the meeting that he had performed the following duties as the CC Chair: attendance of the St Andrews – Loches Alliance reception last December.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Mr Munn reported that his report is on the CC website

### **9.3 Secretary**

#### **9.3.1. Correspondence**

Mr Marks briefly went through the correspondence received and forwarded as appropriate to the members for action or information.

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

### **10.1. Western Development PAN Meeting**

Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting about the meeting dates for this consultation 22/23<sup>rd</sup> February with the consultation being opened up an hour earlier @ 14.00 for members of the Community Council.