

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

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

### 0. New Member

Aine Bennett introduced Hannah her replacement.

### 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, Alistair Newton

#### Students' Association Representatives

Aine Bennett

Hannah Raleigh

Charlotte Andrew

#### Co-Opted

Niall Scott

Lindsey Adam

#### Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Frances Melville

**Apologies** - Keith McCartney, Charlotte Andrew, Kyffin Roberts, Dita Stanis-Trachen, Henry Paul

## 2. Minutes of Meeting – February 2017

The minutes were accepted as correct.

## 3. Presentations

### 3.1. St Andrews Space for Cycling

Professor Sam Taylor gave the presentation from St Andrews Space for Cycling; a new group being set up to actively promote cycling by improving facilities and introducing a positive cycling culture.

Professor Taylor said that he was keen to set out a case for community support for the new cycling group and its aims. He started by relating some of his own experiences as a cyclist from his youth to the present day.

He thought that St Andrews was ideally placed to make cycling normal and safe as a way of getting around within a balanced transport plan. He noted that most cycle journeys were relatively short in distance and the town was the ideal size and it had few difficult hills. However he thought that cycling was becoming more difficult because of traffic congestion. He commented that few local children used their bikes to go to school and few adults cycled to work. He commented on the health benefits of cycling.

He thought that tourist cycling was increasing and thought that this would increase if there were better facilities for cyclists. He then went on to say that whilst there was a serious university campaign for more cycling there was no serious residents campaign, which was

why St Andrews Space for Cycling had been set up. He added that whilst there had been a huge increase in cycling as a sport after the Olympics and Tour de France there had been little follow through in domestic cycling. He thought that while cycle sales had increased people weren't using them more often.

He told the meeting that similar towns in Europe had far more people cycling and gave examples. He thought that cycling by tourists based on the edge of towns in caravan parks for example would be a benefit to the local economy.

He thought that his group should try to work with all parties and all road users to present St Andrews as a cycle friendly place for citizens and tourists. He emphasised that the group was not against motorists.

He reminded members of the date of the first public meeting of the SASC. The group would also be lobbying the candidates for the local election. He acknowledged that the group had a major task.

He thought that the situation for cyclists was getting worse with the increase in motorised transport and was concerned that with the new school there should be a way to develop safe cycling routes. He hoped that this would be taken into consideration in the planning of the new school. He also thought that there should be more ways

Sam went on to comment on the increasing difficulties in the town in relation to cycling. He acknowledged the group was starting off with a major task to get cycling viewed as a normal mode of transport, with cyclists, motorists and pedestrians with more understanding of each other's concerns. One thing, which he thought, should be restarted were the cycle proficiency lessons at schools, as this would help young people to know how to behave when cycling and be safer when cycling. Teaching children the basics of bike mechanics to help them know how to get the best from their bikes was a useful skill to learn.

He felt that the transport situation was getting worse and with a new school not within walking range of the main centre of population, so pupils will need to be other ways of getting to the new school. This would be an opportunity to look at safe routes from various parts of towns linking to the school. He commented on the impact of the impending western development on the transport situation as well, with 1000 new houses and over 2000 new residents and he estimated over 1500 cars. This would be a further massive impact upon the overburdened road system and more likely to push cyclists off the roads. He felt that as the plans progressed that all ages of cyclists were not forgotten.

Dr Goudie acknowledged that the situation in relation to transport in the town was about to approach critical levels and he cited the Colin Buchanan report of 2013 which indicated that even without the western development there were big problems and each of the three roundabouts in the middle of town. Measurements of traffic flow made had indicated that the situation was rapidly becoming critical at those points. He added that the number of commuters to the town was only likely to get worse but there was he acknowledged no single solution though encouraging cycling in the town was crucial. He felt that with the council elections coming up it was important to get councillors in place who were prepared to spend more money on cycling infrastructure. Part of the problem he said was that any cycling facilities currently in place had been done on the cheap. It was as far back as 1995 when the Ross Silcock report had been produced that the advisory cycle lanes had been painted on some roads. He didn't see these as being particularly beneficial and unlikely to encourage much additional cycling into town by families. He felt that off road provision for cyclists was the only way to encourage a major increase in cycling as a common mode of transport. He also felt that the opportunities available had not been taken, and he cited a proposal to have a cycle route by the university playing fields along by Buchanan Gardens, which didn't go ahead. He thought that there was also an opportunity to provide a route from the Bogward, utilising the Lade Braes in a way, which wouldn't endanger cyclists or pedestrians if the money for improvement were provided.

Miss Uprichard said she supported the idea of safe cycling but if it involved carving up any more bits of roads she wouldn't support that idea. She thought there wasn't enough space. She thought that the idea required careful thought.

Dr Shepherd said that there were national organisations such as Sustrans who might have more clout in cycling matters? He was concerned that if the group worked in isolation they wouldn't have the same clout. He suggested that the group should affiliate itself to a national body such as Sustrans. Mr Marks informed the meeting about Sustrans and its role in the St Andrews – Guardbridge cycle route. Professor Taylor thought that this was a good idea to check out.

Mr Robinson another member of Safer Cycling St Andrews then spoke and informed the meeting that the organisation was in its formative stages. He also informed the meeting that his son worked for Sustrans and SCSA would be involving Sustrans and also Cycling UK. He reminded the meeting about the public meeting being organised by the group later in March at which representatives from other organisations would be speaking. SCSA were consulting with other groups with relevant expertise.

Mr Macleod thanked Professor Sam Taylor for his presentation.

## **4. Fife Councillor.**

### **4.1. Frances Melville**

#### **4.1.1. More money for Transportation**

Cllr Melville announced that there was more money available for transportation in the Council budget. The Area Transportation Manager had asked Councillors how they might want the money spent. One area being supported by Councillors was improving facilities for cyclists. The possibility of a route from Strathkiness to St Andrews now appeared to be a distinct possibility.

#### **4.1.2. Market Street Fountain**

Cllr Melville reported on issues related to the working of the fountain. The Fife Council official involved in the work on the fountain had reported that they had had it working for a short time but other issues complicating its definite long term working remained to be sorted out. Issues included material including bird droppings, which were dirtying the water as well as another unforeseen technical problem underneath the fountain. However it was still hoped to overcome any problems and to get it flowing again.

Mrs Corbin asked what had happened to the money, which ex-Councillor Bill Sangster had managed to get for the work to start up the fountain? Cllr Melville acknowledged she didn't know, though she guessed that some would have been used on work done to date.

#### **4.1.3. Logies Lane work**

Work will now begin on 27<sup>th</sup> March for a period of 14 weeks under the management of Mr Mark Methven of Fife Council.

#### **4.1.4. Cashless Parking**

Cllr Melville announced that this modification of payment methods for parking was now in place. She'd sent out an email reporting this development.

#### **4.1.5. Taxi Rank – Bell Street**

Councillors have still to meet to weigh up the best way to modify the parking for taxis on Bell Street.

#### **4.1.6. Bus Station Markings**

Bus station markings Cllr Melville reported are to be done at night to reduce the disruption, which would arise in daytime work in this busy station.

## **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Bus Station Work**

Cllr Thomson briefly commented that the work at the bus station would be done during the night

#### **4.2.2. Leuchars Railway Station – parking extension.**

Cllr Thomson reported that the work on the extension would start 27<sup>th</sup> March and last for about 8 weeks.

#### **4.2.3. Fife Council Budget Plan**

Cllr Thomson reported that as part of the budget the capital expenditure plan was approved. The budget for the new Madras College was raised to £50 million pounds. £750000 was also approved for work on the existing school buildings.

£50000 had also been approved for work in the Ladebraes in addition to the £50000 to come from the Common Good Fund. Cllr Thomson had asked officers to come up with detailed plans about the work to be done. Dr Shepherd asked Cllr Thomson whether the work to be done would include management of the trees? Cllr Thomson wasn't aware that the work would include any tree maintenance. Dr Shepherd was concerned about the danger of tree branches falling on to a user of the path and felt that maintenance of trees was in his views an essential in the general maintenance of the park. Cllr Thomson agreed to pass Dr Shepherd's concerns to the Parks Dept who did tree maintenance for their response.

#### **4.2.4. Pipeland Skate Park**

Cllr Thomson reported that there was a new group set up by local parents and children to campaign for major improvements for this facility. Council Officers were working up an initial draft proposal for a revamped play park.

#### **4.2.5. Strathkiness to St Andrews Cycle Route**

Cllr Thomson gave more details of this capital expenditure project. He felt that it would be especially useful as a route to the new school for pupils and others. He acknowledged that there was a lot of work to be done such as determining the best route. It was at least now committed in Fife Council's capital plan for the year.

#### **4.2.6. New Madras College**

Cllr Thomson reported that two reports had gone to Fife Council, one to do with approval of the land site and also an approval to start an educational consultation on the new school plans. The approval has now allowed the Council to enter into an agreement on the plans with the University on the acquisition of the site. It will be subject to the conclusion of a full planning assessment and the outcome of the full educational consultation. He went on to say that officers had calculated that the planning process would take about 18 months to obtain planning permission. The Langlands site was valued at £8.1 million pounds and there would be an excampion deal whereby the Madras South Street site would be transferred to the University with the Council still paying £2.5. million pounds for the Langlands site. In turn the university would provide a fully serviced 18-acre site including the provision for an access road from the A91. The education consultation would start the following Monday and would run into around the 12<sup>th</sup> May. There would be consultation events at the two Madras sites as well as sessions at feeder primary schools and a later additional meeting at South Street. He said that the CC would have an opportunity to make its own formal comments on the proposals.

#### **4.2.7. Railings**

Mrs Harding commented that she'd seen a lot of elderly railings next to pavements and felt they badly needed painted. She asked which department oversaw their maintenance? Cllr Thomson reminded the meeting about the railings painted and refurbished by the Castle Sands but added that if Mrs Harding could get him a list of areas with problem railings he'd look into the concerns.

## **4.2.8. City Road damaged fencing**

Mr Jamie McLeod asked about the damaged fencing at City Road and a date for repair? Cllr Thomson reminded Mr McLeod he'd raised the issue with officers and mentioned it on Facebook. Officers had assessed the railings and the railing on the North West side had been replaced for safety reasons. However the damaged one on the other side of the roundabout officers thought was still semi-functional. Because it was a visual issue it wasn't so high up the list for repair. He added that he didn't really agree with that assessment but his comments reflected the feedback he'd received. The crumpled railing would be replaced but he had no idea when. Mr Jardine felt strongly that the current barriers weren't enough of a deterrent with students and could end in serious injury or worse. He thought that the barriers should be replaced more completely encompassing the roundabout. He felt that this would be a good way to reduce the risk of accidents. Miss Uprichard also reminded the meeting that the raised area near the roundabout on Doubledykes Road was not an official crossing point and was a risky area for pedestrians using it inappropriately thinking cars would stop.

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

### **4.3.1. Bus Shelter**

Cllr McCartney reported that a bus shelter to replace the one on John Knox Road by Morrison's which was removed last year following vehicular damage was erected during w.b. 6/2/17

### **4.3.2. Road Markings**

Cllr McCartney reported that the cycle lane markings on John Knox Road between the Argyll Business Park roundabout and the Largo Road and the direction arrows on the north side of John Knox Road and on the east side of Largo Road at the Largo Road roundabout are to be repainted.

The following road markings were reported for inspection and repainting as necessary:

Buchanan Gardens – cycle lane markings on both sides of road west of lighting column 20 to junction with Strathkinness High Road

Buchanan Gardens – centre line marking between lighting column 22 and Strathkinness Low Road lighting column 1

Lawhead Road West – 'give way' lines at junction with Strathkinness Low Road

An inspection of the lines at the locations listed above identified that they would benefit from repainting. The budget is fully allocated in the current financial year and so this work will be added to the 2017/18 programme.

### **4.3.3. Illuminated Road Signs**

Cllr McCartney reported that the following illuminated road signs were not working and were reported for repair :

Argyll Business Park Roundabout (John Knox Road) – 'Keep Left' sign (C) in centre of roundabout

Greenside Place – 'give way' sign at junction with Abbey Walk

Largo Road – 'roundabout' sign (K) on east side of road

The ongoing problem with the lights on the 'No Entry' sign on the South Street side of the West Port is due to an underground cable fault. An order for repair has been issued and is in the works programme.

The lights on the columns extending above the belisha beacons at the pedestrian crossing on the Petheram Bridge Car Park Access Road have been repaired.

### **4.3.4. Potholes**

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

John Knox Road – centre of road between lighting columns 19 and 20

Nelson Street –various locations along length of road

Repairs have been carried out at these locations.

#### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

##### **4.4.1. New Pedestrian Crossing @ Bus Station**

Cllr Morrison reported back on that the work to set up the new crossing was perhaps crating the most dangerous scenes she had seen. Pedestrians were being forced on to the road when trying to traverse to the other side because the pavements were blocked off on the usual routes. She hoped that this wouldn't be repeated and she felt that the work had been poorly planned.

##### **4.4.2. City Road Roundabout barriers**

Cllr Morrison recollected under a previous administration how the barriers had been extended. However Transportation had advised Councillors more recently that extending the barriers was not necessarily the best solution. Officials thought that people would still walk along the outside of the barriers and for even longer distances. She felt that extending the barriers would make the situation even more dangerous as there'd be no escape route and would also be an obstacle for regular users of the route tempting them to take short cuts.

##### **4.4.3. Fountain**

Cllr Morrison also commented upon the situation with the fountain and the ongoing difficulties with its maintenance. Cllr Morrison reminded the meeting that the Fountain was a common good property and it was arranged that maintenance costs would come from that fund. If however ongoing maintenance was going to cost large sums each year there might have to be an examination of alternative streams of funding. Ms Adam asked about the timescale for getting the repairs completed and the fountain working. Cllr Morrison replied that the Fife Council official involved was getting estimates to get work done. There was some uncertainty about whether the work needing done might require replacement of pipe work or something less costly.

##### **4.4.4. Railings**

In a reply to Mrs Harding's earlier query Cllr Morrison she commented on how the railings by the castle had been repaired with funds from the CGF and that a senior official had managed to get a much cheaper price for the work than the original budgeted amount, which had been based on an earlier, quote. This has meant that there was still a bit of the budget remaining, which possibly could be used for other railing maintenance if Mrs Harding supplied Councillors with a list of railings needing work done.

##### **4.4.5. Path at Kilrymont**

Following a facebook query, Cllr Morrison had discovered that Ian Bissett of Fife Council was looking to get funding to tarmac the area.

##### **4.4.6. Electric Charging Point – Wooden Panelling**

Mr Munn asked for news on enforcement in relation to the panelling around the electric charging point at the car park at the North Haugh. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that Fife Council had considered pursuing enforcement action but this needed chasing up with officials to discover why nothing had happened to date.

## **5. Planning Committee**

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

Miss Uprichard reported back for the Planning Committee. Miss Uprichard reported that the committee met twice during February. They objected to one application, which was the

extension of the Kinkell Braes Caravan Park, which was approved despite being in the Green Belt. Miss Uprichard quoted from the report on the application by officials and their justification for allowing such a development in the Green Belt. She was sorry that Fife Councillors had approved the application despite the area being in the Green belt. The report had argued that while the application not meet all the criteria set out in the Local Plan (section E27) because the Caravan Park is already in a coastal location any extension would have to be also in a coastal location. It was therefore concluded that this applied an occasional justification for development and the proposal was generally in compliance with the other policy criteria. Miss Uprichard noted that it wasn't in compliance with Green belt criteria. Overall while not fully compliant with E27 there was an occasional need for development after giving consideration to the impact on landscape and visual impact. It was not considered a sufficient reason to refuse the proposal on the basis of this policy (E27). Miss Uprichard felt that the case officer's decision was not correct as the extension was not at the coast as per policy E27 so any justification did not stand up to scrutiny. Miss Uprichard was sorry that Councillors had passed the application.

Miss Uprichard then gave members a history of the St Andrews West proposals currently being developed. The original proposal had come about in 2002 in a scoping brief from the University talking about 1000 plus houses. Initially Fife Council weren't particularly supportive but the proposal then re-emerged in the 2006 version of the Structure Plan. Despite a large number of objections the proposal was incorporated in the Structure Plan and Local Plan and approved by Councillors. Miss Uprichard voiced her long held feelings that St Andrews West would destroy St Andrews. She felt that the proposal to bolt on 100 houses to a small medieval town would cause immense damage. She then went on to talk about the two proposals in St Andrews West, one being Craigtoun North which had been around for nearly two years. That proposal was for 370 houses and other facilities. The other proposal on university land was a bigger proposal and included development not only of housing but also University premises in a sort of Science Park as well as other facilities and now the new Madras. The idea was to build a certain number of houses per year for about twenty years. Miss Uprichard commented that that would make the area a long-term building site. She acknowledged that it would be very difficult to obstruct the development as it was in the Structure Plan. She thought that the inevitable increase in population would also see an increase in local traffic, which was already at critical levels. There was also the issue of a Master Plan, but because Craigtoun North and St Andrews West were separate developments there would be no overall Master Plan for the whole area.

Miss Uprichard went on to talk about the threat to health from emissions from cars etc. She thought that every major application requiring transport should produce an emissions report, given the increasing concern at an international and national level of the increasing level of polluting emissions. She noted that transport reports were not required for applications going for planning permission. She had suggested to transportation about developers taking different routes as current routes were through residential areas such as Lamond Drive.

Dr Goudie asked local members how many monitoring point for air quality there were in St Andrews? Cllr Thomson thought that there should be more than a couple but would check with officials. Miss Uprichard wondered how often the monitoring points were checked and measurements taken? Cllr Morrison commented that Bell Street was the most polluted street in St Andrews.

Miss Uprichard also asked about the issue of the Students Union ducting. She written a month ago on behalf of the Planning Committee to Fife Council's Ian Hamilton who said that they were not considering removing the ducting at the moment but were waiting for a further application. She had written a further letter again asking how long the planning department was going to wait on this matter if an application from the University wasn't forthcoming? Cllr Thomson replied that the University's consultants were working on an engineering solution and there were some issues with the proposal they have, which was slowing progress to the eventual solution. He added that it was not an excuse and he thought that the Union would have to close if the ductwork came off so there were major issues, not just in relation to

planning. He thought that eventually there would have to be a new planning application and whether that would be successful remained to be seen.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Size of University and Accommodation Issues**

Mr Macleod after Professor Taylor's presentation announced that Mr Scott (University Rep) had indicated a need to leave the meeting early and it was agreed that if there any issues relevant to the University they could be addressed before he had to depart.

Dr Goudie took advantage of this to ask about the ongoing issue of the increasing size of the University and its promises about increasing bed spaces to accommodate at least some of the increase in student numbers. He recollected talk from the university about an extra 900 bed spaces around the autumn 2015 and at about the same time it was announced that there were 8200 students with a plan to increase numbers to 10000. The Housing Group of which Dr Goudie is a member had been looking at what should be done about the dire lack of affordable housing in the town. He wondered if the figures were correct and if so there would be an additional 900 students looking for accommodation, which didn't abode well for residents of the town. He had however heard from Ms Andrew that the university did intend to provide accommodation for the extra numbers. He sought assurance from Mr Scott on behalf of the town that this might be correct and he felt that it would be in the university's best interests to share that information with the town. Mr Scott in reply reminded the meeting about two reports, one from the town Housing Commission and the other from a joint project between the university and Fife Council. These reports had recommended that the university should provide more dedicated student housing and also to provide housing for post doctorate students and early career university staff. He said that in both cases that was what the university was doing with the 900-bed announcement going towards that need and an additional 500 beds. The development near the Grange would also provide housing for early career and younger university staff.

Dr Goudie felt that there was still a shortfall in terms of undergraduate numbers. Mr Scott confirmed that in relation to the University's strategic plan there was an acceptance that the university would grow to 10000 students, but it was not a sudden thing but spread out over a number of years. The university was also going to continue to review the need for housing provision.

Mr Crichton asked if there was any restriction on students bringing in cars to St Andrews in view of the potential of air pollution? Mr Scott replied that the university actively discouraged students from bringing cars and it was more difficult now to apply for a permit to use the university car parks.

### **6.2. Facebook Update**

Reports had been circulated for the last couple of months on the activity on the new public site. Mr McLeod brought up a proposal which had been discussed in other channels but which he wanted to raise in the meeting and this was a policy of not discussing planning applications on the public facebook site because they were legal matters and the CC had a statutory role. He wanted to get members views on the appropriateness of publicising the public consultation on the Western Development. He felt that a factual advertisement was fine but thought that others might have a different view. Miss Uprichard said she'd originally agreed with that point of view but had changed her mind and didn't think one could simply put out a brief description of the name, time and venue of the meeting. Mr McLeod agreed that there would be no discussion of the merits of the content of the meeting advertised on the site just the briefest of factual details as previously noted. Dr Goudie thought that the matter needed further discussion in the planning committee before being decided by the full CC. He felt that it was tied up with when the CC felt that the public should contribute to what was going on. He thought that it wasn't right to expect the public to write multiple letters on a matter and that a CC line in the past with newsletters had been to ask the public to express their views

directly to Fife Council as he felt that that body would be the only one with any influence not to the CC.

He reminded the meeting about past Scottish Government advice that it was not good for CCs to talk to developers before applications had been submitted. He thought that in any preapplication meeting there was a risk that instead of developers taking on board the objections of the public they would use the information gathered to be able to ensure they'd got the objections covered, employing consultants to out manoeuvre the public. PANs he added had now been built into the system because the emphasis in recent years had been on promoting development. He thought that when people were invited to pre application meetings and asked their views, they'd be less likely to follow through with comments when an actual application was made. He agreed with Miss Uprichard that if the CC was putting something on its Facebook page it should be put in some sort of context. He thought that people would be more likely to assume support by the CC for the proposed development just because it was given an airing on the CC Facebook page.

Mr McLeod commented that the mention of the PAN on the Facebook page was merely factual and informing people of something that was happening and was not a discussion of the merits of the proposal. Mr Munn thought it was just like an advert and saw no need to comment upon it. Mr Jardine wondered what difference there was in the notice on the Facebook page and putting a paper notice on the CC noticeboard? He didn't think there was really any difference in using either medium. Miss Uprichard suggested that the matter be put on the agenda for the next planning meeting. Mr McLeod replied that in his opinion the PAN notice was not a planning matter but was a Facebook matter. Miss Uprichard wondered if Facebook overrode Planning and reminded the members that it had been decided that planning matters should not be discussed on the CC Facebook public page. Mr McLeod confirmed that this was correct but an issue had arisen about whether a factual advertisement could be said to be in line with the CC policies about acceptable Facebook posts or not.

Mr Greenwell didn't see any conflict of interest in such information being posted. He felt that this wasn't giving a position but simply passing information to people who looked at the Facebook page.

Dr Shepherd thought that there needed to be more clarity about what the CC was doing with its Facebook page and he suggested coming up with a few bullet points as guidance for users. Dr Shepherd also acknowledged that he was uncomfortable in using the page as it didn't allow for the privacy of the contributor. Dr Shepherd wondered if it might be a good idea if any CC could become an editor thus allowing for anonymity in public for their posts?

Ms Andrew thought this would be possible if members approached her with that request via Facebook and she could make the admin committee aware of such a request so that it could be approved as appropriate.

Mr McLeod asked members if the advertisement about the PAN for the Western Development could be put on the CC Facebook page to see what happened? Miss Uprichard and Dr Goudie were still concerned that PANs tended to work to the benefit of the developer rather than the public. Mr McLeod still questioned why an important meeting about the future town shouldn't be mentioned? Mr Stewart couldn't see any difference between posting on the Facebook page and putting a poster in the noticeboard. Mr Jamie McLeod thought that the Facebook page was a great success in terms of engaging people and he viewed it in this context as literally a noticeboard online.

Mr McLeod then proposed a vote on the idea of allowing such notices to be put on the CC public Facebook page. The motion was carried by 16 votes to 2.

Mr McLeod then went on to the issue of Dr Shepherd's suggestion about any CC being allowed to be an editor if they wanted anonymity when posting. Mr Newman wasn't keen on the idea commenting that he felt he was receiving more than enough emails through the CC members gmail group without getting lots more digital messages on issues relating to Facebook in a much more public area. Mr McLeod reminded the meeting that there were the private Facebook pages for CCs to discuss issues, which shouldn't be aired, on the public page. As an editor he wouldn't allow incorrect or inappropriate use of the public page. Mr

Stewart didn't see the need for all CCs to be editors. He was happy to let Mr McLeod judge posts before they were public and felt the decisions were made speedily enough for him.

Mr McLeod asked for a vote on the idea that any CC who wished to be a Facebook editor could be one. The vote was 9 to 6 in favour of the idea.

### **6.3. Community Council Ties**

Mr McLeod reported on the latest instalment of the proposed Community Council ties. He reported that the ties should be getting manufactured in about 6 weeks.

### **6.4. Minutes Secretary**

Mr McLeod reminded the meeting that Mr Scott and Ms Andrew were to advertise the post through the University media. There was some discussion about the post and Mr Crichton reminded members about the responsibilities of employing someone with all the legal obligations now about pension responsibilities etc. Mr Greenwell also questioned the wisdom of continuing to try and set up such a post as no progress was being made and to him it didn't make any sense to get involved with the complexities of employment law. Mr Greenwell proposed that the idea should be shelved, with Mrs Corbin seconding the proposal. There was no dissent to dropping the idea given the lack of progress and the need to be clear about the capability of the CC in becoming an employer.

### **6.5. Reports from Representatives**

#### **6.5.1. St Andrews Community Trust**

Mr Greenwell reported that the update to the Articles of Association had been fully agreed by all parties. Hopefully the articles will be formally in place later this month limiting the length of time co-opted directors could serve to 6 years. One of the current directors he reported had already stepped down and an advertisement for the post had been put in the St Andrews in Focus magazine. The Nominations Committee had asked the Partner Directors for some statement of the sort of things they might be looking for from a new co-opted director. He hoped there would be some candidates for the time of the AGM.

A new commercial sponsor is now offering to contribute an additional £25000 per annum to the Trust for a number of years.

14 applications were considered at the February meeting with 12 applicants being successful a total of about £35000 awarded. The funding for the Community Trust for the coming financial year has still to be confirmed by the Links Trust but Mr Greenwell hoping it would see an increase. In response to a query from Mr McLeod, Mr Greenwell replied that the CC would be getting 6% of the money coming from the Links Trust. There wouldn't be any of the additional money from the new sponsor going towards the CC. Mr Greenwell thought that the CC payment to be received would be over £5000 this year.

Mr McLeod commented that there had been two expressions of interest from members of the public to be directors of the Trust.

#### **6.5.2. Housing Group**

Dr Goudie reported back on recent Housing Group activity and he reminded members that he'd circulated the minute of the group to CCs earlier in the evening. He had an additional point to report. Cllr Morrison had raised an interesting question which she wanted members to take back to their own organisations, "If Fife Council were to present a policy on Housing based on sustainability and mixed communities what would it look like and what wording should be used?" Dr Goudie would be happy to have thoughts from any members filtered back via him to the Housing Group.

#### **6.5.3. St Andrews Partnership**

Mr Newman reported back on his attendance at the last meeting of the St Andrews Partnership, which he said seemed to be about to change into the St Andrews Society of St Andrews. He added that he was a bit concerned about the way money was going (?).

## **6.6. Other Matters Arising**

### **6.6.1. Grant for SASC**

Mr McLeod raised the question about this small award, which had been offered to the SASC at the last CC meeting. The group (or some members of the group) had been concerned about accepting the grant of £75 from general CC funds on the grounds that no declarations of interest had been declared and they were aware that the secretary's wife was a member of the group. Mr Marks hadn't declared this interest and some SASC members felt it should have been declared. Mr Marks confirmed that his wife had a connection to SASC as a member of the still unconstituted group and he did support their aims as well.

Mr McLeod asked if members were still willing to award the grant and there was no dissent yet again.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Recreation Committee**

Mr Greenwell reported that the meeting of the Recreation Committee in January had agreed to ask the Community Council to transfer funding into the Bandstand account and to the Senior Citizens Account for the events in 2017. He reported that 7 bands had so far been booked for the summer season through July and August. He added that about £2000 would require to be transferred. He asked for the approval of the CC to have the money transferred. Mr Munn asked if there would also be the contribution again of £400 from the Pilgrim Trust. Mr Greenwell thought this would be likely. Mrs Corbin reminded members that Mr Stanis-Trachen was on the board of the Pilgrim Trust should there be any queries.

In relation to the Senior Citizens Treat he asked for £1000 towards that event.

Both funding requests were agreed by the CC members.

Mr Greenwell asked for volunteers for the Coffee Morning on the 7<sup>th</sup> April. Mrs Corbin offered to assist with the catering, Mr Jardine offered to do the Tombola stall and he hoped that Miss Uprichard would run the bric a brac stall.

Mr Greenwell also confirmed that entrance to the Coffee morning would be free again. He felt that the event made more money with the free entry. Ms Andrew said she'd publicise the event on digital media to students.

### **7.2. GP Meeting**

No meeting

### **7.3. 200 Club**

1. Mrs Hands 2. Dr Illingworth 3. Dr Ashcroft

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

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

Dr Goudie reported that a misunderstanding about the bill to the CC towards the cost of the report had been resolved. There had been a mix up at the company undertaking the report and VAT had been added when the agreement was that the original price had included the VAT element.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Holy Trinity Church**

This had been an email query from a consultant for the church looking for ideas about the future use of parts of the church. Mr Marks had suggested to the writer of the email whether she might want to address the CC but she'd declined the invitation. Mr McLeod suggested that individual members could respond with ideas about future use.

## **8.2. East Fife Sports Council Awards – 2017**

Mr Marks had received a request from the East Fife Sports Council for sponsorship of the award for older athletes and had asked for £75 this year. Members agreed to this annual award.

## **8.3. Responding to Licensing Applications**

Mr McLeod reminded members that there had been a query by a licensing applicant about the a decision on their application sent back by Mrs Corbin and whether this had been discussed by the CC and minuted in the CC minutes. Mr Marks explained that he received letters from Fife Council relating to these applications ad passed them to Mrs Corbin who had been responsible for responding on behalf of the CC since 2010. The dept involved seemed unable to send out applications by email. Mr Marks had enquired on this and received a claim that it wasn't possible. Mrs Corbin added that there had never been any queries until this particular application and no requests for evidence of the decision making process in the form of minutes. Mrs Corbin explained that the applicant wanted to extend Sunday hours for on sales to as early as 10 am. She said that her objection followed Fife Council's own guidelines and other documentation. She asked if the CC were happy for her to go ahead with the objection. She added that other premises were happy to have sales starting at 12.

After further detailed discussion Mr McLeod took a vote on whether the members objected to the application. There was a 6-3 vote in favour of objecting and giving Mrs Corbin the authority to put the CC views to the Licensing Board.

Mr McLeod thanked Mrs Corbin for her work but felt that in future the applications could be added to the remit of the Planning Committee in order to avoid any ongoing challenges not being able to be met within the application timescale. Mr McLeod confirmed

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Mr McLeod commented upon the past problem of the CC in relation to discussing the Madras question and felt that the CC could now return to a less restrictive stance given the major change in the school situation. He reminded members that the date for submissions on the consultation question was to be by the 12<sup>th</sup> May. He suggested that the CC could decide at its May meeting whether it wanted to answer the question, which was educational not planning, and probably would be a simple request for the public to answer in relation to the new school location etc.

Mr McLeod then asked members if they wanted to have the formal declaration of interest as part of the regular agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Mr Greenwell didn't see it as a strong requirement and felt that any potential conflict of interest should be raised as required. Members agreed with this point of view and Mr McLeod confirmed that the comment at the beginning of the agenda on the subject would remain as a reminder to members.

Mr McLeod then asked members if there was a desire to have a hustings for the Local Election? He saw it as a natural role of the CC but acknowledged that it would have to be organised. Mr Jamie McLeod proposed a motion to have a hustings but members voted 4-6 against this proposal.

Mr McLeod advised that the Safety Panel discussion would be put back to the next meeting.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Mr Munn reported that his report was on the CC website. Mr Stewart asked the treasurer whether the money the CC was receiving from the Community Trust would affect the CC grant? He had understood that there was a limit to how much cash the CC could hold to be eligible for the Fife Council grant. Mr Munn replied that the amount the CC could hold was no more than 3 times its annual grant in a year. Mr Greenwell added that the CC shouldn't have more than 3 times its grant it its account at the end of the financial year, but if it had funds set aside for bills to be paid, the Council allowed for expenditure which was expected

but for which the bills weren't expected by the end of the financial year. Members agreed that the CC needed to know how to best spend the additional funds now coming in annually from the Community Trust. Mr Stewart agreed that the CC needed to identify appropriate ways to spend the additional funds. Mr Greenwell thought that in February/March the CC ought to be planning a budget for the coming year. Mr McLeod thought that there were lots of possible ways to spend the additional funds. Mr Munn commented that there wasn't a huge amount of money once current expenditure plans had been realised and there weren't other large amounts of money coming in from other sources. Mr Greenwell added that as the CC wasn't going round asking for donations from other funding sources the Community Trust money would be the regular and steady source of income. It would be only if there were plans for other projects costing more that the CC might have to look at other sources of income.

## **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. The issues of the Visual Impact of visual disfigurements in St Andrews**

Mr Jamie McLeod thought that it could be a role of the CC to look at sorting out visual disfigurements in the town, which Fife Council wasn't prepared to spend money on. He thought that the CC might be able to use some of the additional funds on such projects. Mr McLeod, Chair thought that there might be small-scale things, which the CC could fund. Mr Stewart was concerned that the CC shouldn't be seen to be taking over a Fife Council role or responsibility. Mr McLeod reminded the meeting that Fife Council might refuse on grounds of priority or lack of funds, so there might be some small-scale work, which could be done which could have an impact out of proportion to its scale.