

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Adopted Minutes – 6th November 2017

0. New Members

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, Izzy Corbin, Patrick Marks, Judith Harding, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Dita Stanis-Traken, Kyffin Roberts, Howard Greenwell, Iain Munn, Penelope Fraser, Greg Newman, Iain Munn

Students' Association Representatives

Hannah Raleigh

Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

Niall Scott

Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Brian Thomson, Dominic Nolan, Ann Verner

Apologies –Neil Cunningham Dobson, Jamie McLeod, Alistair Newton, Gerry Beaulier, Lewis Wood

2. Minutes of Meeting – October 2017

Minutes agreed as a correct record.

3. Presentations

3.1. Police Report – PC Robert Crawford

PC Crawford introduced himself as the new Community Ward Officer for St Andrews alongside P.C. Peddie. PC Crawford gave a brief outline of his police background, having worked in the past in Methil and Cupar. He said that his past experience would assist him settling into St Andrews, but he acknowledged that there could be new challenges he'd have to manage. He apologised for the absence of any Police presence in recent months and explained the situation. He added that he'd try his best to attend and reminded the meeting that he had sent a report a few days ago via the CC secretary outlining recent police work. See the copy of report on the CC website. There had been 36 calls related to the St Andrews area. There were 54 reported crimes but most were the theft of student bikes or misplaced. There were 27 raised concerns relating to persons, 3 rta and 54 antisocial behaviour. The remainder were miscellaneous such as domestic issues.

Bogus workmen were still an issue in the area and PC Crawford described some ways to deal with the threat with one option being the use of a card to put in the window suggesting the workman should speak first to a neighbour to confirm their identity etc. PC Crawford thought that this might put off potentially bogus callers.

PC Crawford asked the meeting if they'd completed the YOUR VIEW survey on the Police Scotland website? He recommended members to complete it especially if they wished to flag up local issues of concern relating to police matters. He explained that it was now the way in

which Police Scotland was trying to operate by listening to local views and trying to respond to those concerns.

With regard to community engagement PC Crawford explained that he and PC Peddie try to do speed checks when they can but acknowledged they were constrained by having a range of other duties. They do use POP-UP BOB and find it can be quite effective, indeed PC Crawford thought it was more effective than the real thing, albeit only one direction! He added that they could go where people thought there might be a speeding issue.

PC Peddie recently attended the St Andrews and District Neighbourhood Watch Association evening at the COSMOS Centre recently. There had been some discussion in delivering the police AFTER DARK leaflet that was trying to remind people to leave their house secure especially in the longer nights at this time of year.

They also attended the Dunhill Links at which there were fortunately no issues.

Abandoned bikes had also been tagged by the Police and were eventually removed by Fife Council unless the owners belatedly removed them. PC Crawford acknowledged that this was an ongoing issue because of the number of students. PC Crawford also talked about the use of bike lights and his intention to try and do something. He reminded the meeting that it was an offence to ride a bike in the dark without working lights. He was reluctant to fine offenders and in answer to a query from Mrs Harding explained that he tried to educate offenders in the dangers of what they were doing. He also mentioned the use of videos dealing with the potential consequences of irresponsible behaviour. PC Crawford was made aware by Ms Raleigh that such videos on the likes of Facebook were in her view a quite effective way to get the message across to students.

PC Crawford also mentioned the LOCAL POLICING PLAN, which had just been launched, and he'd sent an email out with a link to allow the public to see these plans. He gave a brief summary of the contents. PC Crawford asked members to contact him to highlight areas where there might be anti social behaviour. Mr Marks mentioned the North Haugh car park as an area where young drivers sometimes congregated and behaved noisily with their cars. PC Crawford said that the police could as a last resort issue an asbo against persistent offenders.

Mr Greenwell asked about the police input in the Beating The Retreat event on the night of the Civic Reception, as he'd had no reply to an email he'd sent to the police. PC Crawford said he'd check out the situation.

4. Fife Councillors.

4.1. Jane Ann Liston.

4.1.1. St Andrews Area Budget

Cllr Liston mentioned that there were some funds still in this budget and in particular a section titled CIVIC PRIDE. Cllr Liston suggested that the CC should think whether there was anything, which might come under that category and consider applying for funding while it was still available.

4.1.2. Canongate Wall

Cllr Liston reported that the repairs to the wall had been completed and the wall was open again.

4.1.3. Road Works

Cllr Liston reported that at the Ward meeting they'd received a list of roads due for work. This included Nelson Street.

4.1.4. Bins Issue – Bye Law Possibility

Cllr Liston reported that she'd heard that the Clean & Green staff wanted a byelaw to try and tackle this growing issue. Cllr Liston thought it might be a solution. Mr Newman commented that the provision of a byelaw needed enforcement, encouragement and information to be successful. Cllr Liston mentioned that the byelaw was an initiative of Clean & Green and

BID. They were looking for the support of Councillors and thought that in time they'd see what sort of byelaw it might be. She wasn't certain that what worked in Edinburgh might work in St Andrews. Ms Adam explained that in Edinburgh bins could only be on the street for a designated time period and if still out after the time could be removed and/or the business fined. She thought the initiative had been very successful and the centre of Edinburgh was much tidier. Mr Jardine acknowledged that a long-term solution such as in Edinburgh was required but he wondered what to do in the short term. One possibility was the CC and BID speaking to bin owners and making them aware of the problem. He wondered about the possibility of having a system whereby commercial premises put out their bins early in the morning and emptied before shops opened for business? Mr Marks commented upon the possible complicating factor of a number of companies emptying bins of different businesses and whether they would be able to fit in a set time schedule for uplift if a byelaw required such action. He wondered how Edinburgh dealt with this aspect of commercial bin uplift? Mr Marks also commented upon the possibility of naming and shaming bin owners leaving bins out for long periods but he'd been advised that it wasn't possible for bins to be labelled due to Freedom of Information issues. Mr McLeod couldn't see why having names on the bins wouldn't be allowed and felt that names on bins could be useful for a variety of reasons. Miss Uprichard commented that another complicating factor was that some premises in the town centre didn't have bin storage facilities at the back of their premises.

Dr Shepherd said he was in favour of a byelaw and was in favour of labelling the bins, both commercial and non commercial. He wondered what Fife Council's attitude was in relation to labelling bins? Cllr Thomson informed the meeting that last year the senior manager Ken Gourlay had taken it upon himself to review the Edinburgh scheme but so far hadn't got back to the Councillors with the outcome of his inquires. Cllr Thomson had sent Mr Gourlay an email with photographic evidence of the bins situation by Trespass. He'd also asked the Local Area Manager, Janice Laird to ask for key contacts for domestic and commercial bins so he could ask them to attend a CC meeting. It was agreed to try and get the relevant managers to attend the next CC meeting.

4.1.5. Fishermen's Stores

Cllr Liston had been investigating the issue raised at the last meeting about the premises used by fishermen at the harbour and their condition. Cllr Liston discovered that the fishermen who rent the premises were only responsible for the inside and the outside including the roof was the responsibility of Fife Council. Fife Council is following this up.

4.1.6. How Can Hospital Cope With Additional Population If Western Extension is built?

Miss Uprichard asked Cllr Liston if she could give her view on how the local hospital could cope with the large number of new households in the Western Extension given the very clear stresses at Present on the NHS. Cllr Liston acknowledged she didn't know what the effect might be. She reminded the meeting that the Health Board would be a statutory consultee when the applications were published. Cllr Liston agreed to investigate.

4.2. Dominic Nolan

4.2.1.

4.3. Brian Thomson

4.3.1. Argyle Car Park Proposals

Cllr Thomson acknowledged that this proposal had been unexpected but he'd discovered that former Councillors Melville, McCartney and Morrison had asked for this to be looked at prior to their departure from office. He said he was okay with the proposal but wanted to have the CC views on the proposal. Cllr Thomson explained that there had been concern about speeding through the car park between Double Dykes Road and Argyle Street. There were proposals to erect bollards about half way along which would mean that it would no longer be a thoroughfare. Mrs Harding didn't think bollards were appropriate as a solution and she wasn't aware of a lot of speeding despite living nearby. Mr McLeod wondered who'd claimed there was speeding? Cllr Thomson acknowledged he'd never been contacted on the matter.

Cllr Thomson replied that constituents had contacted the former Councillors mentioned earlier and officials had assessed that there might be a need for something. Mr Newman who lives in Argyle Court felt that he'd never had many issues and thought that blocking the way out to the north would mean that he and others would have to take a longer route if going out of town, adding to traffic elsewhere. Cllr Verner had heard from a resident of the sheltered complex during the elections that the road was a rat run. Mr Jardine thought that such a plan could add to the traffic on the dangerous junction on Double Dykes Road. Miss Uprichard also thought the idea was overkill. Mrs Hading suggested that if there needed to be some way of safer traffic management the Council should look at alternatives other than bollards.

Cllr Liston read from a report about the justification by Fife Council officials for their proposal. They used road safety issues as one justification and the way the road was being used as a rat run. Traffic speeds and risks to vulnerable pedestrians were listed as well. Officials had recorded about 1500 vehicles going southbound and 950 going northwards. The average traffic speed was viewed as being a bit on the high side for a car park being in the upper 20s. Officials had decided to include the scheme as a Category One Traffic Management Project due to the issues raised. A budget has still to be found for the scheme if it gets approval. Mr McLeod commented that the CC wasn't as concerned about the current situation compared to the comments in the report from officials. Mr Stanis-Traken added his experiences in using the car park in various ways and had never experienced any problems. He added that for drivers coming up from the North Haugh who were wanting to turn right it was often safer to go through the car park to Argyle Street than try to turn right in Double Dykes Road. He felt that cutting the car park in half would be a disaster. Dr Goudie thought that constricting the carriageway was in his view a better solution than speed humps. Mr McLeod concluded that the CC was not in favour of the idea being proposed by Fife Council to put up bollards cutting the Argyle Street car Park in half. Mr Marks agreed to write to Fife Council explaining the CC view on the proposals. Ms Adam commented that Fife Council needed to look at traffic management in the town as a whole and not piecemeal.

4.3.2. Proposed Taxi Rank – Bell Street

Cllr Thomson advised members that this proposal had not been implemented yet but was still to come out for statutory consultation. That would be the time to make objections.

4.3.3. Parking Charges

Cllr Thomson reported that parking charges are being reviewed for the whole of Fife. He will report back when any details are available.

4.3.4. Strategic Agreement between Fife Council and St Andrews University

Cllr Thomson explained that Strategic Agreement had been set up in 2010 approved by the North East Fife Area Committee and signed by both parties. He hadn't been given a copy of the agreement when he became Councillor. However the agreement ceased in 2013. It was replaced by a twice-yearly meeting between senior officers of the Council and the University.

4.3.5. Staircase in Ladebraes

Cllr Thomson reported that this staircase was still being investigated and seemed to be taking a very long time! He reminded the meeting that it didn't have planning permission but he wasn't certain what officials were investigating. He had sent emails and was awaiting a response.

4.3.6. Public Toilets Improvements

Cllr Thomson reminded the meeting that he'd been looking into getting cost estimates to refurbish three toilets. He had an initial indicative cost of £95000 but felt that was on the light side and was seeking to get further information from the official who'd made the estimate and would look through the costs himself. He added that Tourism St Andrews had expressed an interest in financially supporting the refurbishment.

4.3.7. Town Hall Flag Pole

Cllr Thomson reported that he'd had confirmation that the new flagpole had been manufactured and work on the site would start on the 6th November though it didn't appear to have started as promised. Cllr Thomson would check with officials about the situation.

4.3.8. HMO Regulation Query

Mrs Harding had a question in relation to HMOs. She wondered about the requirement for additional facilities for tenants in houses with 6 or more and wondered where she could find out what other requirements might be required for approval of the licence by the Licensing Committee. Cllr Thomson passed the query to Cllr Liston who is on that committee. Cllr Liston replied that there were strict rules about what Licensing could discuss and she thought that in relation to extra facilities it was probably planning who would make decisions. She also confirmed that the relevant legislation was Scottish Law.

4.3.9. How Can Hospital Cope With Additional Population If Western Extension is built?

Cllr Thomson said that the Health Board would have been consulted at the early stages of any proposals and given a chance to comment. He thought that the senior managers of the Health Board would have been aware of the proposals but couldn't confirm if they had commented. Mr Scott confirmed that the NHS was usually well aware of any proposals.

4.3.10. Madras College

Dr Shepherd wondered if the new Madras College would be able to cope with an increased population? Would it be big enough? Cllr Thomson replied that officials were confident in their predictions and added that the school could if necessary be extended.

4.4. Ann Verner

4.4.1. Public Toilets

Cllr Verner reported that there had been a report meant to be completed on this matter by the end of October. She'd not heard anything back and said she'd chase up officials dealing with the matter.

4.4.2. Missing Zebra Crossing Pole

Mr Munn mentioned that a Zebra Crossing pole had been missing in South Street since August near Nardinis. Cllr Verner took note of Mr Munn's query to follow up.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Reports

Miss Uprichard reported that the committee had had two meetings and had looked at 24 applications. They had objected to four of the applications.

Miss Uprichard then gave the meeting handouts from past press reports in relation to the Western Extension several years ago. She commented upon the number of objections and how Fife Council appeared to have ignored all the objections not just from individuals but also from organisations such as SNH and other local authorities such as Edinburgh. She said that nothing much happened for a few years but now the Western extension appeared to be going ahead. She then mentioned the use of the Alison Grant Landscape Study by Fife Council and the Scottish Government who said that she'd identified an area to the west of the town suitable for development. Miss Uprichard acknowledged that this was correct but added that Alison Grant had only identified 22 hectares whilst the current proposals covered 115 hectares. She then commented the developers and Council weren't using Alison Grant's study and given its detailed landscape assessment she found this omission extraordinary.

Miss Uprichard also had a new document entitled "Time to side with the Little People". The document called for the legal right of local people to appeal planning decisions not only the developer. Miss Uprichard thought that if this right were available it might have made a difference in the attitude of Fife Council and developers. She reminded the meeting that over

2500 objections had been made in relation to the Structure Plan many more than previously yet they seemed to no avail. She felt that Fife Council had abused the planning process in ignoring the objections and reminded the meeting about how it had handled the Pergola application and the Pipeland application.

6. Matters Arising

6.0. Holy Trinity Situation

Mr McLeod reminded the meeting that he'd circulated the formal letter he'd received from the Kirk Session seeking the CCs support on exploring possible uses for the building and help cover its running costs etc. He asked the meeting if it supported in principle the request to meet with the Kirk Session without any commitments in relation to the building? Mr Newman wondered if the CC might have funds to put towards the study required to establish a viable future use for the building? Mr McLeod thought this seemed reasonable, as the CC had given support to the Rail study. Dr Goudie thought that there needed to be a meeting of interested CC members to decide on the way forward and the CC's own position before confirming how we might best work with Holy Trinity. He thought that one of the important factors was to find organisations interested in making use of the facilities and to do this required local knowledge. He was aware that the usual route would be to employ consultants to gather data and suggest options but he felt that they might not have the local knowledge, which local people would have. Mr McLeod thought that eventually the church might be run as a Trust and that the congregation would be users of the building but wouldn't run the building. Mr McLeod also thought that the proposed study by a group would be an economic one.

Mrs Harding agreed about working with the church but not to giving any money at present until the purpose of such a donation was clear. Mr McLeod thought that a donation would be a positive move showing the CCs desire to assist at his stage. Dr Goudie thought that the committee wasn't looking for funds at present but thought that the CC could give advice on sources of funding such as the Common Good etc.

Mr McLeod told the meeting that he'd write to Dr Stewart the Session clerk and say that the CC supports in principle the exploration of these ideas and await further requests.

Dr Goudie suggested that a meeting should be arranged of interested members of the CC to go over the implications of the Holy Trinity situation and plan the most appropriate way for the CC to have an input. Mr McLeod asked for members to indicate if they were interested in joining such a committee. Several members indicated they were interested and Mr McLeod will look at arranging a separate meeting to discuss the situation.

6.1. Reports from Representatives

6.1.1. St Andrews Community Trust

Mr Greenwell reported on the most recent meeting of the Community Trust. At that meeting the committee considered 18 new applications for funding of which they approved 15 of those applications to the sum of £37385. The amounts awarded varied from a couple of thousand to over eight thousand pounds. He reported that the Trust was considering approximately 50 applications pa and distributing between £115-120000.

6.1.2. Housing Group

Dr Goudie reminded the meeting that he'd circulated a report from the Housing Group via email.

6.2. Any Other Matters Arising

No matters arising

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Recreation Committee

Mr Jardine had circulated a detailed Recreation Committee minute prior to the meeting, which was also attached to the agenda. He went through the minutes (see minutes in agenda) commenting upon the plans and current situation for the planned events of the Civic Reception and the Old Folks Treat.

He reminded members of the need for 5 Stewarts to supervise the out of doors event prior to the main reception and asked for volunteers. Mr Roberts to co-ordinate the volunteers.

BID will be switching the Xmas lights on the same evening coinciding with the Beating of the Retreat.

Mr Jardine then outlined the Senior Citizens Treat plans from food and drink to entertainment and the raffle. He asked CC members for donations for the raffle. Volunteer support was also detailed and he asked for help on the 15th December when the event would take place.

Mr Munn asked what the planned attendance would be for the beating of the Retreat and Civic Reception? Mr Jardine said that there were 200 or so on the list to be invited and invitations were in the process of being sent out. Mr Jardine thought that there might be up to 100 attending. Food this year will be canapés as the committee was aware that there had been too much food the previous year.

7.2. GP Meeting

Mr McLeod briefly summarised recent discussion at the first meeting this year of the General Purposes Committee. Minutes to be distributed when written by the Chair.

7.3. 200 Club

1st Miss Uprichard 2nd Miss Catherine Rowe 3rd C.S. Alexander

Mr McLeod also briefly commented on the work of the 200 Club in giving donations over its existence amounting to thousands of pounds.

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No report

7.5. Rail Committee

Dr Goudie reported that on the 9th October members of the committee and Starlink met with the consultants who'd produced the policy review earlier in the year. The meeting identified which part of the STAG process they would go for next.

8. New Business

8.1. One Scotland Mapping

Mrs Fraser who was unable to attend the CC meeting had raised this item. As there was uncertainty about Mrs Fraser's reason for the agenda item Mr Marks agreed to check on the exact reason for asking it to be discussed. Mr McLeod thought that it might just be to seek approval of signing up to this scheme.

8.2. Refurbishment of the Bandstand

Mr Roberts reported on his enquires in relation to the need to refurbish the Bandstand. Mr Roberts had got a couple of professional assessments undertaken by local decorators and they'd assessed that it was in need of more work than could be imagined at first glance. Rusting railings & missing cast iron decorative work were two of the issues noted. Mr Roberts briefly summarised the history of the bandstand and revealed that the firm from Glasgow who'd constructed it in 1905 were still in existence. The firm Walter McFarlane had recently refurbished the Magdalen green bandstand in Dundee the previous year. Mr Roberts suggested that there should be an attempt to do a full refurbishment and he was agreeable to leading the project. The manufacturer had been contacted and would be interested in becoming involved. Mr Roberts noted that the work on the Dundee bandstand had cost

£48000 but wasn't aware of its condition prior to work being done. As it is a Common good Asset funds should be available from that source or at least some of the funds. He hoped the CC would support the project. The CC agreed to his request.

Mr Newman thought that it would be important for the bandstand to have storage facilities and electricity. Mr Roberts confirmed that there were already electrics and these would need to be updated and a storage area could be part of that refurbishment. Mr McLeod felt that this was a very suitable project for the CC. The project would come under the umbrella of the Recreation Committee.

8.3. Membership Renewal for the APRS

Mr McLeod asked members if they were minded to renew the lapsed subscription of this organisation. Miss Uprichard commented that it was difficult to quantify the benefits the CC might get from being a member but still thought it would be good to be able to say the CC was a member. She thought the charity did a lot of good work across Scotland in a variety of ways. She wondered about backdating the membership given that the CC had lapsed for a number of years. Mr Roberts proposed paying the membership but not the missing years. Mr Roberts motion was put to the vote and a significant majority carried the vote.

8.4. Whyte-Melville Fountain

Mr Dita Stanis-Traken gave an update on the situation with the Whyte-Melville Fountain. The Friends of the Whyte-Melville Memorial Fountain was established earlier this year with a view to ensuring its continuing operation as a working fountain. He said that initially the fountain had worked quite well but latterly problems had arisen in relation to the filtration of the water, which had resulted in a green algal bloom in the water. Mr Stanis-Traken had not been impressed by the operation of Fife Council with respect to effective operation of the fountain. Fife Council has only recently obtained a quote for a maintenance contract despite clear evidence of need for something for sometime. Part of the problem related to the transfer of responsibility of the management of the fountain between two Fife Council departments. Cllr Liston had contacted Janice Laird, Community Manager NE Fife in an effort to get things moving.

8.5. Marriage Registration in St Andrews

Mr Stanis-Traken reported that from a few weeks ago it had become impossible for couples to obtain a marriage schedule at St Andrews office. Couples have now to go to Cupar or further afield to obtain this document. Mr Stanis-Traken said that the change had not been widely publicised. Mr Stanis-Traken explained the importance of this document required prior to any marriage ceremony, religious or civil. He wondered if the CC might have any views on the matter. Miss Uprichard thought it was a regrettable decision given the number of people returning to St Andrews to be married and Dr Shepherd wondered if the Cupar registrar could come to St Andrews part-time. He thought that this should be followed through by Councillors as it would disadvantage couples planning a marriage locally and unaware that they'd have to go to Cupar. Cllr Liston commented on the possible problems which would arise, especially for couples coming from further afield, even abroad unaware of having to make a trip to Cupar. She also informed the meeting that registrars also required to see a passport for anyone born after 1983, so if couples were unaware of this requirement that could create problems. She thought it was very strange for Fife Council to take away a service from the 4th biggest town in Fife. She had asked the Chief Registrar's line manager the reason for the decision as she felt it was wrong and was awaiting a response.

Mr McLeod asked Mr Stanis-Traken if he'd like to convey the views of the CC to the Chief Registrar. Mr Stanis-Traken said he'd be happy to draft a letter. Mr Newman suggested assign a motion deploring the decision and this was agreed unanimously.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Mr McLeod gave a report on his activities on behalf of the CC in the past month. He attended a reception for Sir John Key former Prime Minister of New Zealand and the Service for the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation at Holy Trinity Church. He will also be attending the COSMOS AGM. He reminded members about Remembrance Sunday. He would also hope to attend a meeting about the Community Hub on 21st November and was also going to lead the Lantern Procession in St Andrews Week.

Mr McLeod reported that Facebook had increased recently possibly following his recent article mentioning the Facebook page in an article in St Andrews in Focus and in relation to publicity about the Beating of the Retreat mentioned on the cage.

9.2. Treasurer

The accounts are on the CC website

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence

Mr Marks mentioned the range of correspondence received most of which he'd forwarded to members. He encouraged members to attend events if they were relevant to their learning as CC members. He also mentioned minutes received from external organisations such as the Links Trust and also the appointment recently of a Fife council official as an Allotments Officer.

9.4. Membership Secretary

Mr Stanis-Traken said there hadn't been any recent applications for membership but he was going to revise the Welcome Pack to make it less bulky and more users friendly.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Complaint Issue

Mr Roberts made members aware of the receipt of a letter of complaint on 21st September by someone unhappy with an unsuccessful application of a planning nature. She wrote a five-page letter complaining about the absence of planning policies and procedures, failure to provide information and the behaviour and conduct of the convenor of the Planning Committee. Under the Scheme the CC had to acknowledge receipt of the complaint, which had been done. Mr Roberts explained the timescale for responding internally and to the complainant. Mr Roberts then dealt with the complaint details starting with the complaint of the lack of published policies and procedures. In his opinion he didn't think that the CC had to publish and policies or procedures as it worked to the various plans in Fife from local to structure and Tayplan and printed information leaflets were available from Fife Council.

In relation to the failure to provide information Mr Roberts commented that the complainant was asking for information which the CC didn't hold and wasn't anything to do with the CC.

In relation to the final complaint the behaviour and conduct of the Planning Convenor, Mr Roberts thought that the complainant thought that since the convenor signed the letter of objection to their application that it was a personal objection whereas it was on behalf of the whole Planning Committee. He planned to respond to the complaint along those lines.

10.2. New Entry signs re Twinning with Loches

Mr Greenwell had received a letter from John Matthews of the Loches Alliance asking why no signs about the twinning had been erected. Mr Greenwell had looked out the designs he'd started on in the past year and suggested to the CC that he'd be happy to front a brief project to get the signs completed and erected. He emphasised that the design being circulated was mainly to give an idea of the sort of content, which might be fitted into the sign, and he'd work on the technical aspects once he had a clear idea of CC views. Dr Shepherd had also been pursuing the sign issue with Fife Council but this had been delayed due partly to the retirement of one official. He also had strong reservations about the content of the sign as a

town entrance sign as suggested by Mr Greenwell and didn't think it would be appropriate to add in the bits about Fairtrade, Home of Golf or Twinned with Loches . Essentially however he said he would want to protect the uniqueness of the town name, rather than having it amongst several other wordings as Mr Greenwell's initial design was showing.