

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Minutes – December 2010

For Approval

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0. Preliminary Remarks by Chair

Dr Goudie started the meeting with some preliminary remarks in relation to the agenda and then added thanks to several members of the Community Council for their various contributions in the past year. He started by thanking Daniel Stephens for his spirited attempt to contribute in various ways to the functioning of the Community Council, from active participation in the main meeting and committees to his recording of the recent Community Council minutes. Dr Goudie then thanked Carol Ashworth for her work in organising the recent meal on November 7th at the Golf Hotel. He felt that it had been enjoyable and successful, bringing together as it did members of the Community Council in a purely social setting.

He also thanked Henry Paul for his work in bringing the Community Trust to fruition. Dr Goudie finally thanked the members of the Community Council who had worked to set up and run the Art and Photographic Exhibition/Competition at Madras College in South Street.

Dr Goudie then announced the resignation of Onkar Parmar and read out some comments from his letter of resignation. Mr Parmar has had to resign because his work commitments. He indicated a willingness to return should he find work closer to St Andrews, as he felt that the Community Council was an important local organisation whose work was not recognised as much as it should be.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Audrey McAnaw, Dave Finlay, Kyffin Roberts, Margaret Platt, Carol Ashworth, Judith Harding, Derek Skelhon, Ronnie Murphy, Catherine Rowe

Students' Association Representatives

Holly West, Owen Wilton

Nominated

Co-Opted

Daniel Stephens

Fife Councillors

Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison

Apologies

Izzy Corbin, Niall Scott, Jude Innes, Ken Crichton, Penny Uprichard, Callum Corbin, Frances Melville, Rebecca Ladley

2. Minutes of November 2010 Meeting

1. Callum Corbin to be added to attendance list.

4.3.3. Cllr Sangster pointed out that the wording should read that a 24v scheme was replacing a 240v system to make them safer for users. Cllr Sangster didn't feel that the minute reflected the change clearly.

4.3.4. "Community payback" should be "Visitor Payback" according to Cllr Sangster. Mrs Ashworth thought that the wording should be "Voluntary visitor payback". Cllr Sangster accepted this change.

4.1.2. Dr Goudie suggested that this item should be Update from Fife Council's Craigtoun Working Group to distinguish it from the working group set up Cameron and St Andrews CCs."

4.4.2. Forrest Place to be changed to Forbes place in the title.

8.2. Last line should have "cycle paths" not "cycle safety".

3. Presentations

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

Apologies.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. St Andrews Trust

Cllr Sangster expressed his delight at the final confirmation of the establishment of the new Trust

4.2.2. Kinnesburn Update

Cllr Sangster reported no update, despite the Councillors writing to request something from the Head of Transportation Services.

4.2.3. A – Board Update

No news also on this matter. Cllr Sangster reported that it had been expected that notices would have been sent out to shop owners reminding them of the need to comply with regulations, but this hadn't taken place so far. Councillors have requested further information on the progress of this matter.

4.2.4. Community Payback Scheme

Young people involved in this scheme in which offenders do community work have been out clearing snow according to Cllr Sangster.

4.2.5. HMO Licensing

It had been proposed that HMO licensing would move from the Regulation and Licensing board to housing, but this has now been stopped following discussion, and the role will remain with the Licensing Board at present. Mr Stephens asked about the HMO Licensing process. He'd recently read an article in the student newspaper, The Saint and in his reading this had taken a particular attitude on the subject. Cllr Sangster explained briefly the working of the committee and the types of regulations required to be met by property owners requesting such licences. He commented that as long as owners met the stipulated requirements, there was rarely any problem in a licence being awarded and the Regulation and Licensing Committee tried to ensure that their judgements reflected the regulations. Appeals could go to a Sheriff for judgement if necessary.

Holly West said that she had read that there used to be an HMO quota and wondered if this would occur again? Cllr Waterston added that the process for licensing an HMO was regulated by a combination of the Regulation and Licensing Committee and Planning. He felt that there was a big issue about the planning side of the matter. This related to matters like, sustainable communities and spatial planning. He acknowledged that it was a difficult issue, but added that there had never been a quota for St Andrews, though there had been proposals at one time, which had not been implemented. However there is a proposal in relation to the centre of St Andrews where there are now relatively few permanent residents compared to students living in HMOs. The proposal is to cap the HMO numbers within a defined central area only to reduce the continuing erosion of the numbers of permanent residents. There is to be a consultation on this proposal in the New Year at some stage, possibly February or March, which may go on for a number of months, with discussions by the North East Fife Area committee in the summer. Cllr Waterston hoped that the Community Council would assist in the process of engagement to progress the consultation in a constructive manner.

Cllr Sangster added that the current HMOs in the town centre would remain licensed unless for other reasons licences are withdrawn. Mr Paul reminded the meeting that HMO licensing was only required for properties where there were more than two bedrooms.

Holly West reminded the meeting that student reps had successfully persuaded the Community council a year ago to turn down a petition requesting a cap on HMOs in St Andrews. Cllr Waterston acknowledged that this had been the case, but reminded the meeting that this had been a petition relating to the whole of St Andrews and the upcoming consultation only related to the central area. He also added that a cap was not unusual in other towns and cities, such as areas of Glasgow and Dundee.

Cllr Morrison felt that it was important that students should understand that the aim was not to develop a policy, which was anti-student. She reminded the meeting of the gradual increase in the number of students, despite a past promise to not increase beyond a certain number and how there had not been any building of new student residences to compensate for this increase, though she acknowledged that this situation had improved with recent building. She felt that it was crucial to get the balance of students and residents in the town centre right. She also reminded the meeting about the erosion of affordable housing in the town as a whole, particularly in the former council housing areas, which has made it difficult for young families to afford to settle in the town.

Dr Goudie brought the discussion to a close, commenting that it would be an issue, which would return with the beginning of the consultation.

4.2.6. Bruce Embankment – Common Good Scheme

Cllr Sangster noted that in the documentation in relation to the ongoing consultation, the Bruce Embankment was only noted as a recreation ground, with no mention of the car park etc. Mr Paul added that he had been in dialogue with Andrew Ferguson of Fife Council on Common Good matters. He had received some financial figures in relation to the ground rent etc paid by the various buildings on the site. The Golf Museum he said paid £500 per annum ground rent and the income from the car park went back to Fife Council not into the Common Good Fund.

4.2.7. Community Service by Offenders – Community Payback

Cllr Sangster reminded the meeting that this service could be contacted to make use of offenders undertaking Community Service.

4.2.8. Consultations

Cllr Sangster made the meeting aware that there were a number of consultations ongoing at the present time, including one in relation to the future of the Fife Council Care Homes. The various consultations can be found on Fife Direct.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Common Good Fund

Cllr Waterston explained how the Fife Councillors made decisions, but added that he'd be keen to see Community Councillors once again involved in the process. Mr Marks explained that the Community Council occasionally received hard copies of applications, which he tried to make members aware of and would pass on to appropriate CC members for a response. He added that Mr Crichton had also some past involvement. Cllr Waterston felt that it would be useful to include comments from nominated representatives of the Community Council. Dr Goudie sought two volunteers to be reps nominated by the CC. Mr Finlay and Mrs Ashworth expressed an interest, though it was agreed to check with Mr Crichton.

4.3.2. Council Service Communication during Recent Wintry Weather

Cllr Waterston informed the meeting that communication about tackling the recent wintry weather and the services affected by it were much improved compared to the previous year. He cited Transportation Services work in keeping roads clear and Social Work Services for assisting those requiring their services. Dr Goudie commented that he wasn't certain about the extent of the use of salt, as he felt that despite several trips round his road the result appeared to have been minimal. Cllr Waterston reassured the meeting that the Council had used a considerable amount of salt in the past week to try and deal with the extreme circumstances. Cllr Sangster advised the meeting that salt was available for public use at the Recycling Centre. There was further general discussion on the various aspects of the bad weather and the

way it was affecting Council Services. Mr Murphy wondered why local shops weren't clearing the snow in the pavement in front of their remises. He felt that Fife Council couldn't be expected to do everything. Mrs Denyer informed the meeting that during her time living in Germany there was an expectation of householders to clear snow.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

Cllr Morrison commented briefly on the work being done by Fife Council to combat the severe weather, but had no other items to mention as she'd just returned from holiday.

5. Planning Committee

See report in Appendix B of agenda.

5.1. CC Meeting re Madras College

Dr Goudie commented upon this meeting held on 22nd November. At the meeting it had been decided not to submit any comment until the Planning application was submitted, but Dr Goudie will submit a report to that effect.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Climate Challenge Fund Update

The main item of news related to the change in the staffing, due to Iris the project co-ordinator moving to a new job. Fortunately, Jane Kell, one of the staff group has been able to step in to replace Iris. Jane has considerable experience and Ronnie felt she was an excellent replacement co-ordinator.

The weather has affected the work of the Champions, but work will hopefully continue soon. Mr Stephens asked if the project were deemed a success would it be continued? Mr Murphy said that any continuation would have to be as a different project to do with carbon reduction. Hopefully if this project was deemed successful it would be sufficient to get a new grant for a different project

6.2. Martyrs Monument Update

In the absence of Mrs Corbin, Mr Marks read from an email she'd sent giving some details of a recent HEW meeting at which this project had been discussed. Mrs Denyer reported that she'd also attended with Mrs Corbin a subsequent meeting with Patrick Loughlin in the Byre Theatre as an observer. It was agreed to leave the subject until the next meeting. Cllr Sangster then made some comments about the situation. He reminded the meeting that the original intention had been to repair and protect the Martyrs Monument. An assessment had been undertaken and an estimate of around £78000 had been quoted for the project. He believed that St Andrews Partnership had a complete restoration in mind. He thought that it would take a long time to raise the sort of money required for that type of work, which he estimated at around double the original estimate for repair and protection. He expressed his unhappiness with the situation, especially as he'd heard that the Partnership wanted to take the money held by the Preservation Trust to pay towards a consultation for their more ambitious project.

Mrs Ashworth felt that Cllr Sangster was mistaken in some of the comments he'd made about the situation. She said that there was about £5500 in the kitty at present with a lot more promised from major sources. She added that the Partnership was wanting to see which was the better thing to do, restoration or conservation as it stands. The Partnership she said accepted the possibility of conservation, but also wanted to check out the possibility of restoration as it was felt that money might be more forthcoming for restoration rather than conservation in a less good condition. She also added that the previous estimate had been done by a stone conservator, while the partnership would use a conservation architect. She also added that money donated to the account in the Preservation trust wasn't tied to a specific type of work on the monument. Cllr Sangster remained unhappy with the situation if donations were to be used for further consultancy work. Cllr Waterston said that he'd attended a recent Partnership Board meeting. He felt that it was unfortunate that there appeared to be a division on the subject. He emphasised that it was not the Partnership's project, but that the Partnership was one membership of the group assessing the work to be done. There would continue to be feedback to the Preservation Trust and the Community Council on progress in determining the best project. He felt that everybody involved had the aim to get the best job done to suit the monument's needs. He understood that the final shape of the project had still to be determined and the Community Council would remain fully involved. Cllr Waterston also thought that the

Community council would be sent a letter by the chair of the Partnership offering to come along and meet Community council members. Mr Marks said that such a letter had not been received to date. The purpose of the meeting would be to try and resolve any issues, and might take place early in the New Year.

6.3. Craigtoun Meeting

Dr Goudie reported on the meeting held with Cameron Community Council at which a joint working group was established to progress the work. Mr Roberts, Mrs Corbin and Mrs Denyer would be the Community Council representatives from St Andrews. An initial meeting has been held up due to the bad weather. Cllr Waterston added that a meeting of the Craigtoun Advisory group was also planned and this would be on 17th December in Cupar.

6.4. Community Council Vacancy

Mr Marks reported that he had written to the St. Andrews Citizen to publicise the Community Council vacancy, but so far there had been no response. Dr Goudie will be writing an article for St Andrews in Focus, which will promote the forthcoming election. He encouraged members to mention the vacancies to possible candidates.

6.5. Civic Reception

The Civic Reception was cancelled due to the bad weather. Mr Paul wondered about a Civic Reception 6.6. and mooted several ways to make the reception an attractive occasion from expanding the list to inviting partners of guests and to possibly hold it on a lunch time. Mr Paul to check on dates when the hall will be available in mid February. The idea would be to hold the event in the Town Hall so that up to 200 could attend.

6.6. St Andrews Trust Update

Mr Paul reported that a nominating committee needed to be formed to select the three local residents to serve on the Trust. Mr Paul suggested that Mr Marks and Dr Goudie might be suitable candidates for the selection committee. Mr Paul formally proposed that Mr Marks and Dr Goudie be put forward for the nominating committee. The proposal was passed unanimously.

Mr Paul then discussed the need to encourage local residents to become trustees. There have been some expressions of interest already. There have been articles about the Trust in local papers. Applicants can write to the Secretary of the St Andrews Community Trust c/o Murray & Donald. Mrs Ashworth raised the need to have more representation from younger age groups.

6.7. Reports from Representatives

6.7.1. ASCC Representative

In the absence of Mrs Corbin, Mr Marks gave a brief report. Mrs Corbin had attended the recent ASCC Annual Conference in Glasgow. She is a back up to the official Fife Area representative, following the election for ASCC Area reps and will attend ASCC meetings if the main rep is unable to attend. There was also meant to be a Regional ASCC meeting recently, but it was cancelled due to the bad weather.

6.8. Any Other Matters Arising

None

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

7.1.1. Community Council Xmas Party for Senior Citizens

Mrs Rowe reported on preparations for the forthcoming Xmas Party for local senior citizens in the town hall. Mrs Rowe would like to see as many Community Councillors as possible. The party will be from 1-5. Mrs Ashworth will be organising the catering.

7.1.2. Photographic/Art Competition and Young citizen of the Year

Mrs Rowe also thanked Mr Roberts and Mr Paul for organising the recent photographic/art competition/display and Mrs McAnaw for her work on the Young Citizen of the Year.

7.2. General Purposes Committee

The secretary had circulated minutes of the last meeting.

7.2.1. General Purposes Meeting – 17/11/10

Dr Goudie went through the minutes picking out items not dealt with elsewhere to comment upon as necessary. The Martyrs Monument project was discussed in some detail. Mr Murphy agreed to try and speak to Mr Loughlin on some of the issues raised. Other matters discussed included the Common good application by the Students Association for funding assistance for a temporary ice rink for fundraising, the forthcoming Community Council elections and the proposals for a congratulatory letter to be sent to Prince William and Kate Middleton on their engagement. Mr Roberts reported on the latter item and also reported on his proposal on sending congratulatory emails to St Andrews Associations around the world on St Andrews night.

7.3. 200 Club

Winners for December 2010 are 1st: No.129 Mrs E Methven 2nd: 104 Mrs Mackenzie and 3rd: 192 Robin Waterston.

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No report.

8. New Business

8.1. Request for Amendment to Community Council Boundary

Mr Marks explained the recent request from Fife Council for CC comments and views on the request from Cameron Community Council to have an area of land on the southern hillside transferred into the remit of their Community Council. Mr Marks explained that there was a belief in Cameron CC that this area of land should fall within their remit based on a map they display on their website. Mr Marks acknowledged that the issue was a difficult one and required more research to determine which map was correct in delineating the boundary between the Community Councils. Fife Council was requesting a response by 14th January so that the matter could be taken to the Finance and Asset management committee in February.

It was agreed that the members of the Craigtoun Park Committee might be able to bring up the topic at the next joint meeting. There was a general consensus that some form of private discussion between representatives of the two councils would be useful to hear to various points on the matter. There was uncertainty about why the topic was suddenly being raised and whether the area in question was ever part of the old St Andrews Borough Council area or was within ward boundaries for election purposes.

There was further discussion about the boundaries and how these could be defined.

Topic to be raised by Craigtoun Park Committee members with Cameron reps.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Dr Goudie thanked members for their responses in relation to his next article for St Andrews in Focus. Dr Goudie then mentioned a request for assistance from the editor of St Andrews in Focus in setting up an exhibition, based on the returns from her town survey questionnaire, which she'd included in the last issue of her magazine. She hoped to have a display in January 2011 in the lobby area of the Town Hall and was asking for possible assistance with the use of display boards. There was a suggestion that the display could be incorporated into the next CC Coffee morning. As there was some uncertainty as to how long she

wanted to display her results, Mr Paul agreed to liaise with her and establish which display option might be acceptable – the town hall or the coffee morning.

Mr Murphy wondered whether we could support something if the content wasn't known. There was some agreement that the CC needed to be able to take a neutral stance if the results displayed were unrepresentative of the town, given the small return of just over 1%. Dr Goudie felt that the number of responses whilst low was not unhealthy in terms of such exercises.

Mr Paul to liaise with Flora about display location etc.

Dr Goudie then raised the issue of the Chair's Chain of Office, and the fact that there have been no new bars listing Chairs of the CC added since the year 2000. It was agreed to bring the Chain up to date after the cost of this had been established.

9.2. Treasurer

9.2.1. Treasurers Report

Mr Paul reported on the current state of the Community Council finances. The current account currently stands at £4500 in the General Account with £11783 in the 3 Reserve Accounts. Mr Paul then raised the request by the secretary for the purchase of a new laptop as the current laptop was beginning to struggle and there was a risk of a major malfunction. The cost of a package of laptop, extended warranty and software was estimated at £1200 - £1300. Mr Paul advised that the Community Council finances were in a healthy enough state to purchase a new laptop. Mr Stephens mentioned the possibility of getting a student reduction. Mr Marks agreed to check this possibility out. It was agreed to fund the purchase of a new laptop for the secretary as detailed above.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

Mr Marks briefly commented on the emails received and forwarded by the secretary

9.3.2. Events St Andrews

Mr Marks reminded the members that Mr Lindsay, a former CC member and secretary was still publishing an events listing on the web. He had asked the secretary to remind members about the existence of his site and would welcome advance information about CC activities to add to his web listing.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Student Arts Festival – On The Rocks – 17th – 24th April

Ms Platt detailed the forthcoming Student Arts Festival to take place in April. It will include lots of family events and workshops and costs will generally be under £5. The director of the student theatre, Julie Amphlett, may attend a future Community Council meeting to help publicise and raise local awareness of this event now in its 3rd year.

10.2. Meeting with SRC

Ms West announced a social get together for the Community Council and the SRC in the following week at the Students Union. She thought that this would be a useful and hopefully productive liaison for both groups.

10.3. Community Event on Royal Wedding Date

Mr Paul briefly mentioned that there might be some merit in having a community event at the time of the Royal Wedding. He asked members to give this thought over the festive season.