

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Minutes – January 2006

Approved

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

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Ken Crichton, George Davidson, Richard Douglas, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Stuart Holdsworth, Chris Lesurf, Pete Lindsay, Donald MacGregor, Patrick Marks, Joe Peterson, Maggie Stacey, Carole Tricker, Penny Uprichard

Students' Association

Alex Yabroff

Nominated

Ewen Sparks

Fife Councillors

Sheila Black, Jane Ann Liston, Frances Melville, Bill Sangster

Apologies

Dennis Macdonald, Bette Christie.

2. Appointment of Secretary

Richard Douglas who had volunteered at the last Community Council meeting to take on the rôle as Secretary as a short-term measure, tendered his resignation upon the appointment of Patrick Marks as Secretary of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council. Patrick Marks was nominated and accepted unanimously in the rôle of Secretary.

3. Minutes of December 2005

The minutes of the December Meeting were accepted unanimously as an accurate minute.

4. Presentations

There were no presentations at this meeting.

5. Fife Councillors

5.1. Frances Melville (West)

5.1.1. Roundabout Layout at Buchanan Gardens/ Hepburn Gardens junction

Cllr Melville had received a reply from Transportation Services following last month's discussion at community council. Transportation Services had recorded only one minor incident since the opening of the roundabout. The main problem appeared to be excessive speed by some motorists. They will continue to monitor the way the layout is affecting driver behaviour.

5.1.2 Ladebraes

Cllr Melville reported that there was a chance that the scheme would come back in partial form under the Core Path label. Cllr Melville hadn't seen a list or map of the proposed core paths despite requesting details. Ian Goudie in answer to a query from Joe Peterson said that he'd received a copy which was available for inspection. Pete Lindsay commented that the consultation proposals hadn't been efficiently handled as he'd tried to attend the consultation, but it hadn't been signposted in the library so he'd missed the opportunity.

Cllr Black mentioned that she'd spoken to Peter Milne on the Core Path issue and he'd given her his views which she'd put in writing. There was an ongoing process of consultation for all of Fife, which would be finished by this autumn with the outcome to be put into effect by February 2008. It appeared unlikely that the original Fife Council proposals would go ahead, though it might still be possible to improve the path minus the lighting. She said that the Core Path scheme might be a compromise between the present neglect and the elaborate proposals, which had been opposed by some local residents.

Penny Uprichard reminded the meeting that the Ladebraes is in a conservation area.

5.1.3 Planning – Local and Area Structure Plans

Cllr Melville reminded the meeting that the Structure Plans for St. Andrews and NE Fife were being finalised. Cupar is to have a special meeting in February.

5.1.4 Bus Station Development

Ken Fraser asked Councillor Melville about the progress in completing the bus station. Councillor Melville said that she didn't know, but Cllr Sangster believed that it was at least 4 weeks behind schedule.

5.2 Sheila Black (South)

5.2.1 Lumbo Den Dam

Cllr Black reported that a crack in the Lumbo Den dam is to be repaired. This had been contributing to problems downstream, including the polluted state of the mill pond. Concerns were raised about the state and management of the mill pond by Ken Crichton and Patrick Marks amongst others. Patrick Marks suggested that perhaps the Botanic Gardens expertise could be brought to play in improving the pond, as an attractive part of the local environment.

5.2.2 20 mph Speed Restrictions – Canongate School

Cllr Black reported that pictures and plans for the 20 mph speed restrictions outside Canongate were available for viewing in the local office.

5.2.3 Civic Amenity Site

She reported that this site which is above Morrisons is on course for development later this month. Councillor Liston brought up the ongoing issue of pedestrian access to the site. Officials have been maintaining that pedestrian access is not allowed on a number of grounds. Jane Anne has disputed this interpretation and has asked the officials to look at the access issue again.

5.3 Bill Sangster (Central)

5.3.1 Fatal Accident at the Scores

Cllr Sangster reflected upon the recent fatal fall of an American student at the Scores. This is not the first fatality. He has asked for an urgent meeting with officials to determine how best to take action.

5.3.2 Loches Display

Cllr Sangster informed the council about the display on Loches in a former shop window in Bell Street.

5.3.3 Closure of Cupar/St Andrews Leisure Centres

Cllr Sangster was asked by Donald Macgregor why the two local Leisure Centres were closed at the same time during December, thus depriving locals of any swimming and other exercise facilities. He promised to look into this, and agreed that it appeared to be poor planning to close both at the same time.

5.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

5.4.1 Farmers' Market

She announced that Farmers' Markets would take place monthly in 2006.

5.4.2 Recycling Centre

Cllr Liston raised the issue of pedestrian access to the Recycling Centre. The Community Council had objected to this restriction. See other details under 5.2.3. Pete Lindsay wondered if the council should reiterate its objection to the lack of pedestrian access.

5.4.3 East Fife Women's Aid

Cllr Liston informed the Community Council that discussions are still continuing to resolve a management crisis at this facility. The refuge wasn't in danger of closing but Fife Council had been unhappy with the management and given the funding provided wanted to help sort out the difficulties. She was optimistic that the matter would be resolved.

5.4.4 Chip Van

Cllr Liston related the details of the problems related to the parking of the chip van in the lay by at Madras Kilrymont. Lines had been painted in October in the lay by to restrict use to buses. Due to a lack of co-ordination a metal sign hadn't been erected to make enforceable the parking restrictions until several weeks later. The lay by should now only be used by school buses and the van should not be in the lay by.

5.4.5 St Andrews Railway Scheme

Cllr Liston gave more details of the continuing attempts to ensure the inclusion of the railway route in the St Andrews Local Plan. She had obtained an acknowledgement from Fife Council officials that some of the figures they'd used were of limited value, because they'd used the Tay Estuary Rail Study which had come up with some very expensive costs to base their assessment on, which only partially related to possible rail use to St Andrews via Leuchars. She felt that the FAST Rail Study had provided a good route, which should be included in the St Andrews Local Plan.

5.4.6 Primary School Plans

Ewen Sparks asked about the state of the plans for the local primary schools on behalf of teachers and parents. He asked about the provision of breakfast and afterschool clubs at Canongate. These clubs don't exist in Canongate at present. Cllr Liston expressed a hope that the clubs would continue in the combined school. Transport to the new school was also discussed as an additional area of concern. Donald Macgregor added that there is to be a meeting about the future of Greyfriars on 10th March.

5.4.7 Ladebraes

Joe Peterson asked who had written to Sustrans about the Ladebraes. Cllr Liston said the Area Services Committee had written. Joe expressed his disappointment that the ASC had apparently caved into the opinions of a minority of objectors and appeared to have ignored the views of the majority, including school children. He was concerned that funds might be lost to improve the path. Penny Uprichard was concerned that the Ladebraes designation as a core path would mean that there could be no restriction on who could use it.

5.4.8 Guardbridge/St Andrews cycle path.

Following an evening onsite visit with officials, Cllr Liston had also raised concerns with officials about problems for cyclists in the evening/night on this cycle route. In places where the path wasn't sheltered by the hedge, cyclists would be constantly dazzled by cars, creating a potentially hazardous situation. Officials were trying to address this problem.

6. Planning Committee

6.1 37 Largo Road Planning Proposals

Peter Lindsay reported that the committee had objected on the basis that the site should be fully business, not a mix as proposed. He had various concerns about the plans from its closeness to the edge of the path and the general building design. The plans would be discussed at the next Planning Committee meeting.

6.2. Kingask Expansion Plans

Penny Uprichard reported that she'd written to the *Courier* on this matter. She circulated a copy of a newspaper article on the proposed development. She wanted people to be aware that an exhibition by the developers in the Byre Theatre didn't represent a part of the planning process. Cllr Melville said that the development office had picked up on misleading statements from the developers and were addressing these with the developers. Cllr Melville was asked to point out to officials that they should also check the developer's web site for similar misleading statements.

6.3 Core Paths

Ian Goudie said that core paths would be discussed by Planning Committee, with a view to putting in comments on this issue before the next meeting.

6.4. Chair of Planning Committee

It was acknowledge that there should be an attempt to try and get a Chair of the Planning Committee in place as soon as possible.

7. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

7.1.1 Awards

Peter Lindsay introduced this topic and summarised the suggestions about the use of funds. There had been a view that we should live of the interest, awarding small grants as a way forward. He emphasised that the money was the council's to do with as it pleased and it wasn't predicated for any particular purposes, but we required a system of how we should spend the money. Fife Council have always accepted the audited accounts and have encouraged community council to raise further money for local use. Penny Uprichard wasn't happy about just spending the interest. Joe Peterson felt that there shouldn't be a glass ceiling on the disbursement. Pete Lindsay said that the appendix contained guidelines and we could accept them as hard and fast or be more flexible. The guidelines could be added to the Treasurer's folder. The Local Office and the CC notice board could be used to make people aware that the funding existed.

The funding of the Senior Citizens Party was touched upon when Joe Peterson wondered why we needed to ask for donations from local businesses if we had money in the council funds. Pete Lindsay felt that he wouldn't want to stop local organisations and businesses contributing and reminded council that by using our own funds we could eventually run into difficulties in funding any local events. He continued to believe in the idea of disbursing small grants. The need for relevant publicity to ensure that local organisations could benefit was also noted.

Donald Macgregor asked if Community Council could agree to accept these guidelines as guidelines and to keep them to hand when applications for funds were received. Community Council agreed without dissent.

7.1.2 Coat of Arms Agreement

Cllr Sangster raised this matter. It was agreed that in view of a lack of recent information on how the contract was functioning, details should be sought as soon as possible so that a report could be made to the next meeting.

7.2 World Class

Donald Macgregor has asked to be sent the agenda and minutes for St.Andrews World Class Meetings by CEO Patrick Laughlin. There had been confusion over their December meeting which had initially been cancelled, then Dennis Macdonald had received minutes of it! It was agreed to put St Andrews World Class on the agenda for February.

7.3 Order of Business

Joe Peterson asked to leave this item on the agenda for the February meeting. Pete Lindsay said that he was working on this matter, and would have some suggestions by the next meeting.

7.4 What Can We Do To Help Community Councils

Pete Lindsay would welcome comments by 28th February, so that a submission can eventually be made to the Scottish Executive in relation to their review of Community Councils. Pete wasn't certain that the proposed scheme would be ideal for a Community Council like St Andrews.

7.5 Honorary Citizen Standing Orders

Pete Lindsay reminded council that the standing orders for the Honorary Citizen were being updated.

8. Reports from Office Bearers

8.1 Chair

8.1.1 Purchase of Equipment for Secretary's Use

Council was informed of a proposal to aid the secretary in his duties by authorising the purchase of a laptop and necessary accessories. Pete Lindsay thought that this would cost around £1,000. Council unanimously agreed to let Pete Lindsay and secretary Patrick Marks look into the purchase.

> 8.1.2 Vacancy on Community Council

After brief discussion it was agreed that Chair Donald Macgregor would write to the press to advertise the vacancy.

8.2. Treasurer

8.2.1 Current Financial Balance

Carole Tricker reported that the council has £25,555.01 in its main account. She has paid out for the Photographic Exhibition, the St Andrews Day presentation and other recent expenditures.

She reminded council that a change of signature would be required with the change of treasurer and secretary. Chair Donald Macgregor formally proposed that Patrick Marks, Carole Tricker, Donald Macgregor and Ken Fraser be signatories to the St Andrews Community Council accounts. Seconded by Joe Peterson, none against.

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1 Recent Correspondence

Patrick Marks drew members' attention to the recently received correspondence in the appendix of the agenda. He would be happy to show any member the received correspondence or pass on to relevant committees.

Pete Lindsay drew the secretary's attention to a couple of additional items of correspondence received. One was a survey from the Liberal Democrats on the Bonfire Season with a series of simple tick box questions to determine local concerns about local use of fireworks. Pete was happy to fill in a copy and was also happy to circulate copies to other council members to reply to if they desired. The second item was a letter from the Heritage Orchestra the essence of which was described by Pete to the meeting.

9. Reports

9.1 Recreation Committee

9.1.1 Floral Enhancement Grant Scheme

Joe Peterson announced that a grant of £750 had been awarded to St Andrews Community Council from this scheme organised by Fife Council. Money would be received in April and would be readily used.

9.1.2 St Andrews Young Citizen of the Year 2005

Disappointment was expressed that no nominations had been received towards this scheme. Joe Peterson was keen that an award should be made. Discussion about further publicity took place. He appealed to the press to help publicise this scheme and was happy to send copies of the rules to relevant local organisations

9.1.3 Hogmanay Ceilidh 2006

Ken Crichton is working on the Ceilidh for this year.

9.2 Co-option of Non Community Councillor to a Committee.

Asked about the possibility of co-opting a member of the public to a committee, Pete Lindsay said that under Scheme for Community Councils co-options were permitted and external members on committees were permitted but he thought a specific co-optee should be put to full council for approval.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Third Party Rights of Appeal in Planning

Penny Uprichard gave an update on its exclusion from the planning white paper, but the wide public support for it. There will be a debate in the Scottish Parliament in February/March. Community council's submission to the consultation process was in favour of a limited form of TPRA.
