

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Minutes – February 2006

Approved

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1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Bette Christie, Ken Crichton, George Davidson, Richard Douglas, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Stuart Holdsworth, Chris Lesurf, Pete Lindsay, Dennis Macdonald, Donald Macgregor, Keith McCartney, Patrick Marks, Joe Peterson, Ben Reilly, Caroline Tricker, Penny Uprichard.

Nominated

Ewen Sparks.

Fife Councillors

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

Apologies

None.

2. Minutes of January 2006

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

Approved

3. Presentations

Chris Jones, a parent with children at Greyfriars, requested information from the Community Council about the Primary school proposals. He had concerns about the proposed move of Greyfriars to the Langlands site, and had also heard rumours that the Langlands site could be used for future development of Madras Kilrymont. He wondered if the council was thinking about the provision of primary and secondary education holistically in St Andrews?

Councillors Liston, Black and Melville all said that they had no information so far from the education service and hadn't heard the above idea about the site use. Councillor Black informed the meeting that the future of the schools would be discussed at the Children's Services meeting on 10th March. Councillor Melville commented that as councillors they should be kept better informed by Fife Council Education Service on proposed changes or developments.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville (West)

4.1.1. Bus Station Redevelopment

Cllr Melville reported that work is underway following delays. Various utilities, including an unknown gas main had to be sorted out before work could be safely continued. The expected date of completion is June 2006. The next phase she said related to reconstruction of the sinkways at the station entrance and construction of a raised crossing at Station Road. It may involve installation of temporary traffic lights on City Road.

Mr Peterson asked about the health and safety issues relating to the bus station development. Had a risk assessment been carried out in relation to underground utilities before construction started? Cllr Melville agreed to check, though she'd have assumed some form of assessment had taken place as a matter of course. Mr Lindsay commented on the difficulty in relation to knowing where old utilities were sighted because of a loss of pre-1960 records. Mr Peterson said that there was suitable equipment available to detect underground features used regularly by companies doing work.

4.2. Sheila Black (South)

4.2.1. Joint Meeting of Canongate/Langlands School Boards

Cllr Black had attended a joint board meeting of Canongate and Langlands schools recently. She described the meeting as long and fruitful.

Mr Douglas asked Cllr Black about the restrictions on the use of the Canongate playing fields. Mr Sparks said that the children were only restricted when the ground was muddy. Concern was also voiced about the parking behaviour outside Canongate, with regular examples of blatant disregard of the restrictions. Cllr Black acknowledged after some discussion that the matter needed to be tackled more effectively. She added that she was actively checking the situation and had taken photographs of offending vehicles.

Mrs Tricker informed Cllr Black that a number of coping stones had been pushed off the Canongate School wall.

4.2.2. Craigtoun Road Development Outstanding Issues

Dr Goudie asked Cllr Black to note that there were some outstanding issues relating to the development at the Craigtoun Road site. A promised play area for toddlers and a junior playing space at Craigtoun "A"

had still not materialised, neither had a footpath on the eastern side of the site. Other issues included the lack of marking for the cycle path along Melville Road, and the unsightliness of the electricity sub-station which he felt needed to be shielded with appropriate planting.

4.2.3. Largo Road Development

Mr Holdsworth raised the issue of the John Knox Road development wondering if it has breached the skyline and where the sight line was meant to be in the plans. Cllr Melville replied that in her view the Largo Road development was a bit of a shambles. Part of the problem had been the poor recording of information about the development by Fife Council, resulting in the applicants successfully challenging the Council's proposed sight line for the roofs, which should not have been visible above the 50m contour.

Ms Uprichard reminded the meeting of the Community Council objection to sight line and commented on a proposed request by the developers for an amendment to their warrant to allow "shared equity" housing. She felt that this went against the idea of affordable housing.

4.2.4. School Pupils Litter Problem at Balrymonth Court

Mr Holdsworth brought up the regular problem of Madras Kilrymont pupils littering the area around Balrymonth Ct. Some became verbally abusive if asked to pick up their litter. Cllr Black said she'd taken up the issue with the Community Safety Officer and wondered about the possibility of fining offenders. Mr McCartney questioned whether under 16yr olds could be fined.

4.3. Bill Sangster (Central)

4.3.1. West Sands Warning Signs

A recent incident in which several students were cut off by the tide in the Eden Estuary raised some comments about the location of signs warning the public of the dangers in the Eden Estuary at the end of the West Sands. Cllr Melville said that there was a West Sands group looking at issues relating to the West Sands.

4.3.2. Police Call Centre

Cllr Sangster described a recent visit he'd made to the main Fife Police Call Centre in Glenrothes. He described the speed of response times at the Call Centre and said that the police were keen to show it to Councillors and Community Safety Groups and explain how it worked. Ms Uprichard expressed concern about police response times. Cllr Sangster acknowledged that the response times at the Call Centre could not be compared to eventual police arrival to an incident. Mr Reilly queried why urban areas appeared to get priority in the leaflet distributed over rural areas.

4.3.3. Road Marking Repainting

Cllr Sangster has asked for various road markings to be repainted. He also noted the increase in disabled parking at Kirkhill.

4.3.4. Safety of Scores Wall

Cllr Sangster reported that there was a suggestion that the present wall at the Scores, scene of several fatal accidents should be replaced with railings on health and safety grounds. Ms Uprichard deplored the possible loss of the wall with less attractive railings and wondered about railings on top of the wall. Cllr Sangster added that the police were keen to reduce the potential for future accidents/fatalities and felt that a railing would be safer. Cllr Sangster also added that a railing would allow anyone unfamiliar with the area to see the danger because of the cliff where the present wall didn't.

4.3.5. New Bus Shelters

Cllr Sangster listed proposed bus shelters in the town at the bottom of Bridge Street near the Kinness Fry Bar and on South Street by Madras. The most controversial was the proposed shelter in South St near Madras. Cllr Sangster reassured Community Councillors that the proposed bus shelter in South St would not obstruct the Greyfriars ruin but would be placed further along the street. Planning permission was being sought for these proposed shelters.

4.3.6. Market Street Road Surfacing

Cllr Sangster informed Community Council about the start today of resurfacing of Market Street, where the tarmac had sunk leaving a dip next to the cobbled area.

4.3.7. Recycling Centre

Cllr Sangster said that it was unfair that Fife Council was charging for uplifts of bulky items before the opening of the recycling centre.

4.3.8. Kinnessburn Flood Study Report

Cllr Sangster reported the publication of this report, which will be in March 2006. A presentation will be made by officials to the Community Council in March.

4.3.9. Increased Police Patrols – South Street

Cllr Sangster is hopeful that more police will be patrolling South Street at night following incidents fuelled by drink, particularly on Saturday nights.

4.3.10. Chewing Gum Costs

Cllr Sangster reported that the cost of removing chewing gum in a relatively small area of South Street, between the West Port and Bell St ran into thousands of pounds annually. Dropping of gum is classed as a litter offence so attracting the same fixed penalties.

4.3.11. Missing Public Utility Covers

Cllr Sangster reported that he'd asked about the time taken by Scottish Water to replace missing utility covers in the town centre as he felt it was taking too long, increasing the hazard to pedestrians.

4.3.12. Lack of Litter Bins in South Street

Ms Lesurf asked Cllr Sangster about what she felt was the lack of enough litter bins. Cllr Sangster felt there were sufficient, but suggested that if Ms Lesurf discovered any gaps in provision she should inform him, so that he could take it up with the appropriate service in Fife Council.

4.3.13. Parking Vouchers

Mr Sparks asked Cllr Sangster about a couple of matters concerning him relating to parking vouchers. One issue was the confusion about the use of vouchers on local holidays as the voucher books only listed holidays up to Jan 2006. Cllr Sangster informed the meeting that public holidays were decided on an annual basis, and any late changes might get omitted because of the nature of the print run for the parking tickets. There was discussion about this matter, about the sale of out of date vouchers and why some shops were still selling vouchers on local holidays. Cllr Sangster said that the old vouchers could still be used, but hinted that St Andrews may be getting on-street meters in the next year or two.

4.3.14. Park and Ride System

Mr Macdonald said that he'd heard at a recent World Class meeting that there was a projected shortfall in the Park and Ride for this year of £20,000, Cllr Sangster said that parking fees raised more than enough revenue locally to subsidise the cost of the Park and Ride.

4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

4.4.1. Clarification of January Minute regarding St Andrews Railway Scheme

Cllr Liston, on a point of clarification relating to 5.4.5 in the January minutes, said that the Tay Estuary Rail Study had ignored any journeys south of Leuchars in its figures, thus making them dodgy in her view.

4.4.2. Removal of Sunbeds

Cllr Liston reported that sun bed use will be stopped in Council Leisure Centres for health reasons not economic reasons. She thought that the provision of spray tan cubicles might be a suitable replacement, as they are considered safe.

4.4.3. Farmers Market

Cllr Liston said that the Farmers' Market will be held in the Argyll St Car Park from March.

4.4.4. Recycling Centre

In response to Mr Fraser, Cllr Liston confirmed that the Recycling Centre appeared to be going ahead as planned with no pedestrian access. She still intended to oppose this restriction, which may be on alleged health and safety grounds, though access isn't restricted in the Cupar Recycling Centre. Mr Fraser expressed concern at the potential penalty to himself as a pedestrian if he couldn't gain access to recycle. Cllr Liston said that the recycling units in Morrisons would remain though this might not last and didn't cover the same range of items as the Recycling Centre. Mr Peterson raised the issue of pedestrian access and pointed out the potential risks, which might be a health and safety issue.

4.4.5. East Fife Women's Aid

Cllr Liston informed the Community Council in reply to a question from Mr Reilly that the situation was a lot better and appeared secure, with last quarter funding now released by Fife Council.

4.4.6. Chip Van

The saga of the Chip Van outside Madras Kilrymont was mentioned. Recent publicity including a television report had apparently awakened Scottish Executive interest in looking at possible legal ways to keep chip vans away from schools, given concerns about healthy eating and health problems of high fat diets. There was a brief discussion about whether school children could be kept at school during break times. Cllr Liston said that this happened in English schools. Mr McCartney commented that it wouldn't be possible in Scottish schools.

4.4.7. Roundhill Road Pavements

Cllr Liston reported that Roundhill Road is to get new pavements, news welcomed by the Community Council.

4.4.8. Cycle Path St Andrews – Guardbridge

Cllr Liston reported that Fife Council had taken heed of her concerns about the problems of night time cycling and had put white markings along the edge of the cycle path to aid cyclists blinded by car headlights.

4.4.9. Fife Sports Institute

Mr Peterson asked Councillors about the possible closure of this facility, used by many St Andrews residents. It contained the closest 25m swimming pool and other facilities for sports training not found in St Andrews. Cllr Sangster couldn't see it closing without a replacement facility being built.

5. Planning Committee

5.1.1. Tribute to Former Chairman of Planning Committee

Ms Uprichard, at the beginning of the Planning Committee report, paid tribute to Dr Goudie and his stalwart work for 14 years as Chairman of the Planning Committee. She was delighted that he would

continue to serve on the committee and will be responsible for the Local Plan and Structure Plan responses. The Community Council endorsed her comments.

5.1.2. Canongate School 20mph Zone

The Planning Committee response by Pete Lindsay to the proposals is detailed in Appendix B of the February agenda of the St Andrews Community Council.

5.1.3. Objection to Grange Road Development Proposals

Ms Uprichard has written a detailed objection, on behalf of the Planning Committee, to plans to develop The Grange on the Grange Road as an hotel with twelve timeshare units in the grounds.

Grounds for objection included

1. the siting on the prospective greenbelt,
2. the crowded nature of the of the plans for the site,
3. the lack of demand for more beds of this kind outwith the main tourist season,
4. the attempted justification by the developers that St Andrews needs another high quality hotel when such hotels at present struggle to fill their rooms year round and the possible effect on any application for World Heritage Status by St Andrews of a large development on the edge of St Andrews.

5.1.4. Other Planning Objections

Ms Uprichard informed the meeting that the Planning Committee had objected to three proposed plans;

1) Tudor Inn alterations – objecting to new doors which are felt to be out of keeping by their design with the area and unsympathetic to the building itself.

2) 37 Largo Road departure hearing was attended by Pete Lindsay. He saw sketches showing the proposed street layout, which is slab-fronted, very close to the pavement and intrusive. Objections have been made on the grounds of change from business to residential and also on design.

3) Ottakar's A letter has been written to object to the retrospective application for the air conditioning units at Ottakar's. These were installed without permission; due to complaints an Enforcement Order was approved, but this hasn't been enforced to date. It was hoped that the Enforcement Order would be put into effect without delay.

5.2. Fife Structure Plan

Ms Uprichard reported that comments objecting to the latest version of the Fife Structure Plan, will go straight to the Scottish Executive. She had spare copies of the FSP and the Community Council response to it for anyone interested in putting in a comment. She added that personal objections could be helpful and had proved so in the past.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. Hospital Liaison Group

In appendix F a copy of an email received from Dr Kilpatrick was the subject of discussion. In the email Dr Kilpatrick expressed concern that the report by Stuart Holdsworth of the HLG's December meeting was at variance with their record of events. Stuart Holdsworth still believed that he had reported back accurately what had been discussed at the HLG meeting, basing his comments on his notes made at the meeting.

Dr Kilpatrick wrote that the four members of the Public Reference Group and members of the management team would be willing to attend a meeting of the St Andrews CC and give a presentation and answer questions. He asked for a mutually convenient date to be organised.

After some discussion, Community Council members acknowledged the need now to try and work with the HLG and influence it, despite the past objections and preference for the St Leonards Fields site.

It was agreed that Dr Kilpatrick and representatives of the HLG be invited to the April meeting. Ms Lesurf said that she'd be willing to take on board any questions about the hospital plans. Patrick Marks to invite HLG to make their presentation in April.

Action – Secretary

6.2. Order of Business

Pete Lindsay's write up in Appendix A on this matter was discussed in general terms and was accepted by the Community Council. Ken Fraser did query the suggestion to drop apologies. He felt that they served a purpose. This sparked debate, leading to discussion, including the definition of unreasonable attendance, in relation to members not apologising, for regularly turning up to meetings. Pete Lindsay reminded the Council that we don't have a constitution and the Scheme of Administration doesn't give any regulation about apologies. Joe Peterson felt that apologies differed from absence on a regular basis. It was agreed to adopt the Order of Business from the next meeting and to see how it worked out. Pete Lindsay reminded the meeting that the Chairman could move around agenda items at his discretion and standing orders could be suspended as required.

Action – Secretary and Chair.

6.3. What Can We Do To Help Community Councils

Pete Lindsay in Appendix D listed several questions on this topic for which he'd welcome response before the end of February. Pete reminded Community Council about his concern at the implication in the consultation towards viewing Community Councils as delegates rather than as elected representatives in local communities entitled to have an opinion. It was suggested that a response could be formulated at a

General Purposes Committee meeting in the next week or two.

Action – Chair

6.4. Community Council Vacancy

So far there has been no response from town residents for someone to fill the vacancy. A notice in the CC notice board was suggested. Pete Lindsay said that the CC needed as wide a cross section of the local community as possible to be truly representative. Any candidate would have to be a resident of the town.

Action – Secretary

6.5. Fireworks Survey

See appendix C of the February agenda – for info only.

6.6. Photo of Community Councillors

Pete Lindsay said that he still had photos of the Community Council available for £10.

7. New Business

7.1. Scottish Health Council

Chris Lesurf had brought leaflets and newsletters to the meeting relating to an opportunity to join this body.

7.2. Reception for Visiting School Party

It was agreed to have a reception for the Party of Loches School children visiting St Leonards School.

Action – Chair

7.3. Police Community Team Newsletter

As detailed in Appendix E of the agenda.

8. Reports from Office Bearers

8.1. Chair

8.1.1. Upper Arlington Exchange Meal

The Chair (or a representative of the community council) is invited by Madras College, to a dinner for the 7th exchange with Upper Arlington High School. Donald Macgregor said that he'd attend on behalf of the Community Council.

Action – Donald Macgregor

8.1.2. Open Meeting on Running of Scottish Parliament

An email had been received detailing a meeting to inform members of the public about the running of the Scottish Parliament. MSPs will attend and Administrators from the Parliament. Patrick Marks agreed to forward the email to Community Councillors for their information.

Action – Secretary

8.2. Treasurer

8.2.1. Current Financial Balance

Mrs Tricker reported that the council has £24,050.40 in its main account

The laptop for the secretary was discussed. The cost might be slightly higher than estimated – over £1,000. Council agreed to accept the amended cost.

Action – Secretary/Treasurer

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1. Forthcoming presentations

March: Kinnessburn Road Flood Study – Fife Council Transportation Service, Derek Crowe, Area Transportation Manager, Mike Thorpe East Area Infrastructure Team Leader.

March: World Heritage proposal and St Andrews World Class – Patrick Laughlin

8.3.2. 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.

Items of note included the receipt of a certificate confirming St Andrews status as a Fairtrade town. The secretary informed the CC that he'd put the present certificate in the CC notice board near the library. He also pointed out the availability of a larger A3 size certificate. Council members expressed an interest in this larger certificate, with a suggestion that it could be framed and mounted on a wall in the Burgh Chambers.

Action – Secretary

9. Reports

9.1.1. Health Education & Welfare Committee

Ms Lesurf said that the committee is due to have a meeting.

9.1.2. Recreation Committee

Mr Peterson presented the report as follows:

1. **The Senior Citizens Christmas Party** was attended by 138 and cost £952.
2. **The Young St Andrews Citizen** of the Year Award has been decided and the Award will be presented before the March meeting at 6.50pm.
3. **The hall for the New Year Ceilidh** has been provisionally booked. Mr Crichton explained the CC's decision to make arrangements for the Ceilidh to Ms Selwyn and thanked her for her kind offer.
4. **Gateway Landscaping** A letter has been sent to the University expressing concern about the state of this area which is on the approach to the town. A reply is awaited.
5. **Bandstand summer concerts** Elise Methven will report on progress in March.

9.2. Reports from Representatives

9.2.1 Leuchars Community Forum

Mr Holdsworth attended the forum on behalf of the Community Council. He reported that complaints about low flying had risen 25% in December. It also emerged that the planes involved in the training weren't always following the correct flight paths and were passing over St Andrews. Mr Holdsworth had tackled Keith Wardlaw the MCO at Leuchars who promised to look into the matter with the training squadron.

The RAF is about to build an Integrated Community Centre at Leuchars which will be open to a wider area, including St Andrews. The Welfare Officers based there will be willing to work with the local community in various ways. This could have benefits for St Andrews.

9.2.2. Links Trust Greens Sub-Committee

Mr Holdsworth had attended this committee on the 1st February and had found it a useful learning process.

9.2.3. World Class Meetings

Mr Dennis Macdonald had attended two meetings of this organisation, the executive committee and the main committee in the past month. He had watched a presentation from Scottish Enterprise. He commented that World Class had very wide reaching aims.
