

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council Annual General Meeting DRAFT Minutes – May 2006

*for approval*

## 1. Attendance

### Community Councillors

Bette Christie, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Pete Lindsay, Donald Macgregor, Patrick Marks, Joe Peterson, Carole Tricker, Penny Uprichard, Ben MacLeod, Keith McCartney, George Davidson, Stuart Holdsworth, Elise Methven

### Students' Association Representatives

None

### Nominated

Jude Innes (Merchants Association)

### Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston

### Apologies

Dennis Macdonald, Sheila Black, Frances Melville, Bill Sangster, Ken Crichton

## 2. Minutes of the 2005 AGM

Approved in absentia as no copies were available to circulate. Mr Macgregor commented that there had been no objection to the minutes at the June 2005 meeting. With members agreement he proposed to take the minutes as approved.

## 3. Chair's Report

Taken as read – see Appendix.

## 4. Treasurer's Report

Details in Appendix 2. Mrs Tricker felt that the accounts were self-explanatory, but would be happy to answer any questions. She announced that while she had found being the treasurer an interesting experience she could no longer continue and would like to return to "the back benches". She thanked Mr Peterson for his advice and assistance with the accounts and Mr Fraser for signing cheques as required.

Mr Macgregor on behalf of the Community Council thanked Mrs Tricker for her work and was pleased to know that she wasn't giving up the Community Council.

## 5. Dates of Meetings 2006 – 2007

Meetings as usual on the first Monday, except for August 2006, partly because this coincides with the Lammas Fair. Mr Lindsay formally proposed

## 6. AOCB

### 6.1. 200 Club Report

Mr McCartney asked about a report on the 200 Club. Mr Macgregor acknowledged the validity of this query and said he'd ask Mr Douglas who wasn't present to make a Post AGM report. Chairman to contact Mr Douglas.

## 7. Election of Officers

### 7.1. Chair

Mr Macgregor to remain as Chair by unanimous approval

### 7.2 Vice-Chair

Dr Goudie and Mr Fraser to remain as Vice-Chairs by unanimous approval

### 7.3. Treasurer

As Mrs Tricker had resigned, Mr Macgregor requested nominations for Treasurer. As there were no nominations, Mrs Tricker indicated a willingness to remain in the post for another couple of months. Mr Lindsay reminded Community Councillors of the requirements of Fife Council's scheme for community councils: without a treasurer the Community Council could not continue.

### 7.4. Secretary

Mr Marks agreed to remain as secretary. He was accepted by unanimous approval.

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## Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council Draft Minutes – May 2006

*For Approval*

(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

As AGM

### 2. Minutes of April 2006 Meeting

#### April 3.1.

Dr Goudie pointed out that there was an inaccuracy in the reporting of his comments during Mr Stewart's remarks in the Health presentation on the new hospital site. He wanted a clarification made as he'd not queried Mr Stewart on who had owned the site originally or the land beyond, but on his claim that the land beyond the site had a development status. As far as he was aware the only area of land zoned for development in that area had been the university owned part, while the rest of the land beyond the site was unclassified. He also pointed out an inaccuracy in the reporting of an offer made by Cllr Melville to check on a query relating to the development. She had offered to ask Mr Birrell whether or not there was a requirement for access to the land beyond the site as part of the planning conditions.

### 3. Presentations

No presentations this month

### 4. Fife Councillors

#### 4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

##### 4.4.1 Kinnessburn Path

Cllr Liston reported that an area of the Kinnessburn path downstream from Maggie Murray's Bridge (Bridge Street) has been getting eroded and that there has been pollution from a house at 51 Kinnessburn Road, possibly an HMO, where a pipe has been blocked leaking water with suds from washing into the stream. She has taken up the problem with the locality manager who will ask the appropriate council department to take up the problem with the property owners.

##### 4.4.2. Street Light Replacement

Cllr Liston had queried with Derek Crowe why Fife Council were replacing lights on Pipeland Road which were sodium lights not the soft white lights which had been installed on the Kinnessburn Road. Mr Crowe had explained that the Council had different criteria when replacing only a few lights on a road as opposed to a complete replacement on a road or street. In the latter case there was a complete replacement of wiring and other infrastructure. In Pipeland Road they'd replaced some columns in poor condition and hadn't put in the white lights to avoid a patchwork effect. Cllr Liston found this odd as several of the replaced lights were in a row.

##### 4.4.3. Draft Local Plan

Councillors are to have a meeting on the 5th May to consider the 3000 plus responses to the Local Plan which covers nearly all of North-East Fife. Mr Goudie commented on the fact that the council are pushing ahead with the local plan development, when the structure plan is still to be addressed by the Scottish Executive and could have major changes. Cllr Liston felt that continuing work on the local plan was not particularly unusual or threatening at this stage, and reminded the Community Council that it had been 10 years since the last local plan.

##### 4.4.4. Legal Briefing – Code of Conduct for Planning

Cllr Liston had brought along some pieces of paperwork from a recent legal briefing by Law and Admin about the pitfalls in relation to making planning decisions or even comments etc. She considered it interesting and educational reading, relating even to Community Councillors caught up in planning issues where they could be subject of a complaint in relation to standards of conduct.

##### 4.4.5. Virgin Train stopping at Leuchars

Apparently Virgin Rail are trying convince Network Rail that there is the space in the schedules to allow one of their Sunday trains to stop at Leuchars. Virgin are stopping on an experimental basis at present to see if it will work. Mr Lindsay asked about the significance of the non-stopping train. Cllr Liston felt that it could be the thin end of a wedge at Leuchars towards further reduction in inter-city trains stopping and that she hoped Virgin would succeed in getting agreement for the train to stop.

##### 4.4.6. Street Sweeping Machine

Dr Goudie informed Cllr Liston about the odd behaviour of one of the street sweeping machines which leaves a line of stones or grit a metre out whether on the road or pavement instead of sweeping it up. He wondered if Cllr Liston could check why this might be happening. She agreed to follow up on this matter.

##### 4.4.7. Largo Road Traffic Lights

Dr Goudie also pointed out that the new lights on the new traffic island for the traffic appeared to be facing the wrong way. Cllr Liston agreed to check this matter out with the Council Roads Dept.

#### **4.4.8. Proposed Harbour/East Sands Development**

Mr Peterson asked about proposals for development in the harbour area. Cllr Liston said that councillors had had a briefing where they'd been appraised of the proposals to date and to ask questions about the proposals. She said that the proposals were at a very early stage and no planning application had been put in yet. She thought that the Harbour Trust could be considered the lead body behind any initiative. Cllr Liston had asked a question on the traffic impact of any major proposals. She felt that there was nothing very definitive about it at the moment.

Mr Marks mentioned the concerns of the Sailing Club particularly as the boat yard is council property. Mr Peterson asked about World Class involvement and wondered why they should have such a privileged position. Cllr Liston wasn't entirely certain about their exact involvement but imagined that given their remit they might have a rôle. She reminded the community council that ideas for harbour development have been around for many years. Ms Uprichard mentioned the differing needs of the sailing club and other local boat owners, and the fact that the club house for the Sailing Club was not a listed building though of historical significance which should be recognised in the plans. Cllr Liston said that the time to express concern with any plans was when the planning application was published so the councillors could see local concerns if not already addressed by planning officials.

### **5. Planning Committee**

#### **5.1 Minutes**

##### **5.1.1. Baker Lane**

Ms Uprichard as detailed in the appendix to the Agenda reported the committee's objection to plans for a new house in garden ground in Baker Lane. Mr Lindsay had drafted an objection on various grounds as detailed in the Planning Committee appendix.

##### **5.1.2. Structure Plan**

Ms Uprichard reported attendance at the Fife Council meeting, which discussed and voted on the Fife Structure plan. Ms Uprichard said that we should push for an Examination in Public although there hasn't been one for thirty years. She urged councillors to try and get the public behind this possibility. She felt it would be our best line of defence. She reported that she had been appalled at the attitude of one councillor from Kirkcaldy who had been trying to claim that they should ignore protests and cited the example of the St Andrews Bay Hotel as a success despite opposition. Ms Uprichard said she'd found him after the meeting and had given him the financial facts of the St Andrews Bay Hotel.

### **6. Matters Arising**

#### **6.1. World Class**

Mr Macgregor introduced this matter, which Ms Uprichard had queried. He wondered what it meant to be a member or participant of World Class, and what position should the Community Council be taking vis à vis World Class. Ms Uprichard read out various definitions of World Class from a variety of sources. She aired her views on the way in which World Class was mentioning the Community Council as a member or participant in press releases. She felt that the Community Council's agreement to such association hadn't been fully discussed. She had asked Patrick Laughlin about the status of anyone attending the World Class meetings, and he had indicated that they would be considered participants. She felt that there was a purely financial motive, an attempt to maximise income from visitors to St Andrews. In contact with Mr Winter's office she had received a statement that Fife Council, Scottish Enterprise and Visit Scotland did not believe that St Andrews had reached its full capacity for visitors. She didn't know how they reached their figures, given inaccuracies she'd pointed out in their estimate of the number of students in St Andrews, which was between 4 & 5000 compared to University figures of 7000. Ms Uprichard felt that we'd lose our independence if we remained involved with World Class.

Mr Holdsworth believed that we should participate in World Class. Mr Lindsay said that it was part of our function to become involved with external groups to try and influence them for the good of the town. He felt that ignoring World Class wouldn't see it "shrivel up and go away". Dr Goudie felt that we still had to keep an eye on how World Class treated member organisations when it expressed views on developments. Mr Macgregor expressed his support for Mr Lindsay's and Mr Holdsworth's views on our need to participate in World Class. Ms Uprichard was pessimistic about our ability to influence any matters discussed in World Class meetings. Mr Peterson spoke in support of World Class ideas for helping the town prosper and felt that Ms Uprichard and he were poles apart in their views. Mr McCartney reminded the historic context of continuing developments in St Andrews. Dr Goudie claimed that World Class only had an interest in the historic parts of the town, not the more modern areas outwith the historic core, while the Community Council's remit was the whole town. He felt that we should keep a sceptical eye on the plans of World Class with our remit as the town's community representatives. Mr Lindsay called for a vote on whether we remain in World Class or not. There was a vote of 12 to 2 in favour with no abstentions.

#### **6.2. Memorial Hospital**

Mr Lindsay said that following on from a comment he'd casually made about no one remembering who the Memorial Hospital was a memorial for, Ken Crichton had sent him information which was appended to the back of the planning minute.

#### **6.3. Reports from Representatives**

##### **6.3.1. RAF Leuchars: Community Forum**

Mr Macdonald and Mr Holdsworth had attended this forum. Mr Holdsworth reported that the planned deployment of Typhoon Eurofighters in 2007-8 will not take place until 2010-11. A planned deployment of

the RAF Demonstration Team will now not take place as planned as the MOD has stopped it until at least 2009-10, if at all. Complaints for noise have dropped off in recent weeks.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Recreation**

#### **7.1.1. Floral Enhancement Grant**

Mr Peterson reported the receipt of a grant of £750 from Fife Council for the floral displays.

#### **7.1.2. Bandstand Concerts**

Mr Peterson is applying for a £2000 grant from the Common Good Fund to cover the Bandstand Concert costs. He has booked the bands from the 2nd July to the 27th August. The storage of the chairs remains a problem. He urgently requires a premises close to the concert site or smaller collapsible chairs might be an alternative solution. Mr McCartney suggested asking one of the nearby Golf Clubs such as St Regulus. Mr Peterson will circulate a list for volunteers at the next meeting.

#### **7.1.3 St Andrews Week**

St Andrews Week celebrations will start on St. Andrews day, 30th November finishing on 3rd December. The annual Art and Photographic exhibition will be hung on the 29th November and judged with prizes being awarded before the exhibition is opened to the public for the following three days. Mr Peterson was however concerned about who would organise the St Andrews Day reception as Fife Council had once again decided to opt out. He hoped that St Andrews Community Council would take on board organising and funding the reception.

Mr Macgregor explained the background to the reception, and suggested that St Andrews Community Council should support an event as we have sufficient money to fund it and we should support the Recreation Committee in their work. Mr Peterson commented that he hadn't planned that this would just be a Recreation Committee effort but hoped that the Community Council would assist wholeheartedly. He suggested that a reception for representatives from the youth of the town to give the week some focus for the young.

Mr McCartney was supportive of the idea and reminded the Council of the long history of such events, with letters of goodwill being received by St Andrews Associations worldwide which were put on display at the reception. Members used to attend "Beating the Retreat" after the reception. Mr Lindsay supported the general principle but wasn't certain who it might be the best to invite, suggesting that we might consider the 'unsung heroes' of the local community who didn't usually get invited to such events. Mr Peterson felt that an invitation to school groups could be extended to members of local churches and other relevant organisations. Mr Lindsay felt that it was still worth considering inviting the "Great and the Good" too.

Mr Macgregor then asked for someone to set it up and run a committee to firm up the idea and plans. Mr Lindsay said that the main work was getting the invitations organised. Mr Macgregor suggested that he and Mr McCartney could meet at a convenient time to discuss and plan what could be done.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Calor Gas Community of the Year Awards 2006**

A leaflet had been received about this annual event. Some discussion took place about the awards, but it was felt that it might be too late this year to put together a submission.

### **8.2. Fife Advocacy Project**

A letter had been received from this organisation advising the council that it had been awarded money to set up a support scheme in North East Fife – see appendix. Mr Marks said he'd be happy to pass the leaflet on to anyone interested.

### **8.3. Ship-to-Ship Campaign**

A letter had been received from Kennoway Community Council looking for our support in this matter. They had been in correspondence with Mr McDougall MP. Mr Lindsay reminded the Community Council of past letters sent in support of this campaign a year ago. Mr Marks offered to write back to Mrs Simpson expressing St Andrews Community Council support for their campaign. He informed Community Council members about the details of the matter.

**Secretary to write to Alison Simpson**

### **8.4. New Student Member**

The new member is Euan Clarke, but when he'll attend is unknown.

### **8.5. Fife Access Seminar**

A letter had been received from Fife Council about this seminar on access issues in relation to land access – the details were available from the secretary for anyone wishing to attend this free seminar on 2nd June. The details were circulated to the council members.

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Nothing further to report.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Nothing more to report. Mr Peterson asked for clarification about amount of money received from

Common Good Fund in the past year to support the band concerts. Mrs Tricker advised that nothing had been received. Mrs Tricker also reminded councillors again of the remaining time-scale of her post.

### 9.3 Secretary

See appendix for list of correspondence received. Mr Lindsay picked up on the issue relating to the removal of the payphone at Langlands Road. He felt that there was little that could now be done because of a change in regulations, which allowed BT to decide without consultation. Cllr Liston suggested that we could still write to our MP, Sir Menzies Campbell, on the matter. This was supported by Mr Goudie.

**Secretary to write.**

## 10. Any Other Competent Business

### 10.1. 200 Club

Mr McCartney raised the issue of the running of the 200 Club which he felt had become neglected. Mr Lindsay congratulated Mr McCartney on bringing up the matter which he agreed had been neglected. Mrs Tricker wondered if the running of the 200 Club could be brought into the remit of the Treasurer. Mr McCartney said that in his understanding there were quite clear and strict rules about the running of the Club under gaming regulations, so that might not be possible. Mr Macgregor agreed to contact Mr Douglas to find out the situation, as he'd not attended for a few meetings. Mr Peterson reminded the Community Council that he had run the 200 Club for a time and followed the guidelines for the monthly draws and award of grants. He felt that it was essential that Mr Douglas send in a full report, or attend the next meeting to bring the Community Council up to date on the club.

**Chair to speak to Mr Douglas**

### 10.2. Structure Plan

Ms Uprichard talked about her provisional plans to hold a meeting to inform the public about the major changes proposed for the future of the town by the structure plan. She had provisionally booked a room in the Town Hall for the 2nd June. Mr Lindsay questioned the value of a meeting and wondered about a printed information sheet. Mr Macgregor offered to raise the issue in his column in St Andrews in Focus. Mr Fraser mentioned that as there might be a further period of public consultation it might be difficult to know the best time to publish any information. Mr Goudie thought that we should keep the newsletter idea as a possibility and publish it when we knew more about the date for the further public consultation. Mr McCartney suggested that Mr Macgregor should do his column for Ms Selwyn's magazine and Ms Uprichard could write to the newspapers to alert the public to the Structure Plan issues. Mr Macgregor agreed to write the article if assisted with the content detail.

**Chair to write an article for St Andrews in Focus**

### 10.3. Sister City Letter

Mr Macgregor read out an email received from Robert and Helen Kenny in St Andrews in Victoria, Australia. They were seeking a "Sister City" relationship with some form of cultural exchange. They were proposing to present St Andrews with a copy of a booklet on the 150th anniversary of their school and hotel. As two of their local citizens would be visiting St Andrews in the near future they were wondering about the opportunity to present a copy of this booklet to the Royal Burgh of St Andrews. They also thought that there could be a form of exchange between the school children of both towns by email as a form of educational and cultural exchange. The request was discussed and it was agreed that the secretary email Mr Kenny to suggest possible attendance at a meeting of the Community Council or if this wasn't possible to help them establish contact with local primary schools.

**Secretary to write back on this matter.**

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