

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Draft Minutes – June 2006

For Approval

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Chair

Ian Goudie

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Les Beech, Ken Crichton, George Davidson, Richard Douglas, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Stuart Holdsworth, Chris Lesurf, Pete Lindsay, Elise Methven, Joe Peterson, Maggie Stracy, Ben McLeod, Carole Tricker, Penny Uprichard, Dennis MacDonald

Students' Association

Ben Reilly

Nominated

Jude Innes

Fife Councillors

Sheila Black, Jane Ann Liston, Frances Melville, Bill Sangster (later).

Apologies

Donald Macgregor, Patrick Marks, Bill Sangster (earlier).

2. Minutes of June 2006 Meeting

3. Presentations

Inspector Thomson, from Fife Constabulary introduced himself to the Community Council and detailed his thoughts on local policing and reminded the Community Council of his past involvement with St Andrews as a more junior officer. He planned to have a police presence at each Community Council meeting

Dr Goudie asked Inspector Thompson about the cycle lane beside the 18th Green. He'd had complaints that it was virtually useless because of the regularly parked cars along most of it's length. Inspector Thompson said that as the cycle lane didn't have a solid white line along the edge it wasn't possible to stop parking and a dotted line was only advisory.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. Turning Circle at Craigtoun Road

Cllr Melville reported that she'd written to Planning about the turning circle. She had received a reply in which it was implied that there had never been a bus turning circle in the plans, only a bus turning area known as a hammerhead. Cllr Melville tried to contact the official concerned, but he was on holiday at the time she attempted to contact him, so had no further clarification on the matter. Ian Goudie commented that there seemed to be a contradiction as Fife Council had set aside £60k for a turning circle.

4.1.2. Blue Flag Award

This ceremony should have come to St Andrews this year but as the Links Club House is not available it is to take place at Elie instead.

4.1.3. Recycling Centre

Roy Stewart, Environmental Services Manager has indicated he hopes that this Recycling Centre by Morrisons will be open in September 2006. Cllr Melville also reported that Environmental Services had collected some 90 tons of refuse. 20 additional bins have been purchased for the no smoking law and 4 additional staff have been employed. The funding for this comes from the Scottish Executive for 2 years. Bins for chewing gum disposal, have also been purchased and 26 fixed penalty fines for litter have been issued. Ms Uprichard asked about proposals for fortnightly uplift of the grey bin. Cllr Melville confirmed that this, will take place. Cllr Melville suggested that the Community Council could perhaps ask Rodger Stewart to come to a meeting to explain the changed collecting scheme. Mr Goudie suggested that the Community Council should put on record its appreciation that the Recycling Centre is to come on stream having been a Community Council concern for many years. Mr Beech expressed concern that a reduction in the grey bin collection to fortnightly could disadvantage large families. Cllr Melville acknowledged the potential difficulties particularly during hot weather. Cllr Liston commented that families of 6 or more might be entitled to two bins. She reminded the meeting that recycling should reduce the quantity of waste in the grey bin. Mr Beech was still concerned and felt that even some families of four could generate large quantities of refuse and if they didn't have a car to go to the recycling centre it could encourage fly tipping. Mr Crichton mentioned possible problems with the attitude of the occupants of HMOs about where they leave their rubbish. Cllr Melville wasn't certain but suggested she could ask Mr Stewart about this matter.

4.1.4. Bus Station

Cllr Melville had got a hold of the report [Appendix 1] on the problems relating to the construction of the Bus Station. She has heard that it will be 6 months before the legal and administrative issues are resolved.

4.1.5. Park and Ride

Cllr Melville passed around the leaflet detailing the scheme, which starts on 9th June.

4.1.6. Market Street Development

Cllr Melville reported that there had been a presentation by Keith Robertson of Scottish Enterprise on this project. The first public consultation will be in September this year.

4.1.7. Local Plan Meeting

Cllr Melville reported the Council officials were now citing housing numbers only for the next 10 years, and this appeared to imply less housing development. Cllr Melville however remained sceptical about Fife Council's actual plans for the longer term and hoped that we it wasn't an attempt to lull us into a sense of false hope. Mr Goudie asked in relation to the local plan whether there was any change in the designation of the southern hillside. The previous draft had shown a long strip unclassified but for a 5 hectare industrial site, along the back of Scooniehill/Kilrymont Road. Cllr Melville said that it was still on the plan. Mr Goudie said that that problem had become more acute with the application by the Hospital group for more land to the east of the hospital site. He added that the key aspect for that site was whether you permitted access beyond it. The outline consent, required that the NHS allow vehicular access to the southern hillside beyond. He was concerned that this shouldn't allow the eventual loss of the southern hillside to other development.

4.1.8. Green Belt

Cllr Melville reported that the Green Belt is slightly tighter and is right round the town, but the detail requires closer study when details are formally released.

4.1.9. New Planning Bill

Jim Birrell had emailed Fife Councillors about the new Planning Bill and its implications for Councils. Cllr Melville was concerned about the pressure on planning staff as there is already a considerable back log of planning applications. She was also concerned about talk of possibly having just one Planning Committee, replacing areas committees. She has written to Jim Birrell for clarification and timescales on these matters.

4.1.10. Petheram Bridge

The plans for this are progressing, but are subject to a health and safety audit at the present time.

4.2. Cllr Black

4.2.1 Black Bins

Cllr Black in relation to earlier comments on the changes in black bin collection said that she had a neighbour who had 2 black bins, but didn't have a family of six, so perhaps there was a precedent in obtaining a second bin, which Mr Beech could check out.

4.2.2. Fife Access Forum

Cllr Black had attended this recent forum, which was on the core paths and access rights of way across Fife. It had been attended by a range of people, including landowners and other community councils. She distributed a booklet to the meeting for members to peruse.

4.2.3. Road Closures

There is to be a closure from 26-30th June at the junction of Craigtoun and Lumbo Roads. The Largo Road lighting work will continue until the 10th July.

4.2.4. 37 Largo Road

Cllr Black mentioned the recent council refusal of the planning application for this light industrial site because of the residential element it contained. She was concerned to try and preserve such sites around the town for the business community and prevent further loss to residential development. Mr Macdonald said that we should express our appreciation of the Councillors fight, to prevent the loss of this site. Mr Goudie added his support and reminded the meeting that Bassaguard was another threatened area still to be secured.

4.2.5. Canongate School Puffin Crossing

Cllr Black is still hopeful that she can get funding for this scheme. Cllr Liston added that the funding had been secured earlier in the day for this crossing.

4.2.6. Overgrown Footpaths in Bogward Area

Mr Goudie asked what could be done about footpaths overgrown by hedges from private properties in the Bogward area. Cllr Black replied that one could phone the council and they would approach owners of offending hedges to request proper maintenance. And would give them a month to get it done.

4.2.7. Possible Future School

Mr Goudie commented that in context of the item in the press recently of the planner who wants to build 850 houses to the west of the town, it was again being stressed that Fife Council wanted to provide

another school. Mr Goudie thought that there seemed to be a contrast between the present cut back and the medium term strategy. Cllr Black said that when she raised that sort of argument the Head of Education said that if a school was needed it would be built when the house were up. It was a case of wait and see where the demand might come from for a new school. Cllr Liston reminded the meeting that there no such application has been made yet for such a development and that developers wouldn't necessarily be willing to build a school.

4.3. Cllr Liston

4.3.1. Local Plan – Route for Railway

Cllr Liston said that in the local plan the route for the railway had been identified at the North Haugh but hadn't taken it as far as the connection with the main line. She would continue to press for the council to identify the route out to the main line connection.

4.3.2. Pedestrian Access to Recycling Centre

Cllr Liston will still be pushing for pedestrian access when this facility is opened.

4.3.3. Changes in Structure of Environmental Services Management.

Cllr Liston had heard about changes to take place in the way the Environmental Services management was structured. Instead of an area responsibility, managers would have a Fife-wide role in a particular area of responsibility. Cllr Liston while acknowledging that what was happening might be okay, appeared to go against the original intention to decentralise services when Fife Council was formed.

4.3.4. Environmental Services – Student clear out.

Cllr Liston has been concerned about the way in which the clear out of HMOs and other student properties takes place. She has noted the tendency for students to leave out bins and material in plastic bags at the end of term. This can cause various problems and Cllr Liston expressed the desire that the likes of HMO owners could have it written into their licences the need to get any clear out properly organised avoiding any problems, or for the owners to be given the option of having Fife Council collect items for a fee. A similar problem also occurred when second home owners left out bins several days before the collection date. She felt that there was room for improvement.

4.3.5. Spider Park (Skating Park)

Cllr Liston had had a complaint about under age drinking at this park. She had reported it to Inspector Thomson.

4.3.6. HMO B & B

Because of a shortage of accommodation for homeless persons, Fife Council is having to use B & Bs again, but wants to ensure that any accommodation used is registered as an HMO and will give a better service to homeless persons. So far there are no such properties in St Andrews but Cllr Liston had seen an advert in the Citizen looking for such places in this area, so it could happen eventually. She acknowledged the shortage of homeless accommodation.

4.3.7. Langlands Primary School Mural

The Board at Langlands Primary School was concerned about a mural done some time ago with the assistance of an artists from the Crawford Centre. The Board thought that this mural should go to the town and the Crawford Centre director is looking at a possible site.

4.3.8. Kilrymont Road Flooding

Cllr Liston talked about the impasse over the inundations which various residents were experiencing from the fields above them. Both owners and Scottish Water appear to be passing the buck about responsibility for what has to be done. Cllr Liston spoke to Ross Finney whom she hoped could press Scottish Water on the matter.

4.3.9. Rail Flexi Pass

First Scot Rail had emailed Cllr Liston about a ten journey flexi ticket useable within one month for single journeys, now available from Leuchars to Edinburgh for £80.

4.3.10. Question from Mr Peterson about loss of facilities in town Hall due to Crawford Centre use of part of Hall

Mr Peterson asked in Fife Council might consider reviewing costs of the use of the Town Hall as some facilities might be out of use to local groups while the Crawford Centre was in residence in part of the Town Hall. Cllr Liston said she'd been assured that users of the Town Hall complex would be consulted but would check further.

4.3.11 Poor State of Metal Railings at Cliffs near Castle.

Mr Peterson had noticed the poor condition of metal railings at the cliff near the castle. He wondered of anything was to be done, as he felt there was an accident waiting to happen due to the extent of corrosion of some railings at the highest point. Cllr Melville thanked Mr Peterson for raising the issue. She'd see if it could be added to the application for the work being planned for the area at the Scores where the wall is being replaced by railings.

4.3.12. Western Cemetery Gates

Ms Uprichard raised the issue about the state of the Western Cemetery gates, which she said were in a very bad state, flaking and rusty. Ms Uprichard had offered to pay for repainting the gates herself. No one had got back to her on the matter from the Council. Cllr Melville said she'd try to get to the bottom of the matter.

4.3.13. Play Park Upgrades.

Mr Crichton had noted that Fife Council had £2 million to upgrade play parks. He hoped that some of that money would go into upgrading East Bents play area given the proximity of the Caravan Park etc.

4.3.14. Problems of children entering gardens from Park

Ms Lesurf wondered if there was any chance of prickly bushes being planted to prevent children entering gardens in her area, which back on to the park. She said that there was occasional vandalism taking place when children entered gardens. Prickly bushes might discourage them.

4.3.15. Littering by Madras pupils near Balrymonth Court at lunch time.

Mr Holdsworth said that after a previous meeting problems with litter had quietened down, but were now becoming a problem again with a neighbour recently filling three bags with litter. He wondered what could be done about it. Cllr Liston said that warning letters had been sent to parents though she was a bit pessimistic about what could be done.

4.3.16. Fifestyle Card

Mr Holdsworth reminded Cllr Liston about the late arrival of Fifestyle cards and her promise to check out the reason for their late arrival. Cllr Liston acknowledged she'd forgotten to email the council official responsible on the matter, but believed that there had been a general backlog.

4.3.17. Litter in Church Square

Mr Fraser said he'd been approached by a lady in Church Square, who'd commented upon the litter. He wondered what could be done to improve the situation. Cllr Liston told the meeting that she'd been told that St Andrews was 85% clear of litter. She wondered if the Church Square situation had been a one off situation.

4.3.18. Rail Link in Draft Local Plan

Mr Goudie wondered how the Council had resolved the route for the rail link in the draft local plan. Cllr Liston said that a dotted line representing the possible railway came in on the plan just south of the road. It stopped at the Gateway though she'd have preferred that it ended up by the bus station as part of an integrated transport link. Mr Beech wondered where the car parking would go if a railway was built? Mr Goudie commented that the realistic assessment was that there would be some transfer from car to rail but not 100%, which meant that Mr Beech had a very valid point. In particular in the context where the university might put up more buildings on the North Haugh the whole long term planning of the eastern end of the North Haugh needed to be thought about very carefully.

5. Planning Committee**5.1. Minutes****5.1.1. St Leonards Fields development**

Ms Uprichard had received an intentions letter from the Reporter of the Planning Enquiry who appeared minded to approve the proposed development for 24 flatted dwellings subject to Section 75. Ms Uprichard had written back to the reporter, commenting that she was sceptical of the effectiveness of that condition based on past experience in St Andrews, when a developer had greatly exceeded the number of HGV trips they'd been allowed to make. Dr Goudie expressed his regret that the Reporter was minded to approve the St Leonards Field application.

5.1.2. Ottakars Book Shop Air Conditioning

Ms Uprichard mentioned that the saga of Ottakars was still around after two years. She was concerned about the effects on the health of the elderly couple living above the air conditioning and feared that it could result in a tragic end given the effect on their health. She asked Cllr Melville if she had any update on the matter. Cllr Melville replied that she had raised it with the head of local services because of the seriousness of the situation for the couple and the long delays. She had also asked Roy Stewart of Environmental Services if his department had been doing anything to sort out the problem. She had also spoken to Jim Birrell, given the delay to applications and is to meet him in a few days. She remains concerned about the situation and will keep trying to get it resolved. Mr Holdsworth said that the wife of the couple had commented that they were close to a breakdown. Ms Uprichard said that there had been an enforcement notice issued by the Council last year on both visual and noise grounds but because there was no date on it officials had been able to ignore it, a situation which she felt was ludicrous.

5.1.3. St Andrews Bay Departure Hearing

Ms Uprichard informed the meeting that this hearing is due to come up after the summer recess.

5.1.4.. Fordlehill Development Proposals

Ms Uprichard had read that this had been refused for inclusion in the local plan.

5.1.5. Structure Plan –

Ms Uprichard said that the public had six weeks from today to object to the Structure Plan. She felt that this was the last chance for objecting. She had prepared a note to aid anyone not familiar with writing such a letter and passed around copies to the meeting. She'd also made copies of a note [Appendix 2] and wanted council members to take 20 each and pass on to their friends and family to help in the rapid spread of the information required to write a letter of objection. Dr Goudie considered that it was a matter, which needed to be publicised as widely as possible so that local people could object. He felt that this was a key issue and was going to shape the future development of the town for many years. He commented that even the affordable housing element mentioned could be a mirage as much such

housing did not remain affordable after a number of years to residents on low incomes. He voiced the view that the timing of the period for objection was going to be difficult given that it ended during the first part of the school holidays when peoples' minds might be on their plans for their holidays, rather than writing an objection. Dr Goudie proposed the production of a newsletter to be distributed as soon as possible to alert local people, as well as giving them a framework on which to base their letters of objection.

Mr Beech wondered whether there would be any consideration of affordable rented housing as he felt that many local residents on low incomes would not be able to buy even affordable housing. He felt that we should be putting pressure on Fife Council about ensuring the availability of affordable rented housing for local residents. Cllr Liston said that she supported this idea and planned to pressure the Council to ensure that such housing was part of the local plan. She commented that the pressure area status designation, which for the next few years blocked the right of residents to buy their council houses, would encourage social housing providers to build more rented housing, especially if this period of this status was extended. Mr Beech also asked what had happened to the money raised from the selling of council houses. Cllr Liston said that the way the sales had been structured with the tenants discount meant that you didn't get the money in to replace housing sold. Mr MacDonald reflected upon the changes in the way housing entitlement was allocated from the days of the Town Council when one had to be a local resident or work in the town to the changes when the Homeless Persons Act was introduced, and the impact of that legislation on who could come to St Andrews.

Mr McLeod referring back to the structure plan said that it had been suggested to him that maybe we should object not just to plans for St Andrews, but to the wider area, as this might carry more weight. Ms Uprichard felt that it was still appropriate for St Andrews people to concentrate their concerns on the town itself. Dr Goudie suggested that we should perhaps attack the structure plan on all levels. He'd discussed the wider implications in his article for St Andrews in Focus.

Dr Goudie proposed the production of a newsletter from the Community Council to alert St Andrews citizens to the timescale to appeal against the Structure Plan. Given the tight timescale he sought Community Council's approval in principle to allow the Planning Committee or at a specially convened meeting to get together as a matter of urgency to decide the content, get it set up and printed and distributed during June. He encouraged other Community Council members who were interested to attend any meeting. Mrs Tricker suggested that the Community Council had sufficient funds to pay for a newsletter and distribution.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. World Heritage

Dr Goudie expressed concern at the attempt by Mr Brocklebank to imply that St Andrews Community Council was joining the campaign, whereas Dr Goudie had understood that the Council was joining a body to explore the viability of applying for World Heritage status. Mr Holdsworth said he'd had a meeting with Ted Brocklebank in Cupar to clarify the situation, however he wasn't certain how much Mr Brocklebank had taken on board in relation to the Council's position. Ms Uprichard had attended the debate in the Scottish Assembly and had thought that Mr Brocklebank and another MSP had spoken well, but a third had been a bit negative, partly because of the Council's reported reservations at offering clear support. Ms Uprichard felt that we should have expressed support for the idea. Dr Goudie replied that the Community Council had been uncertain about the planning implications. Mrs Lesurf asked about the content and conclusion of the parliamentary debate. Ms Uprichard said that there had been no definite conclusion, and was concerned that the reportedly negative stance of the Community Council wouldn't scupper the idea. Taking up a point made by Mr Lindsay, Dr Goudie asked if the Community Council was happy to agree that the Chairman had issued an accurate statement on the decision taken at the previous meeting- This was accepted unanimously.

6.2. Ship to Ship Oil Transfer

Mr Marks's correspondence with the secretary of Kennoway Community Council was noted. Mr Crichton asked how we could support this when the Community Council had not supported a request for support by Clatto Community Council when it was opposing a proposed Windfarm in that area. Mr Lindsay explained that the Ship to Ship oil transfer was not a contentious issue, while the Windfarm which he personally would have favoured was a more contentious matter. Dr Goudie commented that Mr Crichton had a valid point and that we should try to be consistent in our approach to any requests from other councils on matters not directly of relevance to St Andrews.

6.3. Removal of BT Payphones

Mr Marks's correspondence to Sir Menzies Campbell on this matter was noted for the minutes. Cllr Liston said that she'd also written and had received a reply, which included a request to Alistair Darling, Minister for his thoughts on this matter. She hoped to hear more by next month.

6.4. St. Andrews Victoria

There was a copy of the correspondence between the secretary and the Australian side in Appendix I, noted for the record.

6.5. Reports from Representatives

6.5.1. St Andrews Day Reception

Mr Crichton informed the Community Council that it would be difficult for Recreation Committee members to become involved in this event as they were already committed to the preview and reception of the Art and Photographic Competition on the 29th November. They were also busy in the couple of weeks leading up to that event. Mr Crichton was however happy to help in organising invitations and had a list which he could use as the basis for those to be invited.

6.5.2. Common Good Fund

Mr Crichton had the accounts of the Common Good Fund and was concerned that there was no note of what assets the Common Good Fund held. With a note of their value, income earned etc. Mr Crichton said he would be writing to Mike Melville in Fife Council for a list of the assets.

6.5.3. Hogmanay Ceilidh update

Mr Crichton reported the progress in organising this event. They had the band, the hall, and the bar, this latter to be run by St Andrews Football Club Social Club with profits going back into the Club and benefiting the youngsters involved with the club. On the catering side a definite caterer had to be identified but Mr Crichton hoped that a local group would take this on to make money for their cause. Similarly Mr Crichton hoped that the raffle would be run by local youth groups such as the scouts and guides.

6.5.4 World Class

Mr MacDonald reported that he had attended the last two meeting of World Class. At the earlier meeting 5 weeks ago he'd heard a brief comment about a proposal for possible development at the West Sands in the form of a restaurant and toilet block. He felt that this was a proposal to keep an eye on. At the more recent meeting he'd heard some details about a proposal by Maries Cassels to run an Ice Festival located in the forecourt of the Madras College in South Street with a temporary skating rink constructed for a period from the end of November to late January. Mr MacDonald thought that we should look at it with interest. When asked by Dr Goudie whether Mrs Cassels had spoken to the school and how it would fit in around their work, Mr MacDonald said that there was speculation that Madras in South Street would go to a developer, and this might allow this project to take place in the winter with the forecourt as a car park in the summer. Dr Goudie commented that we'd have to watch that one! Cllr Melville added that the Community Council should keep a watch for the second stage of work at the West Sands, which was being negotiated. World Class had been involved in the first stage of development at the Bruce Embankment, which had turned out well. Dr Goudie agreed that the Community Council would be interested in hearing more about that development and becoming involved in the planning stage to ensure that things were better thought through.

6.6. 200 Club

Mr Douglas reported his inability for a variety of reasons to continue to run this club, and was happy that Mr Lindsay had agreed to take over its running. Dr Goudie thanked Mr Douglas for his running of the 200 Club and asked if the Council were happy for Mr Lindsay to take on this role. Mr Crichton reminded the meeting that historically the 200 Club had come under the aegis of the Recreation Committee. Mr Lindsay wanted to make the process of the running of the 200 Club was much more public. Mr Douglas in reply to a question from Ms Lesurf, gave an historical background to the club, its function, structure and who could benefit. Mr Peterson asked if Mr Douglas could give the requested report on the past year's running of the 200 Club. Mr Douglas apologised that he couldn't do that this month, but that a report would be forthcoming by next month.

6.7. Appointment of a New Treasurer

Dr Goudie informed the Community Council that a new treasurer had to be appointed as Mrs Tricker had resigned. Without a treasurer the Community Council couldn't function. Mr Lindsay asked how much work the job entailed. Mrs Tricker said that it was not an onerous job. The bulk of the work was preparing accounts for the AGM, otherwise occasional cheques to be paid out and occasional trips to deposit money at the bank were the only other jobs. Mrs Tricker was prepared to assist a new treasurer in learning the ropes. Mr Lindsay agreed (reluctantly) to take on this role as no one else appeared to be prepared to volunteer to take on the role. Mr Crichton wondered whether it would be a good idea to have a list of assets belonging to the Community Council. He cited the Muir Trophy, which is pure silver, which is currently looked after by the Museums Service. Mrs Tricker said she would be happy to take details of any assets. Mr Lindsay acknowledged that the Community Council did have some assets such as the Chairman's Chain, though some such as an old word processor weren't worth a lot.

6.8. Fife Structure Plan

The article in relation to the Structure Plan had already been mentioned. No further discussion took place.

6.9. Any Other Matters Arising

6.9.1. Traffic/Pedestrian Crossing Lights – Largo Road

Dr Goudie raised this issue, which had been brought up the previous month. He asked Cllr Liston for an update. Cllr Liston reported that the [problem was something to do with the primary and secondary set of lights. Colin Stirling had a look at the lights and had assessed that one set of lights was obscuring the other. He told Cllr Liston that they could sort something out..

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Recreation Committee Report

7.1.1. New Constitution for St Andrews in Bloom Committee

Mr Peterson, reported that a new constitution was circulating for this committee. He wanted the new constitution approved by the Community Council. He thanked Bill Sangster without whom he said there would not be a St Andrews in Bloom Committee. He suggested that Mr Sangster should be given a round of applause to show the Community Council's appreciation of his sterling work in this area. Mr Peterson hoped that with a proper committee they could give Mr Sangster proper support in this matter. Dr Goudie asked why the need to make a decision was urgent and whether members could read the constitution and

make a formal decision next month. Mr Peterson replied that he wanted to ensure that any decisions made by the committee would come under the Community Council insurance and our charitable status. He would be happy to let a formal decision be taken next month as long as he could be certain that they were covered by the insurance. Mr Lindsay backed this idea and suggested that the constitution document could be put into the secretary to, include in next month's papers. Mr Peterson was quite happy to accept that situation. Mr Peterson said that there would be an annual report with a proper financial statement at the end of this financial year. Mr Peterson then reported in detail about the types of displays they were planning. He was hoping to have a meeting of the committee by the 13th June at his house.

7.1.2 Bandstand Concert Volunteer Support

Mr Peterson had circulated a form requesting names of anyone willing to help with the Bandstand Concerts last month. He'd only had three volunteers excluding himself. He was concerned that as he'd asked the bands to come, he'd have to cancel the bands on the days when no volunteers were available to assist. There would still be a financial cost, as he would feel duty bound to pay the bands. He hated to think what the town would think when it was revealed that the Community Council couldn't provide at least one member to assist the bands at each concert. He reminded the Councillors what was entailed in this role. He appealed to the Councillors not to let the side down. Mrs Tricker confirmed that the task was a simple and easy one not taking more than 10 minutes at either end of the day and was not an onerous task. Mr Lindsay backed up Mrs Tricker's comments. Mr Peterson still felt that we had to sort out something to keep our credibility. He said that he would be available at least a couple of times and would be able fill in, in an emergency, but couldn't commit himself to turn up every Sunday.

8. New Business

8.1. Byre Theatre

Mrs Tricker said that the Byre Theatre was the only producing theatre in Fife. Its grant from the Scottish Art Council was to be cut by two thirds. This would mean that if the Byre was to continue producing plays it would have to charge West End prices for its productions. She was asking the Community Council to support the appeal by the Byre Theatre to the Arts Council for further funding by writing a letter in support of the theatre, emphasising its importance to the area. Mr Lindsay said that he would support Mrs Tricker's request. He gave the background to the Byre situation. Mrs Tricker in response to a comment about the fact that the SAC was merging with Scottish Screen said that it was withdrawing funding to a lot of bodies to support their national theatre, before it merged with Scottish Screen. She added that the reduced funding wasn't even guaranteed for more than one year, and that the theatre had been informed that it would have to continue to apply on an annual basis. Mrs Tricker to critical comments about the recent ambitious development of the Byre informed Community Councillors that the Byre had originally only requested funds from SAC to be repaired, but the SAC had insisted on the more ambitious rebuilding at considerable cost. Mrs Tricker agreed to write the letter to the SAC on behalf of the Community Council, rather than the secretary. Mrs Tricker also wondered if the Fife Councillors could talk about the problem in relevant committees. Mr Sangster wondered if the Byre had contacted their MPs. There was also a suggestion from Mrs Methven that the Byre could try looking at a different route for funding from SAC, such as the audience development programme. Mrs Tricker agreed to put that idea forward to the Byre..

8.2. Blue Flag Awards

Mr Lindsay while acknowledging that Cllr Melville's update had covered most of this matter wondered if the Council might want to put on something for local workers to celebrate the award. He acknowledged that it could still be discussed at the July Meeting. Mr Sangster felt that the workers didn't get the recognition that they deserved and perhaps we could give them some form of recognition such as a reception. Mr Peterson agreed that it the workers were deserving of some recognition and reminded the Community Council that St Andrews was unique in having two blue flag beaches. Mr Sangster suggested again that a reception and perhaps a certificate might be an appropriate way to show our appreciation of their hard work. Dr Goudie suggested that the details of any recognition could be discussed next month.

8.3. Small Awards

Mr Lindsay agreed that this topic could be put back until the July meeting. Mr Lindsay had just wanted to see if people were happy with that sort of idea and didn't require people to do anything.

8.4. Letter about the Loches Alliance

Dr Goudie felt that it was useful to have the letter on file describing how they were proceeding with cultural relations. A brief discussion followed about the distinction between twinning and the idea of a cultural alliance. Concerns were raised that in relation to funding support from the EEC, we might be considered to be twinned with Loches. Mr Sangster explained that the European Community recognised the difference although any application might be done on the same form. Dr Goudie thought that we had to accept Loches Alliance assurances that this wasn't twinning by the back door.

8.5. May Day Local Holiday

The local spring bank holiday was to be on the 14th May instead of the 7th May.. This was partly due to traffic congestion which becomes much worse if the holidays for the Council coincide with the bank holiday. Traffic congestion on days when parking wardens are not on duty becomes much worse. There were no objections.

8.6. Scheme for Community Councils

For information only.

8.7. Ideas for Community Council Seminars

For information, though Mr Fraser felt that an explanation by a qualified person about the planning

process and how it works might be a subject worth putting forward. This was noted for the record.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chairman

No report as the Chairman was on holiday.

9.1.1. Licensing of St Andrews Community Council Coat of Arms – Appendix D.

Mr Lindsay said that he'd emailed Patrick Marks to send the details of the Arms Marketing people on to the enquirer. He didn't think that there was much more we could do. Mr Sangster is awaiting an update on the accounts and is in contact with Mr Inch, solicitor about the need for a financial statement which should be made quarterly, but hasn't been. Mrs Tricker said she'd received a cheque for £1000 in relation to the sale of the coat of arms by St. Andrews Ltd.

9.2. Treasurer's Report

Mrs Tricker reported that the trust fund money had been transferred to the Community Council Account – just over £4000. She'd also as noted above received a £100 from St Andrews Ltd and £750 for the floral displays. The account had a total of £28730.17. Mr Peterson advised Mrs Tricker that they'd put an advert for the bandstand concerts in St Andrews in Focus at a cost of £175.00.

9.3. Secretary's Report

See Appendix for details of correspondence received. Mr Lindsay on Mr Marks's behalf suggested that anyone wanting to see correspondence ask him at the end of the meeting.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Questions to Mr Sangster

See items 4.3.10 & 4.3.11 under Cllr Liston

Appendix 1 – Bus Station Report

Circulated by Cllr Frances Melville

Update – 1st June

Project recovery team met last Thursday.

A detailed audit of each site is currently taking place to allow documents and drawings to be updated for completion contract.

After exploring all options, and taking further advice from Legal and Procurement, it was agreed that we will follow a tender procedure when appointing a 'completion contractor'. An advert is now being drafted and a list of potential companies is being prepared.

The contract has not yet been terminated – much discussion took place over this and it was agreed that we could in fact leave it until we are ready to restart the procurement process before issuing the formal notice (probably about another week). The Administrator has still made no formal contact.

We are still liaising with Tozer Gallagher regarding the Contractors bond. We have also set up a new costing system in order that all additional costs associated with the project recovery can be accounted.

The continued hire of portacabins, fencing, phone and electricity connections etc. has been arranged, as has site security (over-night).

WSP are liaising with sub-contractors (17 in total, 6 of these from Fife) to establish current position with regards the contracts they had with Dew. Each has been advised of the Council's position in terms of not being able to become involved in any financial discussions between them and the Administrator.

Lastly, we are now looking at minor works that could be undertaken to allow the temporary arrangements to continue and cater for any increased passenger volumes during the summer months – eg at St Andrews we will look at ways of freeing up the car parking spaces in Petherum Bridge that are currently used by layover buses.

With regards press, its likely that we will issue a statement this week giving reassurances that we are already doing all we can to ensure the delays being experienced are minimised and that we will continue to give the priority to this project. We will also endeavour to give reassurances that the additional costs incurred by Fife Council in recovering the project will be covered by the Bond and at the end of the day, our project budget will still allow us to deliver the works to the original specification.

Dave- 5th June

Appendix 2 – Structure Plan Note

Circulated by Penny Uprichard, with copies for distribution

The Draft Structure Plan – 2006/2026

It is likely that the Structure Plan will be sent to Scottish Ministers next week (the week of 5th June). A consultation period of six weeks will be advertised.

The first draft of the Structure Plan was launched in March 2005. There were six documents over 650 pages. The consultation period was 6 weeks. In March 2006 the Finalised Draft version was published. St Andrews, Cupar and Dunfermline were designated by Fife Council as 'Strategic Development Areas', with

a minimum of 1,200 houses (Cupar – 1,450, Dunfermline – 4,550). The Draft says '*The strategy is to realise the potential of St Andrews as an economic driver for the whole of Fife...*' In a letter in April 2006, Mr Winter's department says '*Fife Council... does not consider that St Andrews has reached full capacity in terms of the total number of visitors it receives...*

The St Andrews Green Belt '*will be capable of being strongly defended*'. When asked why the words '*to encircle the town*' (from the 2002 Structure Plan) were omitted, an official said that it could not encircle the town as part of it would be in the sea.

The Finalised Draft was considered by the three Area Committees, who could only comment. The East Area Development Committee requested removal of the designation of the three S.D.As. mentioned above, and the distributor road in St Andrews. At this meeting Mr Robin Presswood of Dev. Services spoke of a discussion between Fife Council and a developers' consortium. He hoped that an agreement with them would be reached before the Structure Plan was approved. Where will this leave the planning process?

The Finalised Draft went to the Environment and Development Committee in Glenrothes 6th April. The Chairman said there was little need for debate, and he expected the draft to be approved. An amendment was put, proposing that growth should be applied selectively and focussed on Central Fife, the S.D.As. for St Andrews, Cupar and Dunfermline should be deleted, and the scale of housing should be reduced by one-third. This amendment was successful by 10 votes to 8. On 27th April the Draft Plan went to the full Fife Council, where the amendment was put as a motion. Labour Councillors were under a three line whip, and the motion was defeated by 43 votes to 29.

If the Structure Plan is approved by Ministers, it will mean a further 35,000 houses in Fife, with untold amounts of construction and infrastructure. The Plan is optimistic about affordable houses and services to be provided by developers. For example, in St Andrews it is said that the following will be 'developer funded'; water and drainage, serviced employment land, schools, distributor road, local transport improvements, public art, community facilities, healthcare, structural landscaping, integrated open space.

When many objections have been written, often the numbers drop when a second contribution is needed. It is essential that as many objections (not comments) as possible are sent to the Scottish Ministers, requesting an 'Examination in Public', and enclosing a copy of a first objection if one was sent. This plan is a juggernaut which will destroy St Andrews and Fife unless we do all we can to stop it.
