

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council Minutes – July 2006

Approved

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Chair: Donald Macgregor

1. Attendance:

Community Councillors

Richard Douglas, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Pete Lindsay, Donald Macgregor, Patrick Marks, Joe Peterson, Carole Tricker, Penny Uprichard, Ben MacLeod, George Davidson, Stuart Holdsworth, Elise Methven, Chris Lesurf, Dennis Macdonald.

Students' Association Representatives

Tom D'Ardenne, Laura Wilson.

Nominated

Jude Innes (Merchants Association).

Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Bill Sangster, Frances Melville.

Apologies

Sheila Black, Ken Crichton, Bette Christie.

Mr Macgregor welcomed Tom D'Ardenne, President of the Students Association and Laura Wilson, Director of Student Representation.

Mr Macgregor welcomed Sergeant Derek McEwan who introduced himself as the new duty sergeant for St Andrews area. He was standing in for Inspector Thomson. He offered to answer any questions, but was unable to stay long due to a duty matter in the East Neuk.

2. Minutes of June 2006 Meeting

Accepted as accurate.

3. Presentations

No presentations

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1 East Area Development Committee Meeting – Local Plan

Cllr Melville reported on the recent meeting, which was discussing the draft Local Plan. Councillors had hopes that the Plan would be an improvement, but upon viewing the maps brought to the meeting they were anything but happy. The maps had large hatched areas which were called master plans, which represented strategic development allocations of land for Cupar and St Andrews, which were different from the version they'd previously seen at the Local Office but had no briefing details to aid Councillors. There might be further opportunity to discuss the issues at the Environmental Development Committee Meeting on the 21st August. This Committee would be able to give views and make decisions on the Local Plan. There was also the possibility that Fife Council might go ahead regardless.

Councillor Melville also noted that an environmental report for the Local Plan hadn't been produced to date, so she had checked with the Scottish Executive and others, and had received advice that best practice would expect that an environmental report should be completed early in the process of producing a local plan. Fife Council staff had informed her at the meeting that the environmental report was still being finalised.

Mr Macgregor then explained for the benefit of the new student representatives the basic nature of the planning process that Cllr Melville was reporting to the meeting, as well as the controversy about the Structure Plan.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Ornamental Light – Town Hall

Cllr Sangster reported that the ornamental light by the front door was back *in situ* but was still not quite working. Hopefully this slight technical problem would be resolved soon.

4.2.2. Bassaguard

Cllr Sangster reported that Bassaguard will remain as an employer at the Largoward Road site until new sites have been sorted out. He was hopeful that the area would still be retained for light industry and business use. At present businesses on the site are on a yearly lease which is a deterrent to their development.

Dr Goudie commented that while welcoming the point about the Bassaguard area, he thought that we shouldn't be sidetracked on to the Local Plan at this stage. He felt that the Local Plan was a diversion and that Fife Council was using a bit of gamesmanship in its way of playing the planning game, with consultation taking place at a time when the World Cup and school holidays would be uppermost in many peoples' minds. He added that even if the draft Local Plan was viewed favourably by the Councillors and local people, it could still be objected to by developers.

The only fixed element in the Local Plan will be the figures in the Structure Plan, which will decide the token amount of housing for North East Fife. He was concerned that local communities unhappy with the proposed housing developments in their areas could be set against each other, further dividing opposition to the Structure Plan as a whole. He also pointed out that the number of houses proposed was a minimum of 1200 not a set 1200 as had been reported locally. He felt that this could create additional problems if opposing the Local Plan as the Structure Plan figures if unchanged would be the legal basis for future development.

4.3. Cllr Hill

Absent

4.4. Cllr Liston

4.4.1. Craigtoun Vintage Car Rally

Cllr Liston complimented Fife Council staff for their excellent organisation and work at this year's rally despite heavy rain during the latter part of the event.

4.4.2. MyFife Card delays

Cllr Liston had checked with the local Area Manager about delays experienced by some local people in receiving their cards. She was informed that it was a slight delay due to demand, but the backlog is now being tackled and everyone should soon have their cards.

Mr Fraser, while acknowledging the value of the card, commented that the surface of his card was wearing badly after only three months, so he couldn't see how it would last three years. He wondered if Fife could produce harder wearing cards.

4.4.3. Local Plan Meeting – Draft HMO policy

This will be discussed at the East Area Development Committee and the Environment Committee in August. This policy had so far involved consultation with stakeholders such as the University, the students and Residents Associations, but not the Community Council, which represents the local community generally. She hoped that there might be some way to consult with the Community Council to obtain its views as a body before these meetings, given that there is no full Community Council meeting before September.

4.4.4 Meeting about Bus Transport Problems

Cllr Liston had recently attended a meeting with Stagecoach representatives and Fife Council Transport officials. The meeting discussed problems relating to bus transport, particularly to Leuchars station. A problem of a lack of luggage space on the No. 99 buses was raised. The Stagecoach representatives indicated that the service hadn't been planned with the idea of users travelling to Leuchars to catch trains but as a service to Dundee. One of the Stagecoach representatives claimed that "no sane person would take a bus to get a train at Leuchars if they could drive to the station".

4.4.5 Stanks Park

Ms Lesurf asked Cllr Liston if she'd made any progress with her enquires to Fife Council about how the problems of vandalism would be tackled. Cllr Liston acknowledged that she was still awaiting a response. Ms Lesurf read out a statement about the continuing problems which included broken windows in her property and graffiti on her wall. Local youths had also been camping out in the park creating a nuisance at times for local residents. She noted that the Community Council had agreed to raise the matter with Fife Council last year, but no action had as far as she was aware had been taken to date by Fife Council or Fife Constabulary.

5. Planning Committee

5.1 Minutes

5.1.1. Draft Local Plan Meeting – 30th June

Ms Uprichard had attended this meeting on behalf of the Community Council.

5.1.2. Westburn Lane Appeal

Ms Uprichard had also attended the appeal relating to this planning proposal. She reported that there had not been time to finish the appeal and this would be concluded by written submission.

5.1.3. Other Planning Applications

Ms Uprichard briefly listed the planning applications discussed at their meeting on 26th June

1. Install replacement dormers, Steward's Flat, Links House, 13 The Links – NC
2. Erect 2 storey extension, The Old Course Hotel – application has been withdrawn – NC
3. Christian Institute (J.G. Innes) – canopy over two windows – NC
4. Central Bar, awning – NC

5.1.4. Comment on Local Plan

Ms Uprichard supported Dr Goudie's view that we shouldn't let ourselves be distracted by the Local Plan until the Structure Plan was finalised. She was also hopeful that the extent of protest of local people and others about the Structure Plan would make the Scottish Executive sit up and take notice of local opinion. Mr Lindsay asked Ms Uprichard when the consultation for the Local Plan was likely to begin. Ms Uprichard said that there was no date yet as the papers had just come out.

5.1.5. Newsletter

Ms Uprichard reported that 7,000 copies of the Newsletter detailing concerns about the Structure Plan had been distributed and an additional 1,000 had been distributed with the help of Ms Lesurf to other places in the town which would help widen public awareness. Mr Macgregor and others commented upon slight problems with distribution, which appeared a bit irregular and patchy. Mr Macgregor congratulated Ms Uprichard and Dr Goudie on the readability and quality of the newsletter.

5.1.6. Ottakar's planning application

The East Area Development Committee turned down Ottakar's application for its air conditioning. Ottakar's may appeal the decision.

5.1.7. Grange House planning application

The proposal to build an hotel and 12 Time Share properties in the grounds of Grange House was also turned down by the EADC.

5.1.8. Baker Lane planning application

The proposal to build a property in the grounds of a property in Baker Lane was also turned down.

5.1.9. Community Council objection to Structure Plan

Dr Goudie reminded the Community Council that it as a body hadn't submitted an objection, agreed to put together a draft for the next planning meeting in a week's time with a view to submitting it before the July 17th deadline.

5.1.10. Possible Future School site in St. Andrews

Mr Peterson asked Ms Uprichard if she thought the Community Council's position on the Structure Plan had been compromised by recent statements on the possible future siting of Madras College by the Chairman of the School Board of Madras College, Peter McKiernan, at the Madras Prize Day. Mr Macgregor believed that the School Board had been looking at various future options for the future of Madras College but hadn't made any firm decision about it's preferred choice of site. Mr Marks who had attended the Prize Day confirmed that Mr McKiernan had mentioned that one possible option for a future school was in the west of the town in association with the possible housing developments. Mr Lindsay felt that this was part of the debate going on and was only one of many views being aired.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Blue Flag Award Ceremony

Mr Macgregor asked if any Community Councillor would like to attend the Award Ceremony at Elie on the July 7th at 12.30pm. Mr D'Ardenne one of the new Student representatives said he'd be happy to attend on behalf of the Community Council.

6.2. St. Andrews Day Reception – 30th November

Mr Macgregor said that he and Mr McCartney had said at the last meeting that they'd try to get things going. He and Mr McCartney have the need to progress the organisation of the reception in mind, and will work on it after their respective summer holidays. The booking of the hall has been confirmed. Mr Macgregor hoped that they would get some assistance and commented that Mr Crichton had a long list of people who had helped the Community Council and could be invited.

6.3. Removal of BT Payphones

A letter had been received from Sir Menzies Campbell informing the Secretary that he'd written to the Chairman of BT Group to ask about their policy on removal of payphones. He was still awaiting a reply.

6.4. 200 Club

Mr Douglas will bring the 200 Club Report to the next meeting, at which time Mr Lindsay has offered to take over the running of the Club. Mr Macgregor thanked Mr Lindsay for offering to take over the running of the 200 Club.

6.5. Small Awards

Mr Lindsay suggested that we should give some recognition to local individuals and groups who have made a contribution to the community, such as fundraising for a worthy cause. He suggested certificates or letters, not financial rewards. He asked whether Community Councillors could keep an eye out for possible worthy causes.

6.6. Licensing of St Andrews Coat of Arms

Mr Macgregor had a meeting recently with Bob Inch, local solicitor who is handling the present contract, and representatives of the company, which has been awarded the right to use the Coat of Arms. Mr Macgregor was informed that there had been a delay because of the company's need to ensure a watertight legal deal to protect their use of the Coat of Arms abroad. They expect to have payments beginning within a few months. Mr Macgregor is to have a further meeting in January 2007 to get an

update on the sales of licensed products. He hoped that we would see money coming in next year. Mr Inch will continue to act on the Community Council's behalf in dealing with the contract.

6.7. Park & Ride

Ms Lesurf commented on inaccuracies in the leaflet produced for the Park & Ride scheme. Cllr Sangster agreed to speak to Peter Milne about the leaflet.

6.8. Reports from Representatives

6.8.1. Inter Club Liaison Committee Meeting

Mr Holdsworth reported that he had attended a meeting at the Links Trust of the Inter Club Liaison Committee meeting on the 8th June. He was not impressed by the meeting's assessment of the condition of local golf links.

6.9. Any other Matters Arising

6.9.1. St Andrews in Bloom Committee: New Constitution

This matter had been brought up at the June meeting, but had been put back to allow members to look at it in detail. Mr Peterson and the *ad hoc* St Andrews in Bloom committee discussed the proposed constitution at a further meeting and decided to make a couple of amendments to the original proposals. A major change was to be the date of the AGM, which Mr Peterson proposed should be in November instead of the end of June. He felt that this was a good time as it coincided with the end of the committee's work for one year, instead of coming in the middle of the season. It would allow a new committee to begin work from the start of the process. He was also proposing a minimum of four meetings per year. He asked for views from the Community Councillors present and was asking for the approval of the Community Council to formalise the committee's new constitution.

Ms Lesurf wondered about involving pupils from Madras College. Mr Peterson said he had no objection to a Madras pupil representative if anyone was interested enough in gardening. He added that the committee tried to be as diverse as possible with representatives from the Churches, University and other local organisations.

Mr Lindsay felt that it was sensible to move the AGM from June and added that the committee did allow for co-options in reply to Ms Lesurf's point.

Mr Douglas asked what would happen if there was no Community Council representation on the committee as the constitution didn't insist on the need to have a Community Council representative to allow it to exist. Mr Peterson was prepared to amend the constitution to add in such a condition if the Community Council required it. Mr Lindsay believed that there wasn't anything in the scheme for administration of Community Councils which necessitated such representation. Mr Douglas withdrew his suggestion concerned that the committee could be crippled if there was no Community Council member.

It was agreed that the original two amendments would stand. The new constitution was accepted without any dissent.

St Andrews in Bloom constitution approved.

6.9.2. Ship to Ship Oil Transfer

Mr Lindsay referred to 6.2. in the last Community Council meeting which had discussed this matter and in which Mr Crichton had asked whether we should be involved in something not directly affecting St Andrews. Mr Lindsay said he'd forgotten to remind members at the last meeting that the Community Council had agreed a year previously to support the Ship to Ship Oil Transfer opposition.

6.9.3. Cliff Top Railings between the Castle and the Harbour.

Mr Peterson asked for news on point 4.3.11 from the June meeting relating to the condition of the iron railings which act as a safety barrier on the cliffs between the castle and the harbour. Cllr Melville had undertaken to enquire with Fife Council. She had checked with Fife Council the day after the Community Council meeting and an official had eventually managed to inspect the railings concerned and had agreed that they were in a poor state and would require work to fix the problem. The only uncertainty for a time related to which department had the responsibility to fix them and who owned the railings. Mr Sangster said he'd emailed the Transportation Dept and had suggested possibly putting up danger signs until the work was completed.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation

7.1.1. Bandstand Concerts

Mr Peterson reported that they had found storage for the chairs for the bandstand concerts. The Sea Life Centre had kindly agreed to store in a way, which would be accessible but safe from theft or vandalism.

7.1.2. St Andrews Week Exhibition Poster

Ken Crichton will design this poster.

7.1.3 Ballots for Old Course

The secretary of the Recreation Committee is planning to write to the Links Trust to ask for a breakdown of the figures about use of the Old Course. There is concern that more access is being given in this way to out of town golfers through, thus reducing access to those who live in St Andrews. Mr Douglas suggested that they should ask for figures to include both local club members and those who live locally but aren't club members but use the residents' pass.

7.1.4. Community Council Trust Fund Money

Mr Peterson asked about the situation regarding the Trust Fund money. He was concerned that this large sum of money unless it was being used could be viewed as a way by Fife Council to cut some funding to the Community Council.

Mrs Tricker and Mr Lindsay explained that this money, which was in the general account, was not of interest to Fife Council. Fife Council would only be concerned financially with the grant it gives for the administration of the Community Council. If this was underspent, Fife Council might reduce the Community Council's funding. Mr Lindsay confirmed, by reading from his copy, that the scheme of administration allowed us to spend money we raise in any way we want (within the permitted goals of community councils).

7.1.5. Garden Competition

Mr Peterson informed the Community Council that posters for this competition are now available for distribution from Ken Crichton with details of how to enter.

7.1.6. Beautiful Scotland in Bloom

Judging for this will take place on 21st July in St Andrews with Mr Peterson and Mr Crichton accompanying the judges around the town.

8. New Business

8.1. Fairtrade Trade Town Sign Funding

Mr Marks brought forward this matter. He said that Fife Council had agreed to erect Fairtrade Town signs at three roads coming into the town in a partnership approach. They would be funding the bulk of the cost but would expect a contribution from the Fairtrade Group. Mr Marks said that the Fairtrade Group were concerned that any sizeable financial request would be beyond their means. Fife Council had suggested a possible contribution in the region of £100, from a total of around £500. He asked whether the Community Council would in principle support contributing towards the cost of a sign.

Mr Lindsay asked about location and size. Ms Uprichard while in favour of Fairtrade raised an objection to yet another sign at the entrance to the sign, believing it to be rather pointless, feeling that it would convey no information about the extent of availability of such products in the town, compared to small signs in shop windows where Fairtrade products were sold. Mr Peterson informed the Community Council that Peter Milne had told him that 3 signs would cost a total of £300 and would be added to existing town entrance signs. He would still like to see some contribution from the Fairtrade Group as he believed that they would stand to gain the most from the publicity. Mr Lindsay while acknowledging that the Fairtrade Group should consider making a contribution, argued that the signs would benefit the town more rather than the Fairtrade Group whom he felt would be "the unsung heroes" as was often the case in such campaigns. He was happy to suggest that the Community Council put a £100 towards the cost, as long as there was a small contribution from the Fairtrade Group. Dr Goudie after outlining the concept of the Fairtrade Campaign proposed that the Community Council contribute £100 with no requirement from the Fairtrade Group to make a donation. This was seconded by Mr Peterson and the Community Council agreed to the donation without dissent.

£100 donation agreed

8.2. Best Kept Village and Town Competition

A letter from Mr Jeffcott was received – see Appendix A of the agenda. Mr Peterson explained that he'd tried to contact Mr Jeffcott earlier in the day but had missed him. He would try again and would try and see if the next visit to St. Andrews in this competition could coincide with the Beautiful Scotland in Bloom judges visit in July. He would try with Mr Crichton to accompany the judges on the day of their visit.

8.4. Review of Bye-Law Prohibiting Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor in Designated Public Places

A letter had been received seeking the Community Council views on the effectiveness of the bye-law governing Alcohol Free zones.

Mr Lindsay commented that the Police in his knowledge had mixed feelings about the legislation and he commented on the way the prohibition constrained the opportunity for tourists to enjoy a drink outside in the warm summer evenings. He believed that the Alcohol Free zone bye-law should be critically reviewed as to their true effectiveness, given the apparent reluctance of the police to enforce them consistently.

Mr Douglas had asked for statistics on people successfully prosecuted without success. He added that the Criminal Justice Law (Scotland) had provision within it to remove alcohol from anyone causing problems, and as a major piece of legislation would be dealt with more seriously by the Procurator Fiscal.

Cllr Liston also raised similar concerns and she had also discovered that statistics relating to the bye-law use were not kept separately for St Andrews. She thought that other legislation including the use of ASBO's was more effective.

Mr Peterson pointed out that the letter only asked for our view on the effectiveness of the bye-law and wasn't proposing to abolish them.

Mr Lindsay pointed out that part of the problem was the short time scale of this consultation, which arrived after the last Community Council meeting with a deadline just after the this one. He suggested that we should write to Fife Council to point out this difficulty. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to Fife Council and point out our concerns about the problem of timescale and a need to have more notice to provide a coherent response.

Secretary to write to Fife Council**8.5. 27th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences**

A letter had been received in relation to this event and to Community Council participation in the opening ceremony. Mr Crichton and Mr Fraser expressed an interest in participating, the latter indicating that he was also registered as a delegate.

Mr Lindsay pointed out that a major aspect of the start of the Congress would be the presentation of the Gofannon which he felt the Community Council Chairman should be present to receive. He also pointed out that there was a need to know how many Community Councillors would be involved. It was agreed that this should be checked out and Mr Dennis informed of who would be attending. Mr Douglas also expressed an interest in attending.

8.6. New Cosmos Centre Community Education Worker

Izzy White, the new Cosmos Community Education worker had written to the Community Council asking if she could attend to give a short presentation about her role. Mr Marks indicated that he had written back suggesting a visit in September.

8.7. Scottish Language Dictionary

A letter had been received by the Secretary asking the Community Council if it would like to make a donation to this Club which was set up to allow access to books in the Scots language. Mr Macgregor moved that we give a donation of £20, with Mrs Tricker seconding the proposal. There was no dissent.
£20 donation to SLD agreed – Treasurer to send donation.

8.8. Proposed Planning Bill Legislation Meeting

Appendix D contained the minutes of this meeting, plus a letter detailing a proposed meeting with all Fife MSPs to be held in July. Mr Macgregor asked if any Community Councillor would like to attend the meeting. Ms Uprichard said that she would be prepared to attend.

8.9. Web Site Renewal

Community Council agreed to the Web Site renewal without dissent.

Renewal agreed

9. Reports from Office Bearers**9.1. Chair**

Nothing further to report.

9.2. Treasurer

Mrs Tricker reported on recent financial matters including:

1. £2,000 was received from the Common Good Fund for the Bandstand Concerts
2. Current balance is £28,387.03.
3. Request from Keith McCartney for a grant of £285 towards the cost of Madras Pipe Band leading the St Andrews Day parade on December 3rd. This request was supported with Mr Holdsworth proposing and Mr Macgregor, Chairman seconding the proposal.
Grant of £285 agreed to be paid to Madras College Pipe Band as requested by treasurer.
4. Mrs Tricker is still continuing in the post of treasurer, with the assistance of Mr Lindsay.

9.3 Secretary

Mr Marks said that he was willing to let members see any correspondence or answer any questions on correspondence received.

Mr Peterson commented on the correspondence about the mobile CCTV used to spot people spreading litter and dog owners allowing their dogs to foul without picking up the offending material. Mr Douglas said that there had been people fined as a result of such mobile CCTV activity. Mr Lindsay expressed scepticism about the value of the exercise, given that CCTV already existed in the areas covered. He felt that it was as much an exercise in "showing the flag" rather than anything with any point and a waste of public money.

10. Any Other Competent Business**10.1. Town and Gown Committee**

Ms Uprichard asked if there had been any meeting of this committee recently. Mr Macgregor said that there had been no recent meetings.
