

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Draft Minutes – November 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:

Community Councillors

Les Beech, Ken Crichton, George Davidson, Richard Douglas, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Stuart Holdsworth, Pete Lindsay, Dennis Macdonald, Donald Macgregor, Patrick Marks, Joe Peterson, Maggie Stracey, Carole Tricker, Penny Uprichard.

Students' Association Representatives

Tom D'Ardenne, Matthew Guest

Nominated

Jude Innes

Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Bill Sangster, Sheila Black

Apologies

Frances Melville, Chris Lesurf, Laura Wilson, Ben McLeod

2. Minutes of November 2006 Meeting

2.1. Correction re St Andrews in Bloom Committee

Mr Peterson informed the meeting that the last minute should be amended to make clear that Mrs Macdonald is the *Convenor* of the St Andrews in Bloom Committee, not Chair [October minutes 7.1.1.].

Accepted as accurate.

3. Presentations

3.1. Sergeant Grenville Wilson, Fife Constabulary, St Andrews

3.1.1 Number of Prosecutions under Alcohol Free-Zone Bye-Law

Mr Douglas asked Sgt Wilson how many prosecutions and arrests there have been under this bye-law and if any of these would be covered by national law as well as bye-law. Sgt Wilson agreed to research the statistics for the next meeting.

3.1.2 CCTV query

Mr Lindsay pointed out an outstanding query from the previous month about CCTV and traffic offenders entering the West Port the wrong way. This had been raised by Mr Beech who had suffered narrow escapes from drivers unaware of the one way nature of the West Port. Mr Beech questioned the value of having CCTV if it wasn't looked at.

Sgt Wilson explained the set up, and the way in which operators monitored cameras all over Fife. He felt that there had to be a balance of management of the way CCTV cameras could be used for traffic incidents, as there are over 70 cameras in Fife, and only a few operators, who had to prioritise incidents which would require to be followed up. Sgt Wilson suggested that it could require operators having to check several days footage to determine the offenders. He agreed to look into the problem.

Cllr Sangster offered to arrange to take members to see the CCTV control room. he'd organise a date for a visit if he had a list of interested persons.

3.2. Affordable Housing

Presentation by Mr David Robertson, Fife Council Housing Service

Mr Robertson described the statutory requirement of Fife Council to prepare local housing strategies under the Housing Scotland Act 2001. Fife have a plan for 2003 – 2008. Fife audits the strategy annually with a major review towards the end of the period. The aim of the strategy he said was to set appropriate housing need targets. The housing needs that are contained within the local housing strategy are a material consideration for local development and structure plans. He acknowledged that in consultations with local people in East Fife, housing has been raised time and time again as a concern.

He then went on to discuss affordable housing need, saying that the local housing strategy had to address the housing needs of the area, including affordable housing. Numerous studies he said had been done to assess this need. He described the key indicators for housing need. Over 10,000 households Fife-wide had some sort of affordable housing need. St Andrews he acknowledged had a higher need than other parts of Fife, with a highly pressured housing market with housing prices higher by a considerable margin than the rest of Fife at £225,000 an average house price. It also had the lowest percentage of social needs housing provision than other parts of Fife, with the highest level of affordable housing need twice that of any other local housing area in Fife at around 30%. The percentage equated to some 1828 households with a new build need of over 1000 units.

Fife Council has been trying various measures to deal with this problem. One policy has been to decrease the Council Tax discount on 2nd homes from 50% to 10%. Money raised from this additional revenue has by Scottish Executive requirements to be invested in affordable housing. Funding for new developments of social housing has also been funded from bodies such as Community Scotland, the money and other grant sources. Mr Robertson felt that the council had done very well in acquiring funding to allow for more building than would otherwise have been possible in recent years Fife – wide. New build housing projects in conjunction with Social Housing Associations will take place using this money. The use of the power to apply pressured area status under the Housing Scotland Act has been granted for the St Andrews area and East Neuk area this year. This has suspended the right to buy council houses.

According to Mr Robertson one of the main weapons which the council was using, was the approach it was taking through the structure plan with development powers. However Mr Robertson pointed out that issues such as land values and lack of infrastructure were contributing to the problems facing Housing Associations building as much as might be required in certain areas. A possible solution which Fife Council has developed according to Mr Robertson has been the requirement of housing developments over a certain size to have up to 30% affordable housing. This policy had been consulted upon, and the Council approved the policy on the 17th October at the Environmental Health and Resources Committee. Decisions about what affordable housing is included in any site will depend upon a range of factors such as accessibility to local amenities. Mr Robertson mentioned other forms of possible affordable housing other than rented, such as shared ownership which the council would support where appropriate. In the local plan as it stands at present with development of around 1200 houses, up to 30% of that number would hopefully be built as affordable housing.

Mr Macgregor thanked Mr Robertson for his contribution on this issue. Mr Marks asked about Fife Council's policy on the requirement of developers installing renewable sources of energy and high standards of energy conservation might be given that many families in such houses might be on low incomes and tight budgets. Mr Robertson in his reply said that "while not seeking to dodge the question said that building regulations expected a very high standard in new build, what he called the SAP rating. He also added that the Housing Associations could within these parameters, set their own standards. He cited Kingdom Housing Association as having energy as one of the criteria for their new build. He acknowledged his lack of expertise in being able to give a more definitive answer on this subject.

Mr Lindsay asked how affordable housing was kept affordable ? Mr Robertson replied that the affordable housing if built for social rent would be kept affordable in perpetuity. He acknowledged that other tenures such as shared ownership were more difficult. Shared ownership in which the renter paid a proportion of the cost as mortgage, and a percentage as rent, could see the householder ending up with paying a 100% mortgage. At that time the house would become lost to anyone else to rent on that basis, and available on the open market. Mr Lindsay asked what percentage of housing would fit either category. Mr Robertson replied that surveys had indicated that 65% of householders would be in the social rent category and 35% in the shared equity category.

Mr Fraser queried the percentage to be built under the present rules, as statistically it equated to less than a third of local affordable housing need. He wondered if the percentage of affordable housing requirement could be put up? Mr Robertson acknowledged that Fife Council could have made the requirement 50%, but there was a balance to be met between need and site values to the developer. He commented that the Scottish Executive advice actually indicated 25% as a reasonable percentage of social housing. He also added that the figures being quoted for housing need were over a 20 year period.

Mr Douglas asked how many units had been built or gained planning permission since last November. Mr Robertson acknowledged that none have been built and they have been negotiating on some 19 applications in Fife for 673 units. He said that it usually took around a year before any building could begin from the date of application. Mr Douglas said that he understood that it was the developers responsibility to built affordable housing on site. Mr Robertson replied that Fife give developers a number of options from providing a parcel of land on which affordable housing could be built, to building the properties.

Mr Beech asked how Fife Council intended to get St Andrews up to the same level of affordable housing as the rest of Fife? Mr Robertson acknowledged that he didn't have all the answers, but felt that Fife's commitment to a percentage as stated was a positive move to meeting some of the need in the short term. Mr Macdonald wondered why they couldn't insist upon a much greater level of social rented housing. Mr Robertson replied that he'd indicated earlier the parameters in which they could expect private developers to operate.

Mr Peterson what effect the imposition of a Green Belt around St Andrews would have on plans for the 1,000+ houses, including the 30% affordable housing. Mr Robertson said that was a planning policy. It would also be a matter for us as a community to decide how we wished to balance the desire for a Green Belt with the need for housing.

Dr Goudie asked whether because the level of funding from Community Scotland was not sufficient to meet needs that the main source of affordable housing might have to be as a spin off from private developments? As he felt that there was no need for further large numbers of private houses to be built, there seemed to be a degree of lunacy about the policy of tying in the building of a small number of affordable properties with twice as many large private properties. Mr Robertson explained that the Council policy was trying to deliver a balanced mix and he thought that there was still a demand at the top end as well as the bottom end of the market. Mr Robertson also described the attempts of the Council to develop a mix of low cost housing which could remain affordable from rented to low cost. He acknowledged the difficulties of keeping housing affordable if it was initially cheap enough for first times buyers, after which the market could push the price out of the range of such buyers. There might be legal mechanisms which could keep properties affordable in perpetuity, but funders of such housing might not be keen on such restrictions. He also welcomed the Community Council's interest in this issue as it made the job of himself and colleagues a bit easier when negotiating with developers.

Mr Crichton thought that it seemed a bit naive of the Council to think that a developer would build low cost

houses as part of a development. He was concerned about how local people on low incomes could be helped when even ex-Council houses were being priced beyond their means. He cited new developments elsewhere in Scotland, where new developments of supposedly affordable housing had risen in price once they came on to the open market. Mr Robertson restated the council policy of a mix on development sites which would include affordable properties. These could be built by Housing Associations whose aim was to meet the needs of those unable to buy in the open market. Mr Robertson said that Fife Council were also trying to encourage developers to recognise the need for housing affordable for first time buyers, and was surprised that more hadn't recognised the potential value of this niche market. They hoped that in their negotiations with developers they'd be able to influence the mix on any site of the size, at which Fife Council would try to insist on a percentage of affordable properties.

Ms Uprichard expressed surprise that the affordable housing policy should come into play before the structure plan. She remembered it as one of the papers issued around the same time as the Structure Plan and should come under that umbrella. Secondly she felt that given some comments and responses she'd read in the Structure Plan that Mr Robertson should be so confident that the developers would be prepared to build 30% affordable housing and all the associated infrastructure. Finally she noted that in current applications for house building, none had any affordable housing as part of their proposals.

In reply Mr Robertson acknowledged that the affordable housing policy had come out at the time Ms Uprichard had stated. Fife Council had decided following guidance from the Scottish Executive to do this as the view was that the matter was too urgent to wait for final Structure Plan approval. Fife Council could have waited but chose not to do so. In relation to Ms Uprichard's second point, Mr Robertson acknowledged that developers would always challenge a policy as it was in their commercial interests to get as great a return on their investments as possible. He went on to say that it was then up to Fife Council, and local communities to continue to put forward the best case, best argument as to why affordable housing should be included at the level suggested. In relation to the third point on planning gain he felt that it was a fair point, but at times there were difficulties, if the developer could prove that the cost of including affordable housing and associated infrastructure was making the development less financially worthwhile. It was an issue that needed further assessment and thought.

Ms Uprichard replied that if it was counted as planning gain it unbalanced an application anyway, because it should be taken as an asset towards the development, so the planning process which is supposed to be on an even keel is unbalanced. In reply, Mr Robertson said that he wasn't sure what point Ms Uprichard was making, but in relation to the local plan the Council was setting out the criteria that would be required for developments. He felt that the Council needed to be as upfront as possible with developers about such costs in developments when negotiating with them on their proposals, so they could take the costs and requirements into account. Land values he added played a part as well.

Mr Macdonald raised two issues, one being the run down in RAF Leuchars and the possible availability of former RAF properties in Leuchars and Cupar. He also mentioned Southgait Hall, a former university property, sold to a developer. It has only had the annexe developed and the main building has remained empty for a number of years with no sign of development. He asked if the Council had investigated the reason for the lack of development at Southgait Hall. In relation to properties owned by RAF Leuchars, Mr Robertson said that there was a referral system via Community Scotland, by which properties or land of any other agency could be flagged up for possible use. He understood that there had been talks between Community Scotland and the M.O.D in relation to properties or land becoming available. There was however a complication between an agency achieving best value for its assets and community needs.

He admitted that he knew nothing about Southgait Hall.

Mr D'Ardenne wondered if there was a contact for Mr Robertson should Community Councillors wish to ask further questions. Mr Robertson replied that there was and he'd be willing to have it put in with the meeting minute, but requested that he shouldn't receive too many queries, one time due to his pressure of work.

Cllr Liston wondered about the Council getting into the business of building houses. Mr Robertson said that the Council was looking at that possibility.

Mr Macgregor thanked Mr Robertson for coming to do his presentation and answer questions.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

Absent.

4.2. Sheila Black

4.2.1 Civic Amenity Site opening date

Cllr Black reported that the site would be open on 27th November, barring any last minute hitches. It was hoped that Scottish Power will connect the site on the 10th November and that road markings which could aid pedestrians will also be on the road into the site by the date of opening.

4.2.2 Canongate School Crossing

The crossing was built during the school half-term and is now working.

4.2.3 Largo Road Lighting Renewal

Largo Road is having new street lighting installed which will probably take up to the 26th November.

4.3 Cllr Sangster

4.3.1 Plan for new Fife Council Ward in St Andrews

Cllr Sangster sent round a copy of the map for the new ward for next year's Council Elections which will

incorporate Strathkiness. He asked members to note the large area which four councillors will have to cover.

4.3.2 Scores Railings Update

Work should start towards the end of December to replace the wall with railings on the Scores with a hope of reducing the chance of fatal incidents, as have taken place in recent years.

4.3.3 Strategic Agreement

Cllr Sangster had attended a meeting earlier in the day between St Andrews University and Fife Council. He'd suggested to the University that someone should attend a Community Council meeting to talk on this major issue. He suggested that the Vice –Principal could be invited to speak to the Community Council.

4.3.4 Crossforth Passenger Ferry Service

Cllr Sangster mentioned that a study was being conducted into a passenger ferry crossing between a port from Kirkcaldy westwards to Granton or Leith. He thought that this was a good idea. Stagecoach is the company behind this possible ferry, which could take a little pressure of Forth Bridge traffic.

4.3.5 Raisin Monday

Cllr Sangster had attended a Raisin Working Party which was looking at ways to better manage this event, without the problems of last year. There would be more police to help keep a cap on activities which could upset local people due to damage or offence caused by drunken behaviour. The working party was looking at other activities which could take place to celebrate the event with less of the drunken behaviour. Cllr Sangster felt that the event had been very well organised by the students and he felt that this deserved recognition.

Mr Crichton asked Mr Sangster who would pay for the extra policing during this event, was it to be the rate payers or the University? Cllr Sangster acknowledge that he didn't know. He only knew that extra police were being brought in for the event.

Mrs Tricker mentioned an incident the previous Thursday where students had left a part of North Street near the Castle Tavern strewn with flour and eggs. She acknowledge that it hadn't been reported further. Mr D'Ardenne said he had heard of no complaints about last Thursday, but would raise the issue of such incidents within his association. He also emphasised that egging wasn't necessarily a student phenomenon as he'd seen children involved recently. Mr Marks pointed out that there was a habit amongst some teenagers nationwide around Halloween, to indulge in "antiguising," which appeared to consist of egging other children who were "guising".

4.3.6 Pedestrian Crossing – North Street

This crossing should be in place by the Castle Tavern by the end of December.

4.3.7 Xmas Park and Ride

Cllr Sangster detailed the service which will be available the four Fridays before xmas. The service will be serviced by the 99 and for a trial period by the 92 which services the University residences. He hoped that if it worked well that Stagecoach could take over this service, thus stopping the annual problem associated with funding.

4.3.8 Bike Stands near Post Office, South Street

Mr Goudie asked about the replacement of the bike stands near the post office. Cllr Sangster said he'd reported the matter twice, but had had no response. He agreed that the present provision was inadequate.

4.4. Cllr Liston

4.4.1. Skate Park, Pipeland Road

Cllr Liston had attended a meeting with a Community Services person at the Cosmos Centre where the ideas of the youngsters was discussed. Cllr Liston had also had an opportunity to look at a skate park in Craig, which was similar to the ideas put by the youngsters trying to obtain better facilities in St Andrews. She hoped that the Community Council would be supportive when required of this proposal. Mr Lindsay reminded Cllr Liston that there could be an application to the 200 Club for funding towards the Skate Park.

4.4.2. The People's Panel

Cllr Liston had been investigating this new Fife initiative. She has been trying to find out some details about the scheme. She has managed to find out some basic statistics about numbers in the local area with some 30 people having applied from St Andrews, though this does include a large area of rural hinterland from Strathkiness to Kingsbarns and Drumoig. The names are confidential though she was given partial postcodes, which would only identify as close as the street. She urged Community Council members to join the People's Panel. She was concerned that the balance of representation could be distorted, by people with an axe to grind putting their name forward.

Mr Lindsay informed the meeting that he'd applied to become a member of the People's Panel, but has had no reply so far. He added that it was easy to find information about this body online.

Mr Goudie wondered about taking a more fundamental look at the People Panel in relation to the Community Council and questioned the representativeness of the People's Panel given the self selecting nature of people applying to join it. He felt that it was quite basically flawed. He suggested that the way in which questions were put to the People's Panel would reflect the way in which they would be able to answer them. He felt that representative democracy was getting pushed to one side with this approach. Fife Councillors and Community Councillors were in a better position to make judgements on many issues, as they received information which representatives of the People's Panel wouldn't necessarily

receive.

Cllr Liston replied that she would certainly know whose opinion she would give weight to in any matter, namely elected representatives rather than a self-selected body. Ms Uprichard also expressed doubts about this body feeling that it was a way of bypassing democratically elected representatives. Mr Lindsay concluded the discussion by saying that he was putting his name forward to see if he would be accepted and to see what might be going on in the panels.

4.4.3. Flexibus

Cllr Liston corrected her comment last month that the F1 bus was the bus in this scheme. It is actually the F3. The F3 gets financial assistance from the Scottish Executive. She also commented that restrictions on the routes included Leuchars station as St Andrews was deemed to have a direct access to the station, Fife Council had also written that they were careful not to impinge upon any commercial bus routes. She felt that the need for access to Leuchars was still not being met, as the car park was regularly full.

4.4.4. Street Naming

Cllr Liston will be bringing up the issue of street naming at the next Locality meeting. She is concerned about developers trying name streets as opposed to individual buildings. A current concern is the development on the site of the old Catholic church. The developer has been trying to give it a name like "Murray's Bridge Court" which Cllr Liston said was generally agreed to be unsuitable. The street location was also erroneous with the developer listing it as Bridge Street whereas Cllr Liston said that it was James St. She expressed her frustration at the response from Fife Council that a name could not be changed as people might have got letterheads *etc* printed. She couldn't see this as adequate reason to stop inappropriate street naming. A second example of confusion about street location related to the development named Westport Court, and it's precise location for postal and direction finding purposes. She plans to continue to press the Council on it's attitude towards these matters.

4.4.5. University Plans for the future

At a meeting re the Strategic Agreement earlier today, Cllr Liston had heard the University state that they wouldn't be expanding beyond 7300 students by 2029. She felt that the town couldn't cope with more than a third of the population being temporary residents. Ms Uprichard commented about an inaccurate statistic relating to the town's population being 16000 + including students. Mr Crichton expressed disbelief about the projected number of students. He cited a previous University estimate of under 4000 students as being a maximum.

4.4.6. St Andrews Rail Link

Cllr Liston raised the issue of travel infrastructure at the same meeting, particularly the rail link. She met with a hostile response from a couple of Labour councillors present at the meeting.

4.4.7. Bus Charges for School Pupils to Canongate

Mr Douglas asked Cllr Liston about the possibility of a bus pass for primary school children coming from the Lamond Driver area to Canongate. He'd heard about the introduction of a 60p fare, and had one concerned mother mention to him her concerns about her 7 year old having to take 60p each day for the bus. Cllr Liston agreed to look into the matter.

5. Planning Committee

5.1 Minutes

5.1.1. Grange House

Ms Uprichard reported that this amended plan would be the subject of an objection for a number of reasons, such as its location in the proposed Green Belt, where no development should take place being a major factor.

5.1.2. Hospital Plan

Ms Uprichard reported on this ongoing saga. Councillors had knocked back the attempt to have an access road to land outside the site on the Southern Hillside, and had asked that consideration be given to east-west alignment. At a recent East Area Development Committee meeting the matter was further debated. There was an admission from Fife Council officials, in reply to a question from a Councillor, that bids for the site had been made on the "extended" site not the original site. An extended report is to come back to East Area Development Committee in November.

Mr Goudie reminded the Community Council that the reason for objection was not the hospital itself, but the impact on the Southern hillside. The hospital plan could be viewed as a Trojan horse for the development of the hillside by the Muir Group, who had major plans for the area aired some years ago. He felt that the EADC was to be congratulated for turning down the access road proposal. He wasn't certain however that the east/west alignment was a good idea, as it could open up the land beyond more easily to development by the Muir Group, compared to an alignment up the hillside. He voiced the view that this might be preferable to allowing easy access to the hillside.

He went on to discuss the outline planning consent application, which if it was passed with the north-south alignment and with a condition that the buildings were on the eastern side of the site, would avoid an "industrial tunnel" effect on the Largo Road. It would also reduce road noise in the hospital, and move it away from the recycling site and its noise and dust. He hoped that the EADC would be cautious about the advice given by Mr Winter.

5.1.3. SPP 11 Policy on Open Spaces – Consultation

Mr Goudie circulated his draft response. He felt it was a rather difficult document, partly because of the poor definition of open space. He did however feel that it was going along the right lines in trying to

protect open space better than its been done in the past and should be supported.

5.1.4. Craigtoun Country Park Planning Proposals and Ranger Service

Mr Goudie reported on this proposal to erect an adventure playground in place of the Ranger Centre. The latter is in poor condition, and the Rangers are moving. Mr Goudie gave a brief background history of the Ranger Centre and its function in relation to Craigtoun Park. He was concerned that the closure reflected a general run down of the Ranger Service. He also detailed a crisis of staffing within the Ranger Service with the Senior Ranger in the service leaving as well as the Ranger for the Eden Estuary. This has left only two Rangers to cover North-East Fife with one Ranger responsible for the Coastal Path and the other for the rest of the area. He added that the history of Craigtoun Park in the past 10 years has not been a happy one, partly because of the changes in the surrounding area.

Cllr Black sympathised with the concern about the state of the Ranger Service but felt that the Ranger Centre was in very poor condition. A lump sum has been set aside for Craigtoun Park to improve facilities for children such as the adventure playground. Councillors would also be keeping an eye on the problems with the Ranger Service which is at present understaffed in North East Fife.

5.1.5. Langraw Farm Chicken Sheds

Mr Peterson asked why there hadn't been an objection to this proposal on the outskirts of St Andrews. Ms Uprichard said that they had discussed the proposals and had concluded that due to its location it wouldn't be a problem. The plan is for a shed which will allow the hens to be free range.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Update on Review of Byelaws Prohibiting Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor in Designated Public Places

A letter received from Helen MacKenzie of Fife Council about response to this consultation which is to be discussed at Policy and Resources on 30th November. Noted for information. Original letter available from the Secretary if required.

6.2. Gonfannon

Mr Peterson had spoken to Gavin Grant the Curator of St Andrews Museum. An agreement has been reached whereby the St Andrews Museum care for the Gonfannon on a yearly basis with the Community Council being able to access the Gonfannon as required. It will be retained by the Community Council until after St Andrews Week, after which Mr Peterson suggested a possible formal ceremony to hand the Gonfannon into the museum's keeping.

Mr MacDonald expressed his lack of satisfaction with the idea. He still felt the Gonfannon should be displayed around as many venues as possible instead of locked away in the museum. He compared the idea to the fate of the Lewis Chessmen which had ended up in London for about 100 years. Mr Macgregor reminded the meeting that there had been a general agreement last time to take up the museum's offer if it met the Community Council's conditions.

6.3. Reports from Representatives

6.3.1. Town and Gown Liaison Group

Mr Macgregor commented that his report was just for noting. Mr Macgregor asked Mr D'Ardenne if he'd like to comment on the report in Appendix I which is also listed under New Business 8.7. Mr D'Ardenne explained that it is an attempt by the students to build up a more interactive and constructive relationship with the town and its residents. He reminded the meeting that the student population represents a significant body in the town. He asked the meeting to consider whether the plan represented what local people might want from the students. The Student Association would be happy to discuss the goals, aims and proposed action plans with anyone who has a view to express. Mr Macgregor suggested that it could be kept on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr D'Ardenne added that the document represents a work in progress and will not be put to a referendum of the students until March 2007.

6.4. St Andrews Day Reception

Mr Macgregor asked as many members as possible to help in setting up from 5pm. He circulated a list to which volunteers could add their name. Mr Lindsay informed the meeting that he'd prepared name tags for Community Councillors, so they could be identified during the event.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation

7.1.1. Art and Photography Exhibition – St Andrews Week

Mr Peterson extended an invitation to Community Council members to attend the opening of this exhibition.

7.1.2. 200 Club Report and Draw

Mr Lindsay reported his progress in sorting out the 200 Club accounts and membership. He has discovered some more non-members. The process of getting the lottery licence sorted out is ongoing. He expressed concern at the paucity of applications to the 200 Club and asked councillors to mention the 200 club to suitable clubs. Mr Lindsay also reminded Councillors that the constitution of the 200 Club said that the function of the Club was "to provide funds which would allow the Community Council to support and sponsor events, environmental improvements and help local groups, organisations and individuals". Mr Lindsay then made the monthly draw:

1. £50 Dr M Allen (108)
2. £30 Dr M Illingworth (39)
3. £15 Mr JA Rutherford (16)

8. New Business

8.1. Community Council Vacancy

Mr Macgregor reported that he had written to the St Andrews Citizen requesting applications from interested persons for the vacancy.

8.2. St Andrews Common Good Fund – St Andrews Aquarium

Mr Marks explained that he'd received this letter requesting our thoughts on the request from the owner of the St Andrews Aquarium which is on Common Good land on the Scores. Mr Lindsay commented that there was no indication about the level of income from the property for the Common Good Fund. Cllr Sangster replied that there wasn't any income. Mr Lindsay couldn't understand how it could be a Common Good property and the income not be going into the fund.

Cllr Liston explained that the property hadn't been listed by the previous District Council as Common Good so the income had been going to Community Services. It was only when Fife Council did some checking that it's true status was revealed. Cllr Liston felt that the income should be going into the Common Good Fund.

Mr Crichton also reported that he had written to Mike Melville at Fife Council for a list of assets in the Common Good Fund, and the income derived from these assets but hadn't received a reply to date. He planned to chase up his query. Mr Sangster reported the responses he had received regarding questions he had put to Fife Council about this property. The first question related to the value of the land. He was informed that the land had not been valued. The second question related to the income derived from the property – this was about £4,600 pa. Cllr Sangster gave a brief summary of the history of the lease in the past 20 years. Community Services currently spend over £10,000 maintaining the surrounding area per annum.

8.3. Planning Advice Note – Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation

For information only.

8.4. Planning Consultation Report – Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment

For information only

8.5. Consultation Papers – Implementing the Water Environment and Water Services

For information only

8.6. The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland – Renewal of Subscription

It was agreed to renew the subscription of £15.

Subscription £15

Ms Uprichard asked the Community Council to consider an additional donation as she felt it was a worthy cause, which would benefit from a donation. Mr Lindsay was uncertain about giving an additional donation for a non-St Andrews organisation. Ms Uprichard added that the Association was opposed to 3rd Party Right of Appeal being changed. Ms Uprichard was asked by Mr Macgregor if she would like to make a proposal which could be voted on in relation to a donation. Ms Uprichard proposed a donation of £100. Seconded by Mr Macdonald. Mr Lindsay proposed no donation above the annual subscription. He was seconded by Mr Crichton. A vote was taken on the amendment – only 4 members supported the amendment. The proposal was then voted upon with 8 members supporting the proposed donation. Mr Lindsay still felt that the donation was not a fit use of Community Council funds and wished his dissent to be noted in the minute. He will make further enquires about the legitimacy of the donation.

Treasurer to make £100 donation to APRS

8.7. Rotary Club of St Andrews – Meeting Invite

Mr Macgregor will attend this meeting, which is taking place at one the Rotary Club of St Andrews regular meetings. Professor Sam Taylor will be giving an update on the hospital project. Mr Macgregor reminded members that any of them could attend this coming Wednesday.

8.8. Review of ENTRUST'S corporate website and ENTRUST online

For information only.

8.9. Outreach to the Wider World

Discussed earlier in the meeting

8.10. City Region Conference 5 December 2006

Mr Fraser volunteered to attend. Hopefully a Community Council Representative could attend at the Community Group rate which would be significantly less than the standard delegate rate.

Secretary to give Mr Fraser the application form

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

9.1.1. Town Hall Flag

Mr Macgregor had ordered a new flag, but the colour was not correct. Mr Macgregor explained that he'd tried to ensure that the manufacturer understood what was required but he hadn't the technical details and the resultant shade of blue has proved to be incorrect. He had received four samples but the labelling had not given him any help in making the correct choice. The correct shade is Pantone 300.

9.2. Treasurer

Mrs Tricker reported the current financial balance – £28,493.74.

9.3. Secretary

As detailed in the Appendix. The secretary is always happy to supply members with copies of correspondence when requested.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Hepburn Gardens Residents Association

Cllr Black commented that she'd received a piece of literature from this Association which she claimed didn't have an address only an email to which to respond if one wanted to contact the organisers. Mr Marks informed the meeting that on a leaflet he'd been given the treasurer was an R. Gibson, 31 Hepburn Gardens, to whom subscriptions should be sent.

10.2. World Class

Mr Macdonald had attended a meeting of this body but felt that there had been nothing of note discussed.

10.3. Travel to Edinburgh Airport

Mr Macdonald reported that he'd taken over 3 hours to get from St Andrews to Edinburgh Airport. The problem wasn't the bus from Inverkeithing or the nearby Ferrytoll area, but the bus from Ferrytoll which has to come from Central Edinburgh. If this is delayed it adds to the journey time. The bus then takes the coastal route to St Andrews taking 1 ½ hours. Going the same route by train from St Andrews necessitates getting out to Leuchars by bus, again adding to the time of travel.
