

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes –7th July 2014

For Approval

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1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Ian Goudie, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Kyffin Roberts, Izzy Corbin, Judith Harding, Ken Crichton, Patrick Marks, Penny Uprichard, Howard Greenwell, Robert McLachlan, Alice Alexander

Students' Association Representatives

Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

Fife Councillors

Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville

Apologies

Callum Corbin, Tom Waterton-Smith, Keith McCartney, Wendy Donald, Zara Evans, Bernadette Cassidy, Harry Stewart, Ken Fraser, Brian Thomson

2. Minutes of Meeting – 9th June

The minutes were accepted as a correct record apart from a correction required under 5.1. in relation to the reference that the Planning Minutes would be included in the Minutes. Dr Goudie suggested that this should be corrected to refer to their inclusion in the agenda. This correction was accepted.

3. Presentations

3.1. West Sands Visitor Centre – Tom Morton & Robbie Blyth

Robbie Blyth, Coastal Manager for Fife Countryside & Coastal Trust introduced himself. He has been managing the West Sands along with other Fife beaches for several years. He reminded the meeting that a couple of years ago a management plan had been written up for the West Sands. There had been a number of recommendations in the management plan, one of which had been to have a visitor centre at the West Sands. He commented upon a visitor centre he'd visited in Blyth in Northumberland with which he'd been impressed and this made him conscious of the fact that there was no such centre at the West Sands. He added that there was then a need to find a source of funding for such a centre. FCCT in partnership with Fife Council went to the Coastal Communities Fund and put in a bid for funding. The total cost of the project would be around £1.5 million, so a bid for a million was made. He added that there were two stages to the application. At the present state of play he'd heard that the partnership had made it through the first stage of the process. He acknowledged that there was a lot of work still to be done from plans to be drawn up and community engagement to take place to potential problems. It was felt that it was now an appropriate time to come to give the CC an overview of the plans. He also acknowledged that exact answers couldn't be given for everything in relation to the project as it was in its early stages.

He explained that the idea was to replace the existing café and the toilet block, which he felt could be replaced by a far better facility. He emphasised that it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to get this funding, which he felt would benefit both the community and visitors.

Tom Morton followed starting by saying that he'd give an outline of where they were in the process and the scope and basis of the project. FCCT had just received a stage one pass for their application and are now on to the Stage Two application, which needs to be in by the 26th September. This stage requires the project to have planning permission granted and the building warrant secured. He acknowledged that the timescale was ambitious and that there were a number of issues needing to be sorted out to ensure the site was suitable and the design was well thought out. He commented that the current facilities from toilet block to café were not of a quality to suit the location and weren't designed as a coherent set of buildings. The idea was to change the gateway area to the West Sands in a way that would compliment the Old Course buildings nearby. He viewed the building as marking the end of the town and the beginning of the semi-wild aspect of the beach environment. He talked about removing the clutter of signage as well as the current buildings and relandscaping the area to enhance the quality of the environment for visitors/users. He claimed that it wasn't going to be a big building estimating that it would be about twice the size in area of the existing buildings. It would replicate some of the functions of the current buildings with café facilities, toilets etc. It would also have an educational function in terms of the main exhibition both on the immediate environment of the dune land habitats as well as other areas the Trust manage. He viewed it as also being a facility for educational purposes outwith the main tourist season with schools using its resources. There would also be some office space for staff of the Trust and partner organisations.

He talked about hoping to submit a planning application in August, which would go to Fife Council Planning Committee in October. Construction if approved would not take place until after the Open at St Andrews next year. They were keen to hear people's views and try to answer their questions. He announced that the public consultation would take place on Saturday 26th July at the West Sands.

Mrs Harding asked if there would be a café. Mr Morton replied that there would be a café where the main food would be teas, scones and ice cream. Mrs Harding suggested that it could also be a place where people learnt about the coastal environment. Mr Morton agreed and added that there would also be a small shop for the sale of beach type items and small souvenirs and postcards.

Mrs Denyer asked if the exhibition would also give some indication of the historical aspects of the area such as the tank blocks. Mr Morton acknowledged that the coastal defences were also part of the heritage of the area and weren't as far as he knew recognised in any sort of public display. At the present time they weren't however designing the exhibition but the space where it might eventually take place. Mr Blyth acknowledged the historical importance of the blocks something not known by most young people nowadays. Mr Morton commented that the main exhibition area would be on the first floor with a view to the beach.

Miss Uprichard was supportive of making people aware of the significance of the tank traps but also asked how high the building would be following the reference to the 1st floor. Mr Morton replied that the footprint of the existing café and toilet block was about 170 sqms with the footprint of the new building being about twice that area. The building height would be about 7 to 8 metres. He thought it would be slightly taller than the nearby clubhouse but smaller otherwise.

Mrs Corbin wanted to know what was meant by small wind turbines? Mr Morton replied that part of the aim of the project was to be carbon neutral and one of the things they were looking at would be the helical design about the size of a streetlight.

Dr Goudie asked if consideration had been given to traffic management issues? Mr Morton replied that they wouldn't see a net increase in traffic according to studies done and based on the current facilities. He added that in the traffic study the parking wasn't viewed as any more

of an issue though he acknowledged that the junction at the main road did pose problems but didn't foresee the Visitor Centre as increasing traffic at peak times.

Mrs Adam asked what the exterior would look like? Mr Morton described the building as curvilinear or a couple of clustered seashells, both in terms of shelter from the wind or visual impact. The finish would probably be a coloured mesh for durability. He suggested that the design was alluding to natural forms.

Mr Greenwell asked about the traffic pointing out the already heavy use of the bus parking area and wondering if additional traffic would be created if there were school parties visiting. Mr Morton replied that that was where part of the project was about the management of the area with specific groups not organised to happen at peak times with groups like school groups visiting outside the peak tourist season. He felt that having the base there would help with general management of the area. Mr Greenwell wondered how it would be possible to control the use of the bus park and thought the area could be very busy at any time of the year. Mr Morton replied that they had a transport consultant studying the matter and in contact with stakeholders.

Mr Greenwell asked about possible opening times for the Centre. Mr Blyth replied that in the summer times might be extended beyond normal opening hours while in the winter they could be reduced though he expected that the Centre would be managed all year round. He reminded the meeting that the beaches needed to be managed all year round and the Centre would be a potentially useful way both for staff to deal with issues and with users to find somewhere to come in.

Miss Uprichard commented that for some years she'd been concerned about the urbanisation of the West Sands. She was concerned that this project might increase that possibility as it was two storeys and there might be wind turbines whose height she queried. She wondered if other things might be added on to the development. She also wondered if it was going to be a fundraising exercise with people charged to use the internal toilets and changing rooms? Mr Morton in reply said that they had tried to design the shape of the building so that it was a finite size and yet be flexible within it, as they would be trying to do lots of things within one building. He thought that the building was really quite small saying that the café would only have about twenty seats and the shop would be quite small as well. The Exhibition area would be quite small and there would be office space for five/six people he added. In summer when there would be greater demand for facilities the surrounding area would be designed to allow users to have an area for relaxing and having picnics etc. Mr Morton thought that by making the outside area an attractive one to use would reduce the size needed for the building. He urged folk to visit the exhibition planned for the 26th July at the West Sands at which fuller details in the form of drawings etc would be available to view and there would be an opportunity to put views about the designs presented. He said that the intention was to build a robust but sustainable building, not easy in such an environment. Mr Blyth reminded the meeting about the work done at the Outhead in recent years, which is beginning to have a positive return in terms of the environment for wildlife etc. Mr Marks commented upon the history of the West Sands and the way the past use had been uncontrolled and had caused damage to the natural environment. He thought that things had been improving in recent years and was hopeful that the new project would further enhance the area and demonstrate how co-ordinated management could work for people and wildlife.

Mr Greenwell brought up the issue of the use of the area being used by campers in tents and camper vans. He thought that some of these campers were abusing the area and had witnessed one camper van owner disposing of toilet contents into the golf course. Cllr Melville also commented that there were lots of issues partly as already mentioned by Mr Greenwell, which she and Cllr Morrison wanted to discuss with Mr Blyth.

Mr Roberts asked about the completion date for the project. Mr Morton replied that the date was December 2016.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. West Sands

Cllr acknowledged that there have been increasing activities at the West Sands over the years and these had brought about their own health and safety issues. She hinted about one issue, which Mr Blyth was also aware of which could have been serious.

She acknowledged the good work being done by Mr Blyth and Mr Strachan over a number of years in trying to handle things informally but she felt that it had now got beyond that stage and things needed to be handled more formally. At a recent ward meeting Cllr Melville reported that a financial officer who had attended had been surprised that the Council didn't insist upon commercial activities taking place on the beach being licensed.

In relation to the presence of camper vans she felt the situation had been getting worse especially in relation to the numbers present at times and the way that some were disposing of their waste. There is to be a Sands meeting in mid July at which Ian Matheson, Senior Legal Officer will attend to see how the issues of concern can be taken forward from the possible need to licence activities to the excessive level of use by camper vans. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that the issues had been taking up a lot of her time as Chair of the West Sands Liaison Committee. She said that initially Legal Services had not been taking the issues such as the camper vans seriously until shown photographs of the numbers sometimes present. However another Legal Officer was prepared to consider the benefit of a meeting to look at the issues through the Area Committee rather than the West Sands Committee, which didn't have any legal authority. Mr Greenwell added that the problem wasn't confined to the West Sands with camper vans often parked by the harbour and at the East Sands Leisure Centre car park. Miss Uprichard hoped that this wouldn't be an excuse to start charging for parking in the area after the previous illegal charging had been stopped.

Mr Blyth felt that it had to be recognised that times had changed and with the ability to find out information on the Internet more people were seeking information about ways to cut their costs. Mr Blyth noted that the average cost for caravans in an official site was at least £30 per night and that added considerably to the hire of a camper van for families on a tight budget. The idea of a free campsite would therefore be appealing. Mr Blyth also commented that there was often a misinterpretation of the Open Access Code with campers thinking that the land was wild land, which he added it was not, but was defined as a recreational area and car park. He added that there were a number of health and safety concerns due to the unregulated nature of the camping. He accepted that there had to be more effective management of the land due to the increasing inappropriate use and changing uses of the West Sands. He accepted that legal advice was needed but also recognised that it was a civil matter and the campers weren't breaking the law as long as they weren't littering or breaching the peace.

In relation to commercial operations running businesses such as kite schools he felt that there needed to be licences. He wasn't against having such businesses using the area but felt that there was a need for regulation to ensure that they were operating with things such as Public Liability insurance. He thought that the West Sands had unique problems because of the town and its attraction as a major tourist centre. He looked forward to going to the planned meeting as he recognised the challenges in the area. Mr Maclachlan wondered about having a clear sign to tell campers not to camp but Mr Blyth replied that people knew their rights about such matters making it difficult to get the message across to a large community that it was not acceptable.

4.1.2. RAF Homecoming

Cllr Melville reported that at the reception in the Town Hall, after the Farewell and Homecoming Parade (RAF had also returned from their tour in Afghanistan), the Station Commander presented the Provost with a wonderful silver model of a spitfire, which was on a

small stand. Following this and during conversation, it was mentioned to the Provost that as it was the Freedom of St Andrews that the RAF had been given over 40 years ago, perhaps the Provost could consider the suggestion that this silver model remain in the town of St Andrews. That suggestion he has graciously taken on board.

We have asked if the Museum could accede to this and secure its safety with a view to including it in any future relevant exhibition / history, given the long association with Leuchars RAF base and St Andrews. We have also asked one of the Leisure and Cultural Trust's officers, if there is any small area in the Museum it might be displayed safely, as we felt the town hall's cabinet was perhaps not the best place for showing it.

4.1.3. Right of Way between St Marys Place & South Street

Cllr Melville reported that there was an issue about this Right of Way. It was closed because of ongoing works and there may be an issue related to the building application. Cllr Melville hoped that the Right of Way would be continued.

4.1.4. Waste Management

The Fife Councillors recently had the Fife Council Waste Management staff along to a Locality meeting to discuss the problems about collection of bags left out in the town centre area. The Councillors had made the Waste Management representative aware of the problem and questioned the adequacy of the response to a serious local problem.

4.1.4. Update of Local Development Plan

Councillor Melville reported the updating of this plan. She commented that there wasn't much movement in relation to the Western extension. There is however more movement in relation to the area towards Craigtoun owned by the Younger family. Cllr Melville then commented that there might be a potential threat to the green space next to Priory Gardens, which is all in the Green Space corridor of the Ladebraes. She suggested that local people should be aware that there were rumblings about possible development. Mr Greenwell and Cllr Morrison commented that there was nothing in the Fife Plan to indicate any change of designation for that area. Cllr Melville had been informed that if a developer came along and appealed the designation they might have a chance of succeeding in changing the status. Cllr Morrison also agreed that it was one to watch.

4.1.5. Business Improvement Scheme

Cllr Melville reported that the Business Improvement Scheme for St Andrews was starting to be worked upon. She thought that this would be a potential benefit to St Andrews if given support.

4.1.6. Bowling Green – Green Space

Miss Uprichard queried whether she was correct in believing that part of the area proposed for development by the Kinburn Bowling Club was classified as protected open space? Miss Uprichard had also asked if it was true that Fife Council had sold the smaller Bowling Green to the developers? Mr Greenwell added that the area of the proposed 15 flats was the car park admittedly not green space but the new Club House was proposed to be on the smaller Bowling Green area which might be protected open space. Cllr Melville acknowledged that Fife Council was selling off smaller bits of land but hadn't heard about any sale in this area. Mr Greenwell said that the matter would come up again in Planning.

4.1.7. Waste Management Problems

Mrs Adam raised the issue of waste management problems in the town centre. Apparently Fife Council don't collect commercial waste on Monday or Friday but she said that many businesses don't appear to be aware of this and put out waste which sits for longer as a result

creating a potential for damage by gulls etc. She wondered if there was any waste management collection employee on the ground to check on the waste situation? Cllr Morrison thought that somebody should be available but it was different officers who did commercial and domestic collection. Cllr Melville agreed to check out the situation.

4.1.8. Issue of Wheelie Bins blocking pavement access

Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting about the tragic death of Dr Heather Ross when a pedestrian stepped out from behind a wheelie bin blocking the pavement on Bridge Street. She wondered if any other areas of the town needed to be checked to gather data to help towards reducing the risk these bins posed to pedestrians and cyclists?

4.1.9. Spraying Concern

Miss Uprichard asked about the policy of spraying to kill weeds in public areas by Fife Council staff. She wanted to know who arranged for such substances to be used and what prohibition there was in how and where they could be used? Cllr Morrison admitted that she'd had issues in relation to spraying from an opposite viewpoint. Members of St Andrews in Bloom had raised concerns about the effectiveness of spraying in the town. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that there would be divergent views on weed management. She concluded by saying that in her view the best way to deal with weeds was to pull them up!

4.1.10. Cycling & Cycling Safety

Dr Goudie had a query about aspects and cycling and cycling safety. He reminded the meeting that a couple of years ago Phil Clarke was supposed to be working up proposals to increase cycling routes in St Andrews. He wondered how worked up were these proposals at this time? Cllr Morrison acknowledged the lack of progress primarily because of a lack of money. Mr Marks commented on recent contact between his wife and Phil Clarke on this matter. He'd indicated that funding was being concentrated in the west of Fife to try and increase cycling in those areas. Mr Marks recognised the need to set priorities but added that it was still important even in North East Fife to provide more suitable areas to continue to increase cycling and for many the provision of safe cycling routes was a key aspect of improving cycling uptake. He suggested that it might be an idea to have Phil Clarke along to a meeting to explain the situation personally and answer questions about cycling provision development in the area.

4.1.11. Query re Craigtoun Road Zoning for Housing

Mr Murphy asked if it was correct that part of the Craigtoun Road area had been zoned for housing, as he couldn't recollect hearing about that? Cllr Melville confirmed that the area was zoned for possible housing. Miss Uprichard said she'd written to Mr Younger of Mount Melville Estates and found his reply a bit confusing as he'd talked about master planning. Miss Uprichard had written to Fife Council official Martin McGroarty for clarification, as Mr Younger's interpretation of master planning didn't fit in with her understanding of the process. Despite getting a reply from Mr McGroarty she felt that she was no clearer in her understanding of the master planning process based on his reply. Mr Greenwell added that he hadn't been aware that the Craigtoun Road area had gone ahead in the finalised Local Plan.

4.2. Brian Thomson

Apologies

4.3. Keith McCartney

Apologies

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. Problems with rubbish collection in St Andrews

She reminded the meeting that at the end of the May when the students were departing the problem had been particularly acute. When the students returned for graduation the problems returned. She felt that HMO agents needed to be more proactive in ensuring the rubbish was

managed properly. She acknowledged as well that if the students left when it wasn't a rubbish collection day they couldn't be fully blamed for the problem, so the agents had some responsibility to deal with the rubbish issue.

4.4.2. Parking by War Memorial

Mr Crichton reported that he'd witnessed illegal parking of coaches close to the War Memorial.

4.4.3. Benches for the Town Centre

Mrs Corbin asked about the progress of the Council in getting extra benches placed at suitable localities in the town centre. Cllr Morrison replied that the subject had been on the agenda of the recent Locality Meeting. Four benches had been approved in the budget but Cllr Morrison added the Council couldn't apply for the benches, but a local organisation could be the applicant. Mr Greenwell suggested the Community Council as a possible applicant.

4.4.4. Town Hall Toilets Sign

Miss Uprichard asked about the progress in putting up a sign outside the town hall to make the public aware of the availability of the toilets. She had asked the staff in the town hall and they had heard nothing. Cllr Morrison replied that she'd asked about it months ago and had been told it wouldn't be a problem. She agreed to chase it up.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Report

Mr Greenwell reported that there had only been one Planning Committee meeting since the AGM. The committee had also been unable to appoint a Convenor and had decided to take it in turns to share out the work such as minute taking. The only issues discussed included the Bowling Club already raised by Miss Uprichard. The sentiment was that the committee didn't tend to object to the proposals but the issue of whether it was protected open space or not was something, which Miss Uprichard was going to investigate.

Another planning matter discussed was the new Tesco signage, which was generally acceptable apart from one, which breached design guidelines. An objection was submitted in respect of the offending sign.

10 Greyfriars Gardens was a property where UPVC windows were being proposed for the back of the property contrary to Conservation Area policies, which suggest wooden windows throughout the property.

A final point related to the standard request put in by the CC Planning Committee to be statutory consultee submitted by Mr Stewart. The CC Planning Committee didn't receive the standard letter back about the Pipeland application. He wondered why the CC had not received a letter in relation to this application. Miss Uprichard commented upon the fact that the application had been submitted during the school holiday period and the time for objections to be submitted was 25th July. She also commented about the large quantity of documents related to this application online, some 155 at the last count. There was also no EIA, so she'd written to Fife Council on this matter. She also noted that the official in charge of the application was on holiday until 22nd July.

Mr Greenwell said that concern that he had as not being recognised as a statutory consultee was whether the CC would have the right to ask for an extension of the review period based on the fact that it is in the summer holidays a time when many people will be on holiday. He said that he would be following matters up with Development Central.

Mr McLachlan asked about the reason for the Premier Inn application. Mr Greenwell informed the meeting that the application related to signage for the Premier Inn.

Mr McLachlan asked about the sign on the Victoria Café as he'd previously been informed that there was enforcement action to take place in relation to the signage. He added that the

signage was still in place. Mr Greenwell replied that he'd heard nothing about it being removed. Cllr Morrison replied that it took the enforcement officer a while to deal with such matters. She suggested that it could still take time for anything to happen.

Miss Uprichard asked about the Feddinch site situation and the non-determination by Fife Council. There had been a site visit by the reporter but she had not received an invitation to attend. Mr Greenwell didn't think he'd received a notification about a site visit either. Cllr Melville also acknowledged she'd been unaware of the site visit.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Reports from Representatives

6.1.1. St Andrews in Bloom

Mrs Denyer reported back as the CC rep on St Andrews in Bloom and mentioned two dates. On the 17th July there would be the visit for Beautiful Fife and on the 28th July the Britain in Bloom judges would be visiting the town. She commented upon the hard work being done by the Group. They had been fortunate to have access to a greenhouse at the Botanics shared with the Transition group. North Street had got some new hanging baskets and planters surrounding the War Memorial. A planter was also being set up in front of the Blackfriars monument. On the slope at Jacobs Ladder a giant sunflower had been planted using appropriate plants to give it the colour.

6.1.2. Community Trust

Mr Paul reported on the activity of the St Andrews Community Trust and the amount awarded to date to local worthy causes. In response to a query from Mr McLachlan about an award to Leuchars he explained that the Trust also made awards to Community Council areas contiguous with St Andrews and Leuchars bounded on to St Andrews at the Outhead.

6.2. Bandstand Concerts

Mr Roberts reported that the first concert had taken place. It hadn't been particularly well attended and some donations had been collected. There would be a further six concerts at fortnightly intervals throughout July & August. Help would be appreciated in running the events.

6.3. Status of the Complaint

Mr Greenwell reported on the receipt of a reply from Mrs Bissett in response to the letter sent to Fife Council responding to Mr Wallard's complaints. Her response had noted four particular points. Firstly she noted that the Community Council should have regard to the procedures laid down in the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils in Fife and the Good Practice Agreement between Fife Council and Fife Community Councils.

The second point of note was to do with the declaration of interest where Mrs Bissett had written in conclusion "that whether or not the Community Councillor goes on to take part in the vote or discussion or withdraws from the meeting would be a matter for the individual to determine in relation to the significance of the interest". Mr Greenwell commented that it was clear that whether a member was a member of a lobby group it would be down to that individual to decide whether to exclude him or herself from the meeting. Dr Goudie commented that the area of non-financial declaration of interest was a very grey area and if we wanted people from organisations in the community to still be eligible to be Community Councillors their right to express their views should be respected. It was the area of financial gain or other clearly tangible gain where a line should be drawn.

The third point was in relation to the failure of the Community Council to reflect the views of the community. Mrs Bissett wrote "as far as practicable Community Councils should bear in mind the terms of the Good Practice agreement when seeking to consult the local community". Mr Greenwell thought that this meant that it was ultimately practical

considerations were overriding in terms of the consulting. He added that a full consultation with the town could be a very expensive exercise.

The final point related to the failure of the Community Council to show respect to opposing views Mr Greenwell had noted that Mrs Bissett had referred a statement by Dr Goudie which was nothing to do with the objection raised by Mr Wallard but referred to the February meeting after Mr Wallard had put in his complaint. Dr Goudie thought that there seemed to be some irregularity in the way the matter had been handled by Fife Council. He didn't feel that the comment from the February meeting was relevant in relation to the original complaint process. Mr Greenwell felt that this point in her letter should be corrected.

6.4. Welcome Packs

Mrs Corbin said that she'd been advised by Mr Welsh that there was no use in sending any packs out before the Community Council election. Mr Greenwell replied that he'd rather there was a pack in place, which had been approved by the Community Council before the November elections.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

Mrs Denyer didn't have a formal report and commented that she wouldn't have a Recreation Committee meeting until the end of August when the Garden Awards would have to be discussed. Mrs Denyer also reported that she and Mrs Corbin had been discussing the forthcoming gardening judging which would be on 28th July and 1st August. There would be two groups of judges each with a list of gardens and categories to assess. Mrs Denyer also reported that despite advertising the competition she'd had minimal response with only one new participant.

7.2. GP Meeting

There has been no recent meeting.

7.3. 200 Club

1ST Mr H Wilson 2nd Mr H Stewart 3rd Dr Mills

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin reported on a development project at the Queen Margaret Hospital and on the health issues related to E cigarettes.

In relation to defibrillators Mrs Corbin said that defibrillators, which were being promoted by Dr Hamish Tait, were going to cost £1000 each. She claimed that that was why the installation of defibrillators had not gone ahead in St Andrews. Mr McLachlan queried this claim, as he'd understood they'd be supplied for free. Mrs Corbin claimed that this was never the case and that in the East Neuk they'd had to pay for one. Mr Roberts reported that one had been installed at Craigtoun for no cost. Mrs Corbin claimed that everywhere else in Fife had had to pay for them.

7.5. Rail Sub Committee

No report

8. New Business

8.1. Japan Exchange Welcome Party

Mr Marks said he'd been contacted by parents involved in the annual Japan Othwara/St Andrews exchange whereby pupils from Madras were chosen to visit Othwara through the Hamada Trust where they stayed with host families for a couple of weeks or more and local families likewise hosted Japanese school pupils from that city. There had been a request to the Community Council to help introduce the young Japanese visitors to St Andrews by one of the host families. Mr Marks whose daughter had taken part in this exchange in the past had been liaising with Mr & Mrs Levy. The suggested date for such a Welcome Party would be 29th July the day after their arrival. Mr Marks sought ideas and suggestions for this Welcome Party. Mr Paul suggested that the CC pay for the Burgh Chambers if they were used for the Welcome Party. This was agreed by the meeting. Mr Greenwell to meet the Japanese visitors as Chair of the CC and impress them with his knowledge of Japanese! Mr Greenwell asked for volunteers to assist on the night of the Welcome Party. Mr Greenwell said he'd circulate some ideas for the Welcome Party to CCs and welcomed any other ideas for the event.

8.2. Invitation to the Drumhead Service at Edinburgh Castle 10th August

An invitation had been received from Fife Council for 2 representatives to attend this service. Mr Greenwell and Mr Paul to attend as CC representatives.

9.1. Chair

Mr Greenwell reported that he'd met up with Jim McArthur, Chair of the St Andrews Partnership. They'd discussed possible projects, which the partnership could undertake. Mr Greenwell had suggested the possibility of doing something to improve the bandstand and new benches along the Ladebraes. He asked the meeting for their ideas as well. Mr Paul reminded the meeting that the Ladebraes was Common Good land so funding for benches could come from that source he thought.

9.2. Treasurer

Mr Paul reported on recent transactions including the payment by Murray Donald towards the Putting Competition costs for which he thanked the company. Mr Murray reported on the need to purchase another tier for the cups awarded at the Putting Competition and proposed to purchase using some of the money donated towards the Putting Competition. There were no objections to this idea.

Mr Greenwell mentioned that Mr McArthur of St Andrews Partnership had mentioned the possibility that the Partnership might be interested in doing some sponsorship of the concerts. Mr Greenwell said he'd email Mr McArthur to ask him to discuss the possibility after the CC meeting agreed it was happy to have this considered.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence

Further details of correspondence available from the secretary as requested. Mr Marks mentioned the email received about major roadworks on the bridge at Guardbridge from early August and the disruption these will cause.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Golf Museum Steps

Mr Murphy asked the Chair about the contact with the Golf Museum about the steps for the new development which will encroach upon Common Good land. Mr Greenwell said he'd heard nothing but would try to find out more on the matter.