

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Draft Minutes – March 2007

For Approval

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### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Les Beech, Ken Crichton, George Davidson, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Stuart Holdsworth, Chris Lesurf, Pete Lindsay, Dennis Macdonald, Donald Macgregor, Nan Taylor, Patrick Marks, Joseph Peterson, Nan Taylor, Carole Tricker, Penny Uprichard.

#### Students' Association Representatives

Matthew Guest, Tom D'Ardenne.

#### Nominated

Jude Innes.

#### Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Bill Sangster, Sheila Black, Frances Melville.

#### Apologies

Richard Douglas, Ben McLeod, Laura Wilson, Keith McCartney.

### 2. Minutes of February 2007 Meeting

Under item 4.1.1. Cllr Melville pointed out that she had written to Dr Hargreaves not Dr Harvey as stated in the minute.

**Accepted as accurate**

Apology

Referring to the exchanges over the World Class meeting [March 6.5] Mr Lindsay apologised for the manner in which he had raised his concerns and for not raising the issues beforehand with those most directly concerned.

### 3. Presentations

#### 3.1. Police

Sgt Brian Robinson represented Inspector Thomson for the police. Cllr Black asked Sgt Robinson about the police checking on cyclists having lights, and also about students using police services such as bike registration to reduce possibility of theft. Sgt Robinson replied that the police had been working to get as many cycles as possible registered and felt that the action plan had gone well, with local people and students both reacting positively.

Mr Lindsay asked about a car which had been clamped close to his house, and wondered if it was to do with road tax evasion as the clamp appeared to have the letters DVLC printed on it. Sgt Robinson thought that it might just be a security measure by the owner not anything official as the police, he said, didn't use clamps.

Mr Crichton asked about the effectiveness of the altered bye-law on drinking in public areas, which now included being found with an open container of alcohol. Sgt Robinson felt that it has had a considerable impact in St Andrews because of the large numbers drinking in the town. As a PR exercise and as an enforcement exercise it has worked well in St Andrews. The impact in smaller villages has been even more noticeable.

#### 3.2. St Andrews in Bloom

Mrs Janice McDonald, Chair of this committee presented a review of the work of this scheme and the proposals for the coming year's displays. First of all she noted that at the end of last season, all the window boxes had to be destroyed as they'd reached the end of their use, and the committee had presented several boxes for the railings around Holy Trinity Church. They will be giving the church another five boxes to cover the Church Street area. In the coming season they will be unable to use hanging baskets in South Street as the lamp standards with the necessary brackets are being replaced. They will be purchasing some half barrels to make up for this temporary loss in the 2007 season. Window boxes and planters they will be buying from the Fife Criminal Justice team who have a project involving offenders making such items at very reasonable cost. Barrels are being supplied at cost price from a firm down south. The total to help make the planting successful and make the town attractive will be £950.

Mr Macgregor asked if the committee had any alternative funding sources it could also tap. Mrs McDonald replied that the £950 quoted was only covering the replacement cost of the boxes and buying the half-barrels. Other costs including watering and planting added up to several thousand pounds annually. They were reliant upon donations from any source. Organisations such as the R & A were being approached and they also hoped for help from the Common Good Fund again. She estimated costs of watering this year at £3500. Mrs Tricker thought that the appeal should be viewed favourably, and suggested that money was available. Mr Lindsay asked about previous donations for comparison. He thought that in the

past the Community Council had donated a couple of hundred pounds. Mr Macgregor felt that this year was exceptional as the containers were having to be replaced. Mr Beech supported giving a donation at the level mentioned by Mrs McDonald, and Mrs Nan Taylor seconded. There was no dissent to this proposal.

#### **£950 grant agreed**

Mr D'Ardenne from the Student Association offered to pass on details of useful student contacts if volunteers were required to help with watering the plants. He also asked about the garden at the corner of Greyfriars Gardens and its potential for project to add colour to the area. Mrs McDonald briefly outlined past difficulties in getting previous owners to clean up the garden, but was encouraged by the progress of Kate Hughes from Fife Council's local office who has tracked down the current owner. She has asked the owner to take action and has stated that if nothing happens Fife Council will clean up the garden and bill the owner. Mrs McDonald has suggested that her committee could look after the garden if offered it at a peppercorn rent, but this idea hasn't been progressed to date. She encouraged Mr D'Ardenne to take his idea to Kate Hughes to see if it could be progressed. She also mentioned that there were many other areas around the town including the Ladebraes which could benefit from money and voluntary help. She thought that the St Andrews in Bloom Committee had considerable potential to expand in the future.

### **3.3. St Andrews Parking Plan**

*from Mr Milne and Mr Sellars, Fife Council Transportation Service.*

Mr Milne reminded the meeting that the last time parking in St Andrews had been seriously reviewed was in 1992 when the voucher scheme had been introduced. In 1st June 2006 the Environment and Development Committee took the decision to implement the Fife-Wide Parking Strategy and Area Parking Plans, which included the three key towns in Fife, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and St Andrews, where parking demands were reaching a critical stage, with demand outstripping supply. Part of Mr Milne's remit is to monitor what is happening in car parks in the North East Fife area. He illustrated the pressure on the Petheram Bridge car park which has a capacity of 300 spaces, with a graph showing the increase in parking since 2003. He said that when car parking exceeded 85% regular use, the car parks are to all intents full. He added that all other local car parks are similarly heavily used. He then showed a graph of traffic coming into St Andrews and the relentless growth over a number of years, which he said showed no sign of slowing down. He illustrated the pressure on local streets, with slides of roads being used in many areas such as the Scores and East Scores by University staff and others parking all day. Tourists can not get a space close to major tourist attractions due to this level of parking. Mr Milne added that most parking in St Andrews is on-street compared to other major Fife towns, where most is off-street. He stated that the parking plan was seeking to manage parking space in a more controlled manner.

He then went on to discuss the voucher scheme. Initially there were 46 outlets selling vouchers, but this is now down somewhere in the upper 30s. The scheme was also a source of confusion, particularly for foreign visitors, and he claimed that there was a regular receipt of letters complaining about it. Enforcement, he said, was difficult as there had to be a period during which wardens and police had to allow for people trying to buy their ticket, up to 20 minutes, and this was worse in areas like North St where there were few sales outlets. The parking plan, he claimed, was trying to address the needs of a wide range of users from students to visitors and residents and the disabled.

Phase One will be in the existing controlled area and will be subject to planning approval. The signs relating to the voucher scheme will be removed prior to installation of the ticket machines, which he said would be sited as sensitively as possible. He noted that there is already quite a lot of street clutter in the form of litter bins, signs, black bins etc on streets such as North Street.

Phase Two goes on to look at the wider extension of the control zone. The inner zone will be restricted to one hour, with a new half hour period. No resident car parking will be permitted in this zone. Out in the middle zone there will be a scheme for hotels, B&Bs etc with a four hour parking zone and parking permits for residents. With respect to workers needing to park, Mr Milne listed various streets on the periphery such as Kennedy Gardens, Kinnessburn Road and the Harbour where they could still park free all day. He said that there are 270 spaces in such areas. The income from the parking charges will go towards setting up a park and ride scheme which will operate all year. He listed what he believed to be the benefits of the scheme, such as maintaining sufficient car parking for visitors, shoppers and service providers and discouraging commuter parking in key streets. It could also reduce the environmental impact of car travel encouraging people to look at alternatives to driving into St Andrews by themselves and perhaps car sharing, using public transport or cycling.

Mr Milne then illustrated the costs to Fife Council in managing the parking and associated services such as the wardens. He has to have a budget of just over £300,000 to cover annual costs of parking management. Income from the voucher scheme is in the order of £335,000 and with income from ticket machines and parking penalties the total in the past year was approximately £487,000. His surplus in the past year has been £186,000, out of which he also has to manage all the other car parks in North-East villages. The money goes into a car park account, with St Andrews contributing 17% of the overall income in Fife.

He cited examples of money being put back into St Andrews, such as the current St Mary's Place work, the bus station and the Bruce Embankment. Overall he said that over £3 million had been put back into local infrastructure work in St Andrews from this income surplus in the past few years. There are plans to improve South Street and Market Street from this budget as well. He listed other parking issues raised at other meetings, such as residents parking bays and the possible construction of a multi storey car park near the bus station. In relation to the former, he noted that such bays were not a very efficient use of space if the residents were away for long periods in the summer, and with regard to the latter the council had looked at a multi storey option, but had assessed that only 38 spaces would be made available at a cost of a million pounds. The possibility of a multi-storey at Petheram Bridge had also been looked at, but Mr Milne didn't think planning permission would be obtained.

The parking disc which had been mentioned as an alternative he informed the Community Council would

bring in no income to the council, and he also felt that it would be no more popular and just as complicated as the voucher system, particularly for visitors.

Sunday charging and charging at public interchanges is being considered as part of a Best Value review, but that hasn't reached any conclusion or decision yet. Fife has ruled out privatising the parking management, as has taken place in Edinburgh, and has rejected the idea of getting NCP to run the car parks across Fife. He said that NCP would charge a minimum of £5 per day for long stay.

At the present time Mr Milne is meeting with various groups, and Transportation Service will be holding a public exhibition of the proposals on 20/21st March in the Town Hall Supper Room as part of the consultation process. The consultation will last until May and decisions won't be taken until after the May elections. Leaflets and web access are also being organised. The conclusions of the consultation, when drawn together, will have to go to the new council committee which won't meet until the summer. If it is approved by that committee it will be put together as a draft plan, to be put to the Environment and Development Committee for ultimate approval. Thereafter legal statutory orders will have to be drawn up to allow the ticket machines to be installed at which time further objections can be made. The inner core ticket machines are planned to be installed later this summer, with the middle and outer areas in 2008.

Mr Macgregor asked for only immediate questions as he felt there wasn't time for a long debate on this occasion unless members so wished. Mr D'Ardenne asked if the presentation would be available to others to see and wondered how he could get a copy. Mr Milne agreed to email the presentation via the secretary.

Mrs Taylor asked about the park and ride scheme mentioned by Mr Milne. Mr Milne said that in the long term a site in the North Haugh on university land was being considered, and also a possible site at the East Sands. Mr Milne also said that the Petheram Bridge site was not sufficiently attractive for park and ride, due to the large numbers of university staff who park there. Mrs Taylor also commented on the one hour period in the town centre, feeling that it was insufficient, and suggesting that another 20 minutes might make the scheme more acceptable from her experience. She objected to having to pay for an extra hour and only using part of that time. Mr Milne replied that from his staff's surveys, most people stay just for the hour, and that if someone wanted to stay in town for longer there would be parking up to 4 hours in the next zone out of the central area. He would be happy to receive Mrs Taylor's comments for the consultation.

Ms Innes asked about car parking for staff working at the new hospital if there was insufficient space for parking at the hospital. Mr Milne replied that there should be sufficient car parking on the current plan, and that extra space had been set aside for additional parking if it proved necessary. He added that Fife Council are encouraging the NHS to have a travel plan which will reduce unnecessary journeys and reduce pressure on parking and traffic in the area.

Mr Crichton asked about criteria for residents parking permits. Mr Milne explained that there will be two per household and will be only issued to council tax payers. Mr D'Ardenne asked how this would affect students with cars. Mr Milne replied that students for example, in HMOs wouldn't be eligible as they don't pay council tax. He suggested that students with cars will have to access parking at areas such as the North Haugh. Mr D'Ardenne also asked about student consultation with respect to parking. Mr Milne replied that he has been in contact with Roddy Yarr of the University who should circulate information to student groups and it should go as well on their website. Mr Milne indicated a willingness to have a separate consultation with student representatives.

Cllr Liston asked for an indication of the price for non solar powered ticket machines in comparison to solar powered. Mr Milne could not give a figure and agreed to get back to Cllr Liston with that information.

Cllr Black asked what would happen if the majority of local people were opposed to the plans. Would Fife Council be prepared to think again about its parking plans? She also asked about free parking for the first half hour as takes place in some places in Dundee. She felt that this would be an encouragement to local people coming in to do a bit of shopping. Mr Milne in his reply indicated that he had to work within the Fife Parking Strategy which gives no scope for free parking. He reminded the meeting that at present parking charge times are from 9am to 5pm, whereas in other Fife towns the charge period is from 8am to 6pm, so he felt that it could be argued that St Andrews residents are already getting some additional time when they don't have to pay. The eventual decision as to the make up of parking charges would be the decision of the Development and Environment Committee, but he and his officials would have to make the committee aware of the financial and other consequences in making a particular decision. Mr Milne went on to note the existence of the petition against the parking proposals circulating in the town. He felt that it didn't give an alternative solution to a major problem, which he said has been acknowledged by the many groups to which he's met to date.

Ms Uprichard first of all queried Mr Milne's statement that the disc parking system wouldn't bring any money into the council. She then asked why the transport plan had been pushed through ahead of the local plan and why there are plans to put in 38 ticket machines if the Council is planning to pedestrianise areas such as Market Street. Mr Milne in replying indicated that the parking is dealt with in the Area Transport Plan which is separate from the Local Plan. Approval had been reached for the process of progressing with the Area Transport Plan last October. In relation to the ticket machines, Mr Milne said that the machines chosen could be easily moved as they require no cabling etc if Market Street is eventually pedestrianised, but he anticipated that that would not happen for several years.

Mr Peterson suggested to Mr Milne that Fife Council should ask the university to provide sufficient car parking for the students who fill many car parking spaces, depriving visitors and others of those spaces. Mr Milne indicated that he was aware of the issues raised by Mr Peterson and would be taking them up with the university.

Cllr Melville felt that the parking problems of St Andrews were different from Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy, and therefore any solution should be tailor-made to fit St Andrews, rather than a generic one size fits all solution. She also expressed concern about the proposals relating to the residents permits. She was certain that at the time of the voucher scheme being introduced that students were also entitled to residents parking tickets. She felt that this needed to be legally clarified or there could be a legal

challenge to that discrimination as regards eligibility for residents permits. Mr Milne confirmed that the residents permits situation will have to be checked out legally to confirm the criteria for eligibility. The charge for residents permits will be £80.

Cllr Sangster urged everyone to fill out the questionnaires and also expressed concern about the timing so close to an election. He also felt that the transport scheme shouldn't view St Andrews as being the same as Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy.

Dr Goudie commented on the proposed increase in parking charges and on the proposed distribution and number of the ticket machines. Mr Milne confirmed 38 ticket machines being installed in phase one if the guidelines for distance between the machines to allow people to see a machine and buy their ticket are followed. He did however add that they are looking at increasing the distance between the machines, if an exemption from the usual guidance is granted. This if agreed would reduce the number of machines in the central area by 8. In the next phase another 60 or 70 will be required for the extended parking area.

Cllr Liston stated that students are allowed residents permits under the present scheme. Indeed up to two permits are allowed per household. She expressed her concern about any attempt to discriminate against student households. She would oppose any attempt to change the rules. She stated that 1 in 7 students currently bring a car, around 1000. She also noted the difference between the three major towns in Fife with both Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy having railway stations and St Andrews with none. In her view this unsurprisingly contributed towards the increased need for car use to St Andrews. She also noted the proposed costs for long stay which workers coming into work from outwith St Andrews would have to pay, £3 per day. Mr Milne acknowledged this fact, but added that ample free parking areas still remain a little further out of the town centre and that parking permits could be purchased for £100 for a 3 month period, considerably reducing a daily charge. He acknowledged that it was a kind of displacement policy. Cllr Liston also noted that it would be more expensive for workers to come to work by public transport from towns such as Cupar, and felt that the differential wasn't enough to significantly reduce car use.

Ms Stracey wondered about the incentives given to shops to sell parking vouchers and more hadn't been attempted to make their sale more attractive. Mr Milne said that there had been attempts to relaunch the parking voucher scheme with shops several times, with limited success. He also added that many shops weren't keen on selling the vouchers, as those only buying the vouchers would sometimes try to push in front of other customers to make their purchase, occasionally being quite rude in their manner. Mr Milne acknowledged that the cut that the retailers received for selling the vouchers was pretty small and this might be a major factor in their reluctance to sell the vouchers.

Mr Macdonald also felt that the time allowed for parking on one voucher, was too short for a family shopping at a shop like Tesco. He also claimed that local workers, such as the local bus drivers would not be happy at the imposition of charges in parking areas such as the North Haugh. He felt that Fife Council was exploiting St Andrews unfairly for the income from parking.

Mr Marks asked about the difference between Cupar and St Andrews relating to parking pressures. Mr Milne replied that Cupar was regarded as a level two parking town as it didn't have the same pressures as St Andrews with the additional pressures of the university and the golf.

Mr Milne reminded the meeting that over £3 million pounds has come back into St Andrews from the income derived from parking charges and he has to bid to ensure that it is reinvested. He felt that St Andrews had done quite well out of Fife Council. This was queried by Mr Beech, but Mr Milne confirmed that all the money mentioned was from Fife Council income, not from other sources such as Scottish Enterprise.

Mr Macgregor thanked Mr Milne for giving his presentation.

## **4. Fife Councillors**

### **4.1. Frances Melville**

#### **4.1.1. Departure Hearing for Fairmont Application**

This is in abeyance due to a misunderstanding relating to the registration of the application. There is now unlikely to be a hearing before the elections.

#### **4.1.2. Gap in timing of Planning Meetings**

Cllr Melville has expressed concern about the three month gap in planning meetings which will take place due to the election. The last meeting will be in March and the next may be in June. As planning applications require to be dealt with within a two month time scale this delay concerns Cllr Melville

#### **4.1.3. Petheram Bridge**

Mr Crichton asked about Petheram Bridge costs, which had been quoted at £750,000. Cllr Melville acknowledged that there had been complications partly related to Scottish Enterprise financial problems. She added that there might be a range of ways to fund the building such as the lottery or to be tied into a future development of a new Madras school. Mr Crichton cited a newspaper report about a foot bridge near Ninewells, which had been constructed for a lot less than figures being quoted for Petheram Bridge reconstruction.

### **4.2. Sheila Black**

#### **4.2.1. Largo Road Crossing**

Cllr Black reassured the meeting that the crossing close to Morrison's will be put back, with lights replacing the zebra crossing.

#### **4.2.2. Play Area Provision in Craigtoun A and B**

Dr Goudie asked what had happened to the plans for play area provision in this area, which were part of

the conditions for the development. Cllr Black reported that two small play areas do exist but not in the exact areas as originally planned. Cllr Black reported that following an on site meeting late last year with local residents it had been agreed not to put play equipment on one site, but some play equipment has been installed on the other site, although she acknowledged that there could still be some local objection. Dr Goudie felt that it set a dangerous precedent that local residents could change agreed plans in such a way, particularly as there could be a considerable turn over in property ownership close to the play areas. He felt that it wasn't democratic the way that some residents could influence what had been an agreed planning decision. Mr Macgregor supported Dr Goudie's concerns. He felt that more should be done for the children. Cllr Black reminded the meeting of large play areas close by in the Ladebraes and Balone Park.

#### **4.3. Cllr Sangster**

##### **4.3.1. Public Works in Market Street**

Cllr Sangster reported that Fife Council will be trialling a variety of materials in Market Street from 12th March for three weeks, with a temporary loss of 14 parking places. The idea is to test a range of materials, with the eventual aim to bring about environmental improvements in a modern setting in an historic area. This design will be subject to public consultation.

##### **4.3.2. Potholes**

Cllr Sangster has reported to Fife Council pot holes in various streets around St Andrews and water leaks in various streets.

##### **4.3.3. Crossing Lights South Street**

Mr Lindsay felt that the new lights were unfriendly. The pedestrian has to look at the lights on his/her side of the road to see if it is safe to walk. Mr Lindsay also noted the state of the road at the crossing which has a pot hole. He is otherwise concerned at the type of off-centre crossing light. He wondered whether there was any design of crossing that still allowed one to see the green man across the road. Cllr Sangster had already reported the pot hole and agreed to ask about the layout of the crossing lights and the problem described.

##### **4.3.4. St Mary's Place Parking Area**

Mr Lindsay expressed concern about the use of polished stone in this area instead of rough stone which he felt would be safer for cyclists and pedestrians. Cllr Sangster described how the different coloured stone was planned to depict a parking area. He said that eventually that the road surface will be the same level as the parking area so shouldn't present a hazard to cyclists. Mr Lindsay said that he was more concerned about the fact that the stone was polished and potentially a hazard. Cllr Sangster admitted that the councillors had never managed to see the materials before the work had started. He agreed to relay concerns to the Council.

#### **4.4. Cllr Liston**

##### **4.4.1. Leuchars Car Park**

Cllr Liston had been trying to find out how many more car parking spaces the work on the car park would provide. This did not appear to be very many, up to 28. She has asked the council about the effect of the reduced parking during the development work on public transport use St Andrews to Leuchars instead of cars. They are monitoring bus use from the station. She had however noted that more people have been reported as driving to Cupar, and more people are parking on the road into the station from the Guardbridge – Balmullo junction instead of taking the bus to Leuchars station.

##### **4.4.2. Free Lets**

Cllr Liston reported that there are going to be no more free lets of halls *etc* by Fife Council.

### **5. Planning Committee**

#### **5.1. Minutes – 12/02/07**

##### **5.1.1. R & A Club House**

The R&A are planning major work at the Club House, the most controversial external work being the replacement of lead panels on the roof. Ms Uprichard has put in an objection to the proposed alterations on behalf of the Community Council.

##### **5.1.2. Grange House Mark One**

An enquiry is to start on the 15th May.

##### **5.1.3. Grange House Mark Two**

There was a departure hearing last Thursday in the Borough Chambers.

##### **5.1.4. Fairmont/St Andrews Bay**

The application was published on 23rd February. Ms Uprichard felt that the scale was more like a small town. She was also doubtful about the claim that during construction there will only be 10 HGVs a day, given past history of similar claims which proved wildly inaccurate.

##### **5.1.5. New Park School**

Bats have delayed any progress on this application, with SNH to do a further survey possibly in May. There is to be no departure hearing.

##### **5.1.6. Cameron Connection**

There is to be a departure hearing.

#### **5.1.7. Brewsterwells**

There is to be a departure hearing

#### **5.1.8. Parking Meters/Parking Plan**

This was discussed earlier. Ms Uprichard felt that if anyone filling in the comment forms simply put no in the whole way down the forms would simply be binned, so she felt it was useful to make constructive comments on this proposal.

#### **5.1.9. St Rule Boatyard**

There are proposals for three houses on this site, where in the past there was the former Gas Works and a Gas Tank. Mr Lindsay said that a member of the public had informed him that digging would disturb a variety of contaminants from the former Gas Works. He was concerned that without careful management there could be pollution of the surrounding area, particularly the harbour and its wildlife, out into the bay and upstream with the tide. He hoped that Fife Council would take the issue seriously and if necessary involve agencies such as SEPA to undertake an environmental assessment before any plans might be approved.

#### **5.2. Statement from Ms Uprichard**

Ms Uprichard announced her resignation from the Community Council. Her main reason being her concern about World Class. She couldn't be a member of the Community Council, while it was a member of World Class. She felt that the Community Council couldn't represent the views of the town while it was a member of World Class which is not accountable, in her view. She cited two examples of projects where the Community Council hadn't been consulted. She cautioned the Community Council against the possible ambitions of World Class as stated at a previous meeting "to manage the town". She thanked members of the Community Council adding that she had enjoyed her time on the Community Council. She thanked the Planning Committee for all its hard work. She was delighted to confirm that Nan Taylor had agreed to take over the role of convenor of the Planning Committee. Mr Macgregor thanked Ms Uprichard for all the work she'd done for the Community Council over the years. He added that he was sorry to see Ms Uprichard go.

### **6. Matters Arising**

#### **6.1. Grant Procedure**

Mr Lindsay explained that the intention was to have one agreed route for grant applications for financial assistance from Community Council. He was concerned however that it might look like all decisions were being taken by the 200 Club, whereas most of the money given out would be from the main Community Council funds. He said that he would welcome members thoughts on more clearly defining the procedures to avoid any confusion in the minds of applicants. Mr Macgregor suggested that a deadline was needed and asked Community Councillors for their thoughts.

Mr Peterson reminded the meeting that the main Community Council meeting should be the final arbiter if any applications proved controversial, and could over ride the decision of a sub-committee. Mr Lindsay said that he thought that the 200 Club was independent of the Community Council in relation to grant giving. Past regulations had required that funds raised outwith the core funding had to be held separately. He suggested that that was one of the problems. Mr Peterson suggested that the Constitution would have to be changed to allow community council more say in 200 Club's grant approval. Mr Macgregor suggested that the GP meeting could discuss the procedures and report back to next month's Community Council meeting.

#### **6.2. Madras/Kiel School Exchange – 50th Anniversary**

This was a funding request from Mr Bennett of Madras College. Mr Crichton proposed that it was worthy of support and would be happy to give a grant of £250. Mr Crichton also suggested the possibility of a small reception. Mr Macgregor agreed that this could be considered nearer the time depending upon what was already taking place. Mr Peterson suggested possibly considering a slightly larger amount given the special nature of the anniversary so that a slightly more substantial memento could be given if further assistance was requested. Mr Lindsay commented that this type of request was the sort for which clear grant procedures were required. He recognised the importance of the anniversary, but also felt that the money in the Community Council funds had to be managed with a view to future needs, and not all spent just because it was sitting in the bank account. He urged members not to get carried away. Mrs Tricker proposed that £250 was acceptable. She was seconded by Mr Crichton. She added that she too would like to see procedures in place for grant giving.

**£250 Grant agreed**

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

No reports, but Mr Fraser requested that item 8.3. be discussed and a decision made at the meeting. See outcome at 8.3.

#### **6.4. Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy and Renewable Technologies**

Mr Marks reported that this item was for information, announcing when this consultation exercise will be taking place. If anyone wanted to put in a view they were free to do so, otherwise the item was for information only.

#### **6.5. Community Council Election Date**

Mr Macgregor noted that Fife Council were too busy to deal with this matter before the May elections, but would return to it after that time. There was an indication that they would be sympathetic to the needs of

St Andrews for a different election date.

## **6.6. Seminar on University Towns update**

Mr Macgregor is to attend on behalf of the Community Council and will give an overview of the situation in St Andrews to the conference. He will liaise with the university and Fife Council who are unable to send representatives.

## **6.7. Review of Byelaws Prohibiting Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Areas**

For information only.

## **6.8. Common Good Fund and St Andrews Aquarium**

Mike Melville had asked for Community Council views on the possible sale of this land to the owner of the Aquarium. Cllr Sangster advised the meeting that the land situation is more complicated with other adjacent areas possibly being common good land as well such as the Bruce Embankment, Golf Museum, and Bandstand. Cllr Sangster has asked for legal advice on the matter so suggested that no reply be made at this time by Community Council to Mr Melville.

## **6.9. Any Other Matters Arising**

### **6.9.1. Fair Trade Query**

Mr Crichton raised the issue of whether the Fairtrade Campaign makes any charges for the use of its logo. He had queried the matter at a previous meeting as there had been a rumour that shops were charged to use the logo. He had obtained information through doing some research which appeared to indicate that money was being made by the Fairtrade Foundation from the use of this logo. He felt that this needed to be explained by the Fairtrade Group who had denied that there were any charges to shops for use of the logo. Mr Lindsay thought he saw where the confusion was arising. Mr Lindsay felt that the point raised by Mr Crichton in the 200 Club meeting about shops allegedly being charged for using the logo, was different from the information being presented tonight. The alleged £60 charge did not exist as far as Mr Lindsay was aware. Mr Marks agreed to pass his information on to the Fairtrade Group for their comment.

### **6.9.2. Young Citizen of the Year Photo in St Andrews Citizen**

Mrs Tricker expressed annoyance at the photo used by the St Andrews Citizen which was not the one taken on the night, but was a photo of the winner in front of St Leonards School which he attends. She felt that this was blatant publicity for the school, ignoring the contribution from the other award winners.

### **6.9.3. St Andrews Community Council Coat of Arms**

Cllr Sangster asked about the progress in getting the business deal for the use of the coat of arms sorted out. Mr Macgregor said that there was no news at present and the General Purposes Committee would have this on their agenda.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Recreation**

No report as there has not been a meeting recently.

### **7.2. General Purposes Committee**

No report, but there will be a meeting this month.

### **7.3. 200 Club Report and Draw**

#### **7.3.1. Report**

Mr Lindsay reported that all outstanding awards have now been made, with the final cheque going out soon.

#### **7.3.2. 200 Club Draw**

February Draw: £30: No 122 Mrs Whelan; £20: No 47 Miss A Cantley; £20: No 122 Mrs G L Hands.

March Draw: £30: No 39 Dr Illingworth; £20: No 17 Mr W Sangster; £10: No 100 Dr J W Robinson.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Possible Solutions to Parking in St. Andrews**

Dealt with under Mr Milne's presentation

### **8.2. Nominations for St Andrews Green Belt Forum**

Dr Goudie and Mr Crichton have indicated willingness to be nominated, and possibly Mr Davidson.

### **8.3. Naming & Numbering of Streets**

Mr Fraser brought up this matter earlier in the meeting, as he was concerned to get a name to Fife Council. He asked for member's thoughts about the naming of this short street which is off Abbey Walk, behind a former St Leonards boarding house. Mr Fraser thought that naming the street after the Adamsons, early pioneers in photography in St Andrews would be his preference. Mr Lindsay supported this idea. Mr Peterson thought that the name should still reflect the surrounding area and be Abbey. A vote was taken with overwhelming support for Adamson of 12 votes to Abbey with one vote.

### **8.4. Recording Procedures at Community Council Meetings**

Mr Crichton had asked for this item to be put on the agenda. He was concerned that the audio recordings of meetings were being kept after their contents had been transcribed. Mr Marks reassured Mr Crichton that he did not keep an audio recording on the Community Council laptop after he transcribed the contents. Mr Macgregor reminded the meeting that the audio recording of the meeting for purposes of accuracy was mentioned at the top of each agenda. Cllr Liston felt that it was useful to keep an audio recording for purposes of accuracy if there was a later dispute. Cllr Sangster felt that speakers giving presentations should be made aware of the fact that the minutes are being recorded. Mr Lindsay felt that it was appropriate to record for the sake of accuracy.

### **8.5. Email from Mr Reed regarding interest in becoming a Community Councillor**

Mr Marks informed the meeting that there are now two vacancies with the resignation of Mr McCartney as well. Mr Lindsay reminded the Community Council that there was also a requirement for members to attend and if they were absent for more than the expected period of attendance their membership had to be reviewed. So he thought that there could be more than the two vacancies. He felt that the vacancies would have to be publicised, even though Mr Reed has expressed an interest. It was agreed that this would take place.

**Chair to write to St Andrews Citizen to publicise the vacancies**

### **8.6. Community Council Review – The Way Forward**

For information as last such meeting was cancelled due to lack of interest. A new meeting will take place later this year.

### **8.7. Letter about lack of Children's Play Parks**

Mr Peterson expressed his agreement with Mrs Sey's concern about the lack of children's play facilities. Those that do exist such as at the East Sands have deteriorated or been closed or dismantled. He felt that the area of land at the East Sands could be used for play facilities. He suggested that the Community Council could write back to Mrs Sey and make her aware of our general support for her concern at the lack of play facilities. Mr Lindsay wondered what type of play facilities she meant as her letter didn't specify. Mr Crichton didn't feel that one didn't have to specify the type of facilities required as these will be well known to those who plan and develop such facilities. He cited examples of play parks known to him from Nairn and elsewhere with excellent facilities. Mr Peterson thought that while we couldn't replicate the likes of Camperdown in Dundee, there must be compact areas particularly for smaller children that could be developed at areas such as the East Sands and West Sands. Mr Macgregor felt that it was important for Mrs Sey to be informed of our support by letter, and that we would be taking up the matter with Fife Councillors and others. Cllr Sangster offered to take up the issue with Fife Council Community Services.

Dr Goudie said that there was a formula used to calculate the appropriate level of provision, using the number of child bed spaces in an area. Mr Lindsay thought that the number of designated child bed spaces wasn't entirely relevant in a heavily tourist orientated town where the recent World Class report noted the lack of non-golf entertainment in the town. Cllr Liston reported that there is to be some work done at the facilities at the East Sands. Cllr Sangster reminded the meeting that there were lots of families who stayed in the caravan parks who should be remembered when considering the need for facilities. Mr D'Ardenne asked that it should be mentioned in the letter to Mrs Sey that Fife Council, the Community Council and World Class treated all young people in the same way without discrimination.

### **8.9. Supplementary Planning Guidance on Retailing**

For information, see appendix K in March agenda. Questionnaire related to an eventual public consultation on planning in towns tied in with the structure and local plans. Public consultation will be later this year, probably in the early summer.

### **8.10. Annual Sporting Awards – Appendix N**

Request from East Fife Sports Council for Community Council to consider sponsoring a sports award on an annual basis. To be discussed at next meeting.

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

### **9.1. Chair**

No report

### **9.2. Treasurer**

No report

### **9.3. Secretary**

See correspondence listed in Appendix A of March agenda

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **10.5. Date of Next Meeting**

2nd April 2007

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