

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Draft Minutes – April 2007

For Approval

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Chair: Ian Goudie

### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Ken Crichton, George Davidson, Dave Finlay, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Stuart Holdsworth, Pete Lindsay, Joe Peterson, Ben McLeod, Nan Taylor.

#### Students Representatives

None.

#### Nominated

Jude Innes.

#### Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Bill Sangster.

#### Apologies

Donald Macgregor, Patrick Marks, Sheila Black, Frances Melville.

### 2. Minutes of March 2007

Approved

### 3. Presentations

#### 3.1. Harbour Update

Ken Sweeney, Harbour Trust Chair gave an update on some of the issues he'd mentioned when he last spoke, some two years ago. Then he had mentioned an intention to expand the capacity of the harbour with pontoons for yachts and boats. Progress had been slower than he'd expected at the time because different funding routes had been identified by Fife Council, from development at Woodburn Terrace. Any moneys that come from the sale/development of land there has been ring-fenced for the east end / harbour area of St Andrews. There did not appear to be any big-bang development proposal for the area, instead an incremental approach was being looked at. He added that there was no intention to develop on the East Bents.

Work on the harbour itself he expected in the next year included quayside refurbishment probably including a path beside the harbour for improved safety.

Ian Goudie asked whether the funding was some form of "planning gain"? Ken Sweeney explained that it would come from the sale of land when the university left the Woodburn Lane area (the former laundry) some of which land belonged to the University, some to Fife Council. The Fife Council money accrued would be spent in the east of the town.

#### 3.2. Police

Sgt Neil Davies spoke about a new initiative which will be in the press soon, promoting parental responsibility, calling on parents to know where their children are and what they are doing. "*Your child, your responsibility*" is the main theme for the campaign against anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking. There will be a 6-8 week campaign.

Ken Crichton asked whether action could be taken over taxis taking up paid parking spaces in Queen's Gardens while waiting for a space in the official rank on South Street outside Holy Trinity Church. Sgt Davies said the police and traffic wardens would keep an eye on the situation.

### 4. Fife Councillors

#### 4.1. Frances Melville (West)

Absent

#### 4.2. Sheila Black (South)

Absent

#### 4.3. Bill Sangster (Central)

Noted the forthcoming Fife Council elections, before the next meeting of community council and said how much he'd enjoyed coming to community council meetings for the last four years.

##### 4.3.1. Market Street Surface Test

Work to set up the test is completed. The new method of holding and basing the cobbles on concrete to withstand the passage of heavy vehicles will now be observed for three months. This was as an

alternative to the originally proposed slabs to replace the cobbles, which was generally regarded as unacceptable in the first round of consultation.

#### **4.3.2. St Mary's Place**

Resurfacing of road and footpath getting on well. Work should finish 21 May. Asked if the new layout would be wide enough for two-way traffic he explained that there would only be parking on the south side, as at present. The north side would not have a parking area marked off with the stone setts and border used on the south.

It was also remarked that though the setts and bordering stone appeared glossy in some conditions, particularly if wet, they were in fact rough surfaced and should not be slippery in practice.

#### **4.3.3. Traffic Lights**

In response to Pete Lindsay's query/complaint last month Cllr Sangster said that he'd be reassured that there was no need to look across the street for the "green man" indicator that it is safe to cross, as the indicator was on the pole immediately beside the pedestrian.

Pete Lindsay sighed and pointed out that this positioning was the substance of his concern.

#### **4.3.4. Lawhead Road East & West**

To be resurfaced 12-29 April.

#### **4.3.5. Eden Golf Course Entrance**

Stuart Holdsworth reported a problem with buses parking very close to the entrance junction, blocking the sight line of emerging vehicles. He asked if parking restrictions could be introduced to prevent this hazard. Cllr Sangster will raise this with Transportation officials.

#### **4.3.6. Library Books**

Stuart Holdsworth also observed that there didn't seem to be much turnover in some of the book stock in the town library; how frequently is stock rotated between the Fife libraries? When he raised the matter with library staff they gave him a complaints form, but he did not want to complain, merely get an answer as to the policy. Cllr Sangster will investigate.

#### **4.3.7. Parking Ticket Machines**

Joe Peterson asked how many ticket machines were proposed to go into St Mary's Place? Cllr Sangster thought the original proposal was for 3 or 4, but hoped that would be reduced after further discussion.

#### **4.3.8. Suggestion Box**

Ken Crichton asked about the Community Council suggestion box. There was some discussion as to where it was – Ken Crichton thought the Library, Pete Lindsay thought the Fife Council office in St Mary's Place – and whose job it was to check it. It was thought that the Chair person might have done this in the past.

**Chair to investigate**

### **4.4. Jane Ann Liston (South East)**

#### **4.4.1. Factoring of Flats**

Fife Council is trialing factoring of blocks flats to provide a common point of contact for joint work such as maintenance, cleaning etc.

#### **4.4.2. Road Resurfacing at Watson Avenue, Livingston Cres**

Noted this work is coming shortly

#### **4.4.3. Fly-posting**

Noted the recent European Market in the Argyle Street car park as a particular offender, with tatty, hand-drawn posters and even one giving directions to the market against the one way flow through the West Port. She has asked officials to take this up with the organisers.

#### **4.4.4. Old Parking Voucher Signs**

She has asked Transportation service how many of signs and the poles they are mounted on for the old voucher system will be removed with the new system, reducing sign clutter, and opportunities for fly-posting.

#### **4.4.5. New Ticket Machines**

Saw some of a very similar design to that proposed here in Manchester recently. She did not think they were particularly obtrusive when viewed in the real context of a street.

#### **4.4.6. Town Gown Liaison Group**

Meets next week. There will be discussion of HMOs. She noted that HMO legislation was for safety of accommodation. She is quite opposed to attempts to pervert the safety legislation to impose quotas on who could live where. She believes an HMO is a valid use of accommodation, and noted that the one time she'd had 'neighbour problems' from an HMO-style flat was well before the HMO legislation was brought in, and that the legislation contained powers to deal with such problems, which had not been easily possible previously.

Ken Crichton felt St Andrews should be a town for families, and regretted that so many properties were going to HMOs. Cllr Liston agreed that there was a problem with the lack of family accommodation suggesting, tongue in cheek, that the real problem was the number of pensioners occupying large houses

more suitable for families. Pete Lindsay rather unsubtly reinforced the point about to (the retired) Ken Crichton...

#### 4.4.7. Common Good Fund

She was grateful to Ken Crichton for the information he'd extracted from the council on 'Common Good' properties. She has asked that as the Town Hall is such a property all rentals from lets go to the Common Good Fund (CGF). She noted that this was particularly appropriate now that Fife Council was finally stopping all free lets such as that to the Masons, upstairs.

Ian Goudie asked what discretion Fife Council had over receipts from Common Good properties was it not a matter of law? Cllr Liston replied that it didn't seem to be. The late Cllr Patrick Cassells had managed to get the rents from the shop (former Tourist Information Office, then Children's Library) assigned to the CGF, she hoped the same could be done with other rents for the Town Hall.

Cllr Bill Sangster added that Fife Council were in the process of identifying all the various Common Good Funds' properties across Fife, which they hoped to complete by the end of the year.

#### 4.4.8. St Andrews Rail Link

A survey of potential users will be distributed throughout St Andrews some time over the summer, through the assistance of *St Andrews in Focus* magazine.

#### 4.4.9. Bus Station Seating

Noted that there was very little seating for waiting passengers compared to previous arrangements. There are 9 proper seats and 5 'perch' seats. The latter are difficult to use – people slip off them even when bracing their feet against the base of the window in front of these seats. He asked that the perch seats be replaced with proper ones, and noted that there was space to add one or two more other seats too. Ian Goudie commented that there had been similar complaints in *The Citizen* too. Cllr Liston will pass these concerns on to Transportation Service.

#### 4.4.10. St Mary Street

Ken Crichton commented on traffic plan proposals for a new crossing in the area, and a roundabout outside his house. He was concerned about the size of the roundabout in the road width available – was his front garden and goldfish pond threatened – but more seriously, with the indication of road surface 'upgrading' about the ground underlying the road, which is mostly sand and a very poor foundation, he said. Cllr Liston thought on the latter point that Transportation Service were probably familiar with the problem of parts of St Andrews being built on sand, particularly after some of the work on South Street.

## 5. Planning Committee

### 5.1. Report

Nan Taylor gave a verbal report.

#### 5.1.1. New Planning System

The Preservation Trust invited members some of the planning committee to a talk on the new legislation by a planning lawyer. Matters addressed were strategic plans for the four city regions, North Fife will be in the Dundee area, which was expected to bring more consistency and more community involvement. Though changes sound complicated many of them are described as 'merely procedural' by planning professionals present at the meeting.

#### 5.1.2. New scheme of Delegation

Jim Birrell of Fife's Development Service has written in response to concerns over time-scales for community council comment on plans under the trial. The seven days mentioned previously is the timescale for the area development committee chair and the local member(s) to respond to the delegated planning report by officials. This targets the 80% of applications which are minor changes e.g. by householders. Applications of wider interest to the community will not be dealt with by the pilot scheme of delegation. Delegation will deal with applications with clear cases for approval or rejection under policy guidelines. He noted that since this delegation scheme has been operating the number of items to be considered by committee has shrunk considerably.

Ian Goudie asked if this reduction was leading to often-floated idea of a single planning committee for the whole of Fife instead of the three area committees?

Cllr Jane Ann Liston noted that opinions were mixed on the desirability of one committee. She thought that the reduction in the development committee agenda which she too had noticed, might owe more to the new year lull in applications working its way through the system. It will be interesting to see how the agenda length goes later in the year when the system has settled in, she said. She didn't think recent meetings were a guide. Ian Goudie hoped that if there was a reduction in workload, particularly for the notoriously busy east area, that the committee members would have more time to consider submissions in detail than had previously been the case, reportedly.

#### 5.1.3. On-line Planning

Jim Birrell's letter also noted the start of the online planning system, applications and plans, objections, consultation responses etc are available for consultation on the internet within a few days of submission.

Some concerns were expressed over possible eventual withdrawal of paper plans, and of difficulties of searching for them in the online database, but Nan Taylor had already made the point that issues would have to be dealt with as they arose with such a new system

#### 5.1.4 Fairmont

The departure hearing for the 37 holiday lodges and other developments has been postponed until after the May council elections.

### 5.1.5. Largo Road / Hospital Roundabout

A plan of the proposed changes was displayed. A new pedestrian crossing is proposed south of the altered roundabout, directly between Morrisons supermarket and the hospital and an access into the hospital site. Planning committee has asked that the crossing be controlled by traffic lights and synchronised with the crossing north (town side) of the roundabout. They also asked that the entrance to the hospital site should not be opened for use until full planning permission is granted for the hospital itself.

Ian Goudie added that the committee were aware that the hospital was likely to be approved for this site but given the vagaries of government finance wanted to safeguard as far as possible against an access being built for the benefit of the proposed industrial site on the southern hillside in the local plan and Muir development's 1,000 house scheme in the same area.

Pete Lindsay asked if the planning committee would raise the further question of road safety. The roundabout was already a busy junction and troublesome for cyclists coming uphill from town; the addition of a busy access to the hospital would only exacerbate the problem and discourage cycling in the area.

Joe Peterson suggested addition of rumble strips south / uphill of the new pedestrian crossing

## 6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

### 6.1. Annual Sporting Awards

[March: Appendix N] Joe Peterson noted that this had in fact been delegated to the Recreation Committee to report, contradicting item 8.10 of the minute.

He reported that Recreation Committee recommended that community council should make an award toward a trophy for the good name of St Andrews.

In discussion there was a suggestion that the award paid for by the community council should be required to be awarded in some manner connected with for St Andrews, but this was described as 'churlish'. There was discussion as to the sum needed for the trophy and ongoing engraving each year.

Agreed that a basic award of £50 be made towards the trophy and Joe Peterson would check the details of ongoing costs with the Sports Council. No decision was made over the name or class of the award.

**Agreed £50 + costs, Joe Peterson to check**

### 6.2. Community Council vacancies

Mr Reed and Mr Finlay were co-opted, unopposed, as the first item of business of the meeting. As Mr Finlay was present he took his place immediately.

### 6.3. Reports from representatives

#### 6.3.1. St Andrews Festival

Ken Crichton reported that the former St Andrews Week organising committee was now the St Andrews Festival Limited, (limited by guarantee) as this made funding grants very much easier to receive. The intention was to build the festival into a higher profile, hopefully national, event.

#### 6.3.2. Community Safety Panel

Ken Crichton reported that a Women's Safety Course starts 26 April, for 4 weeks, 7-9pm, at Madras Kilrymont.

#### 6.3.3. World Heritage Steering Committee

Stuart Holdworth had attended a recent meeting; it was mainly setting up for more substantive meetings later. One item to report though was that the committee is trying to bring in someone who was heavily involved in the (successful) Edinburgh bid.

### 6.4. Grant Procedure

Pete Lindsay went over some of the thinking behind the proposals. The meeting agreed the procedures suggested, with the alternative point suggested over applications by individuals requesting confidentiality; it was noted that confidentiality only affected the discussion in this case, not the report of the decision.

**Amendment agreed;  
amended minutes to be circulated**

### 6.5. Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy and Renewable Technologies

For information.

### 6.6. Parking Plan St Andrews

Pete Lindsay drew attention to correspondence in *The Citizen* from local residents which acknowledged that the current parking system is untenable, and called for community council submissions on the subject to recognise that there was a spectrum of opinion. He noted the existing voucher system had been widely unpopular for many years from remarks made in community council itself and elsewhere.

Cllr Sangster criticised Fife Council for confusing people by consulting on phases 1 and 2 – centre and periphery – of the parking scheme at the same time. He felt that the consultation leaflets questions were loaded and advised people responding to write in comments as well, or instead of, just ticking the boxes.

In response to questions he said he hoped that the full range of issues of parking control systems would

be for discussion, from how many ticket machines and where to the question of alternative systems such as the disc systems sometimes proposed, but that wasn't certain; all that was officially on the agenda on upcoming meetings was phase 1. Fife Council officials did not like the discs because it would not raise enough money – he felt that the parking system should not raise money anyway, it should primarily be for traffic management. He did not think a new system would be in place by the August deadline for the expiry of the voucher system.

Cllr Jane Ann Liston had heard that the parking disc systems, in vogue some years ago had mostly gone away again. As one of the main criticisms of the voucher system had been that it was unusual and unfamiliar she felt this might also apply to discs. She noted that if parking charges did not raise revenue to operate the parking system then other charges had to go up.

If the planning decision on the phase 1 ticket machines is to agree to them the final decision lies with the Scottish Executive to confirm or not as this is a case of one part of Fife Council granting another part permission.

## 6.7. Band Stand Concerts

After much discussion on practical organisational problems, the expectations of the town and visitors, and the threat of St Andrews bandstand concerts being eclipsed by Cupar (!), as no community councillor had come forward Cllr Sangster offered to contact local organisations to find someone to run the concerts. Joe Peterson will submit a provisional application to the Common Good Fund for a backing grant.

Ken Crichton was very disappointed at the difficulty, yet again, of getting a community councillor to agree to organise these concerts. He criticised people for joining community council but not being prepared to do any more than come to the monthly meeting. He suggested calling for volunteers for a town working group to run this and other events.

## 6.8. Pilgrim Foundation Reception

This item had come up early in February, but had been put off for discussion in March once members had time to consider it; unfortunately March had been busy so it had been put off again. Pete Lindsay had some concerns about the apparent suggestion that community council should organise a reception for the Pilgrim Foundation's auction winners; it was not necessarily an appropriate role for community council, rather the Foundation's. He was also concerned at the suitability of a community council organised affair given the amount of money the guests had, he presumed, paid the Foundation.

Cllr Bill Sangster as the current chair of the Foundation said that the Foundation had raised about £16,000. The idea was just for the Chair of community council to give a welcome to the town for the donors and let them see the Town Hall and Burgh Chambers.

Agreed Ken Crichton to organise with an estimated budget of £50. Chair, who had already made positive expressions on this subject, and other interested community councillors to attend. Cllr Sangster would co-ordinate with Ken Crichton and Donald Macgregor regarding time and date.

**Cllr Bill Sangster  
Ken Crichton  
Donald Macgregor**

## 6.9. Common Good Fund Query

For information. Ken Crichton remarked it raised more questions than it answered. He felt there were common good property that had been omitted, perhaps lost or destroyed.

## 6.10. New Hospital Project

It was believed that Donald Macgregor would be attending.

## Any Other Matters Arising

None

## 7. From Committees

### 7.1. Recreation

Verbal report by Joe Peterson

#### 7.1.1. St Andrew's Week and Trophies

A number of currently unallocated trophies had been discussed, such as the Gordon Christie Quaich. Committee suggests using this and others as part of the St Andrew's Week Festival Art & Photographic Competition, as part of the prizes for local area primary schools. There is also the Matthew Henderson Quaich, suggested as a prize to area primary schools for environmental projects. There would also be small amounts of prize money. Some wooden plaques were suggested for a schools (all years) poetry competition again in conjunction with St Andrew's Week. Guidance and advice on this would be sought from the committee of the St Andrews poetry festival (StAnza). Another trophy had been offered by Ken Fraser, which was still to be allocated.

Joe Peterson hoped that these extra parts to the annual competition would help increase the visitor number to the exhibition itself, which did not get the attention he felt the quality of its exhibits deserved.

#### 7.1.2. Children's Play Areas

Joe Peterson reviewed some suggested improvements (from Fife Council?). At the East Sands the play area to be expanded slightly to the former trampolines. He was not impressed but suggested waiting to see what equipment was installed then consider possible improvements, rather than risk obstructing such progress as was on the table at the moment. The committee would like to see even better facilities at the

West Sands, where need was arguably greater.

## **7.2. General Purposes**

Items already covered or for information

## **7.3. 200 Club Draw**

Draw: £30: 101 KL Lindsay; £20 56: R Bonchenek; £15 123: J Borthwick

Pete Lindsay drew attention to the 200 Club report circulated as a part of the supplemental sheet for the meeting, particularly his resignation as Administrator. He felt that with the accounts being untangled and the club back on even keel he had done sufficient work on this. He regretted that he had not been able to submit the accounts for formal audit, but they were still undergoing an internal bookkeeping check, and the requirement in the 200 Club constitution that its accounts be submitted to the same auditor as the full community council accounts. The Audit proper would be the task of the new administrator, but he would give any assistance necessary.

**May agenda: appoint new Administrator**

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Best Kept Town and Village Pre-Meeting**

**Ken Crichton to attend.**

### **8.2. Coastal spring clean 1st-30th April**

For information

### **8.3. Renewal of Membership of Association of Scottish Community Councils**

**Agreed.**

Pete Lindsay suggested careful attention to the newsletter which covered proposed changes to the role of community councils currently under discussion.

He also commended the ASCC AGM in October to the meeting – he had always found it very interesting to share experiences with other community councillors, and regretted that a persistent clash of dates had prevented him attending in recent years.

### **8.4. East Fife Sports Council Awards**

**Joe Peterson to attend**

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Report for information. No questions.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Absent.

### **9.3. Secretary**

#### **9.3.1. Correspondence**

No questions raised.

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

### **10.1. Hustings Meeting**

Town Hall, 7.30pm 12 April. Organised by Scottish Wildlife Trust.

### **10.2. Resignation**

Letting the other shoe drop, Pete Lindsay told the meeting that he would be resigning from community council, effective the end of the month. Having originally intended to serve no more than 10 years, it was now within a few weeks of 11 years. He felt that it was time to go, particularly as his wife Cllr Jane Ann Liston would not be at the next community council either as she would no longer be a Fife councillor.

Ian Goudie thanked him for his work on community council, and also Jane Ann Liston for her work for the town.

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