

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council Annual General Meeting DRAFT Minutes – May 2007

For approval

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Dave Finlay, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Donald Macgregor, Joe Peterson, Laurence Reed, Carole Tricker, George Davidson, Nan Taylor, Ken Crichton, Elise Methven, Dennis MacDonald

Students' Association Representatives

None.

Nominated

None

Fife Councillors

Frances Melville, Dorothea Morrison, Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston

Apologies

Patrick Marks, Stuart Holdsworth.

2. Minutes of the 2006 AGM

Approved without dissent.

3. Chair's Report

Taken as read, with the resignation of Chris Lesurf noted as an addition to the report.

4. Treasurer's Report

Apart from a typographical error in the dates which should read 2006/7 not 2006/4, she felt that the report was self-explanatory. The accounts for the Ceilidh she noted were listed separately from the main accounts.

5. Dates of Meetings 2007-2008

Mrs Tricker proposed that the meetings in May, August and January be booked for the 2nd Mondays to avoid the public holidays and to avoid clashing with the Lammas Fair. This was agreed and will be booked with the Town Hall caretaker.

6. Any Other Competent Business

6.1. Representatives of External Bodies/Committees

It was agreed that the current representatives remain in post in the various external organisations / committees until the Community Council election, unless they decided to stand down earlier. Dr Goudie also noted a vacancy for a representative to the Green Belt Forum, on which the Community Council has three representatives. Mr Finlay agreed to join as a representative.

Dr Goudie also raised the issue of Community Council committee membership, reminding new members that they could join one or more of the Community Council's committees.

7. Election of Officers

7.1. Chair

Mr Ken Fraser was proposed by Nan Taylor and seconded by Ken Crichton to a Chairman for the remainder of the current Community Council. Mr Fraser was elected unopposed. The retiring Chairman, Mr Donald Macgregor reminded the meeting that he had been on the Community Council in various capacities since 1986 and thanked the Community Council for their tolerance of his Chairmanship. Mr Fraser thanks Mr Macgregor for his effective Chairmanship and wished him well in his new endeavours as a Regional Councillor.

7.2. Vice-Chair

1. Dr Ian Goudie was nominated by Ken Crichton and seconded by Donald Macgregor.
2. Mr Ken Crichton was nominated by Dennis MacDonald and seconded by Elise Methven.

7.3. Treasurer

Mrs Tricker was nominated by Ian Goudie and seconded by Mr Joe Peterson

7.4. Secretary

Mr Marks was nominated by Dr Ian Goudie and seconded by Mr Ken Crichton

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(Copies of Agendas and Minutes of the Community Council are held at Fife Council's Local Office, St Mary's Place and the Town Library, Church Square. Those from late 1997 on are on line at <http://www.standrewscc.net/>)

1. Attendance

As AGM

2. Minutes of April 2007 Meeting

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as correct

3. Presentations

3.1. Response to Objection by Planning Committee of the Extension of the Use of the Argyle St Car Park by the Farmers Market by Mr Pete Lindsay.

Mr Lindsay gave an historical background to the Farmers Market, from its initial time at the car park in St Mary's Place to its current location at the Argyle St car park. He noted that the Community Council had awarded the Farmers Market £200 as an aid to its start-up. He could not recall any objections from any source to the Farmers Market to Community Council, Fife Councillors or the local press. He felt that it was up to the Planning Committee to make a case for its views. He wondered if the application might have been misunderstood by the Planning Committee, as the present market is running smoothly, and the application is for an extension and does not represent any real change. He hoped that the Planning Committee and the Community Council would recognise that they had made a mistake in their objection, given the established nature of the market and the minimal impact he felt that it has had on parking in St Andrews. He asked that the objection be withdrawn in the light of the new information he had presented.

Mrs Taylor recognised that Mr Lindsay as a member of the public had a right to object to the Planning Committee's decision to object to the extension of the planning permission for the Farmers Market in its present location without certain conditions. Mrs Taylor acknowledged that she'd consulted the former Planning Convenor, Ms Uprichard on this objection and others as part of the process of learning how to deal with planning matters. She also acknowledged that when she first saw the application for the Farmer's Market, she read it as meaning an extension to have more markets than it already had. After checking with the appropriate Fife Council department and checking on the number of parking spaces involved, Mrs Taylor said that she discussed the issue with the Planning Committee. She felt that given St Andrews parking problems it was a unreasonable that the town should lose 59 parking places, one Saturday a month for a number of hours, in July and August. She said that the Planning Committee agreed with her view. She felt that parking represented a growing problem in St Andrews, year on year.

Mr Peterson raised an objection to the tone of the discussion and Mr Crichton moved that the Community Council move to the next item of business. Mr Fraser, as Chairman responded that in his view the substantive question about the objection by the Planning Committee to the Farmers Market extension hadn't been fully addressed. He felt that further discussion on the substantive question was appropriate and that speakers should confine themselves to that question.

Mr Peterson suggested that the question would be more appropriately dealt with under the Planning Committee slot on the agenda and that the Community Council should thank Mr Lindsay for his presentation.

Mr John Stewart, local farmer, asked to make his own presentation on the same question. He felt that the objection by the Planning Committee contained a number of errors of fact. He reminded the meeting that the Farmers Market had been running for the past year, on the first Saturday of each month without any difficulty as far as the organisers were aware. The market ran until 1 pm with the area usually cleared by 1.15 pm. He pointed out that the main part of the Car Park was not usually full on a Saturday morning, citing recent personal experience in this matter. He commented that the Farmers' Market was very popular and he believed this to be a benefit to the town, drawing in people from outside the town, many of whom might go on to shop in the town. He asked that the Community Council seriously consider the objection by the Planning Committee and whether it was correct, given that the decision in his view, was made based on erroneous information about the nature of the application. He asked that the Community Council consider withdrawing the objection. He suggested a possibility of the Farmers Market stopping slightly earlier, at 12.30 or 12. He could not support any idea of stopping the July and August markets, and felt that the public would also be unhappy as they have become used to the regular monthly market. Mr Stewart also clarified a query from Mr Crichton about the idea that the planning application was for an extension. He explained that it was for a continuation in a chronological sense of the same market with no change in size, following the first year in the present location. Mr Lindsay also confirmed that the wording in the application talked about a continuation of an existing permission, not an extension.

Mrs Taylor acknowledged that the Planning Committee might have made an error in its interpretation of the application, but still felt that there was an issue about parking. The Planning Committee still viewed the use of the car park in July and August as a Farmers Market as contributing to parking pressure in the town. She reminded Mr Stewart that it would be Fife Council who would make the final decision, and the Community Council as a statutory consultee would have its view included in any discussion.

Mr Fraser drew the discussion to a close noting that the Planning Committee objection could be discussed further under that part of the agenda with a view to making a final decision about supporting or not supporting the objection.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1 Parking Meters

Cllr Melville commented that this matter has been continued to the next East Area Development Committee meeting on the 30th May. At that meeting the Transportation officials will come back to the committee with their findings and the public consultation will have virtually finished. She hoped that there would be a resolution of the matter, and that eventually a decision would be made on how to charge for parking.

4.1.2 Grange House Planning Appeal

Cllr Melville reported that the developers had withdrawn their appeal for their first application and have been given permission for the amended application.

4.1.3 Lawhead Road East and West

The resurfacing work in the above streets has nearly been completed.

4.1.4 Westburn Lane

Following the public inquiry, the developers are going to have another go taking on board the Reporter's comments.

4.1.5 Ottakar's Bookshop – Ventilation System

This matter is gradually being resolved, though the fans have still to be removed.

4.1.6 Fife Council Structure Plan

Mr Goudie asked Cllr Melville about the status of this plan following some recent news reports in which a Mr Alex Rowley had claimed that even if the Labour administration in Fife were to be re-elected, the structure plan would have to be looked at again in light of the introduction of city regions. Cllr Melville understood that a delaying factor had been the strategic environmental assessment. She had had an indication from Ian Smith MSP that the Structure Plan would eventually come back to Fife Council. She didn't know any more at the present time. Mr Goudie felt that there appeared to be a major problem if the whole process had to be restarted, given that the Council is operating on a 1996 Local Plan. He felt that if the whole cycle had to be restarted, it could be years before a local plan was in place. He wondered if there was any move from new councillors to establish a local plan on the basis of the 2002 Structure Plan which has never had a subsequent local plan? Cllr Melville replied that as the new councillors had not yet met in formal session she couldn't answer that question.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1 Bandstand Concerts

Cllr Sangster reported he made progress and that Mr Finlay had agreed to assist in this matter. He had sorted out the electricity and was looking for the folding chairs they require. In response to a query from Mr Finlay. Cllr Sangster informed the meeting that the keys for the bandstand were held at the local office at St Mary's Place. Mr Sangster appealed for additional help if necessary.

4.2.2 Eden Golf Course Entrance Yellow Lines

This had been noted by Transportation and added that it would take some time for the lines to be painted.

4.2.3 Community Council Suggestion Box

This currently resides in the local office.

4.2.4 Parking Machines – St Mary's Place

There is a suggestion that parking machines may be put in St Mary's Place, but this idea has still to be progressed.

4.2.5 Library Books

Following a query Cllr Sangster reported that Library books are rotated on a 3 to 4 monthly basis in Fife.

4.2.6 Waste Bin

Cllr Crichton informed Mr Sangster about the location of a waste bin out of reach on a lamp post. Mr Sangster thought that it might be the result of a prank, and agreed to get it lowered to the normal level.

4.3. Robin Waterston

Cllr Waterston acknowledged that having been recently elected he had nothing yet to report in relation to local issues. He looked forward to working with the Community Council and his Fife Council colleagues over the next four years in the interests of St Andrews.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

Cllr Morrison had nothing to report. She looked forward to working with the Community Council in the interests of St Andrews.

5. Planning Committee

5.1 Minutes

5.1.1. Farmers Market

Mrs Taylor began the discussion by stating that she was not opposed to Farmers Markets, but was

concerned about their location. The Planning Committee had viewed the location as a problem and would not object to such a market being held elsewhere in town 12 times a year. There was also concern that applications were coming in for other markets, such as a Continental Market and a Christmas Market, thus adding to the amount of time in which the parking area was unavailable for public use. Mrs Taylor was willing to alter the letter of objection. She also suggested that the Farmers Market could be relocated to areas where it would impact upon the 59 car spaces, such as the area in front of Madras College as suggested by Mr Macdonald. Mr Crichton commented upon the benefit of having a Farmers Market as it offered local produce, created local employment and offered an alternative to the takeover of towns by chain stores and supermarkets.

Mr Beech proposed that the Community Council should turn down the Planning Committee objection. He said that the car parking spaces in question were not heavily used, so there would not be any problem in letting the Farmers Market continue to use the area. His proposal was seconded. Dr Goudie suggested that a letter could be sent to Fife Council saying that we didn't object to the Farmers Market carrying on in the same physical area, but welcomed their offer to consider operating over a shorter time period, thus reducing pressure on parking in the town. Mr Fraser asked for a vote on Mr Beech's proposition. This was passed by 8 votes to 2. Dr Goudie agreed to write in the terms that he previously suggested to Fife Council.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Standing Orders

Mr Lindsay clarified this item. He reminded the meeting that Standing Orders had not been altered since a change in the meeting structure several months ago. He had asked the secretary to raise the matter so that appropriate amendments could be made. Mr Lindsay reminded the meeting that last month it had been agreed that a standing order be added to deal with grant procedures. While dealing with this he had also noticed that the standing orders currently in use had not been amended to take into account the current meeting structure. He was suggesting that the standing orders should now be formally changed to reflect the changes in the meeting structure.

General Purposes Committee to discuss

6.3. Reports from Representatives

6.3.1. RAF Liaison Committee

Mr Macdonald reported on his attendance with Mr Holdsworth of this meeting. At the meeting the resurfacing of the main runway in June was confirmed. Mr Macdonald also mentioned the possible availability of empty housing in Leuchars as a result of staff reductions in the base. He viewed this as an opportunity to meet, at least on a short term basis the needs of some local people on the housing waiting list. Mr Fraser reminded the meeting that Leuchars was outside the Community Council sphere of interest in relation to housing.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation

No meeting has taken place since the last Community Council meeting.

7.2. General Purposes

No meeting has taken place since the last Community Council meeting.

7.3. 200 Club

Mr Peterson suggested that the Recreation Committee would be prepared to take over the running of the 200 Club.

7.3.1. 200 Club Correspondence

Dr Goudie mentioned for the record that a letter had been received from the Riding Club for the Disabled thanking the Community Council 200 Club for the donation to their funds, and a letter requesting assistance had also been received which will be dealt with by the 200 Club. Mrs Tricker also mentioned that she'd had a request from a womens' drumming group called Biorhythms who meet in the Byre Theatre to assist in buying some news drums. They are seeking £200. This will be discussed by the 200 Club and will be brought to the next Community Council meeting as necessary.

7.3.2. 200 Club Draw

- 1st Prize No.65 Mr A. Ferry
- 2nd prize No 127 : Mr C. Sanderson
- 3rd prize No. 67 Mr A. Sproson

8. New Business

8.1. Community Council Vacancies

Mr Fraser asked if the Community Council would like him to write to the St Andrews Citizen about the 4 vacancies. This was agreed unanimously.

8.2. Fife Access Seminar – 29th May

Mr Peterson said he'd try to attend.

8.3. FOE Scotland – Training Offer re New Planning Law

Passed to the Planning Committee to respond as appropriate

8.4. Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland – Sub renewal

This was agreed without dissent.

8.5. FOE Scotland – Subscription Renewal Reminder

This was agreed without dissent

8.6. Quality of Life Communities Fund – Environmental Improvements

Mr Peterson suggested that the Recreation Committee agreed to have a look at the fund for possible future use.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

No report

9.2. Treasurer

£25283 is in the Community Council Funds

9.3 Secretary

See Correspondence list.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Bandstand Payment Query

Mr Finlay had a query about the funding for the Bandstand Concerts. Mrs Tricker and Mr Sangster explained the payment/grant issue to Mr Finlay. Mr Finlay had received a letter from the Common Good Fund saying that there will be a meeting in June about the application for funding towards the Bandstand Concerts. Mrs Tricker and Mr Sangster confirmed that an award wasn't automatic, but the application had gone in and it, would be a surprise if an award wasn't granted.
