

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – 8th May 2017

0. New Member

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, Gordon Shepherd, Izzy Corbin, Patrick Marks, Judith Harding, Greg Newman, Harry Stewart, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Ken Crichton, Penelope Fraser, Jamie McLeod, Kyffin Roberts, Penelope Fraser, Dita Stanis-Traken

Students' Association Representatives

Hannah Raleigh

Charlotte Andrew

Co-Opted

Niall Scott

Lindsey Adam

Fife Councillors

Brian Thomson, Jane Ann Liston, Dominic Nolan, Anne Verner

Apologies – Howard Greenwell, Iain Munn, Alistair Newton, Aine Bennett, Hannah Raleigh, Niall Scott

2. Minutes of Meeting – April 2017

The minutes were accepted as correct.

3. Presentations

4. Fife Councillors.

4.1. Jane Ann Liston.

4.1.1. Bus service - Consultation

Cllr Liston reminded the meeting that Fife Council subsidised the bus services in North East Fife to the sum of about £2.1 million annually. The consultation about certain services will start in the coming week and will run until June. Some of the services will affect St. Andrews while others won't. Cllr Liston briefly went through the list of subsidised services being reviewed. The survey can be completed on Fife Direct or a postal survey form can be requested.

4.1.2. Street Name Plates

Cllr Liston informed the meeting that something she was thinking of pursuing again was the issue of street nameplates especially in relation to historical names as many street names have been changed particularly in Victorian times. She reminded the meeting that the District Council had started a tradition of appending the historic name to some street signs citing Baker Lane, which had been Baxter Wynd. She added that 10 years ago Fife Council had agreed to put up the old street names beside the new ones when they were renewing street nameplates. Robert Smart and Ken Fraser had agreed a list of names but nothing happened. She was aware that some nameplates had been replaced in the past 10 years but the old names had not been put up as per the agreement. She is going to pursue the matter and thought that if the CC was interested it could look as well at supporting the idea.

Mrs Corbin brought up the issue of signs in relation to the work of St Andrews Partnership, which arranged for finger posts to be erected at various locations as more attractive and informative signage compared to the old signs. The Partnership she said were supposed to have the old signs taken down but Mrs Corbin said this hadn't occurred leaving a glut of signs with a rather messy look both coming into town and in town. Cllr Liston suggested that if Mrs Corbin sent her specific examples of localities of the signs she'd try and get something done to reduce the clutter.

Mr Dita Stanis-Traken endorsed the comments made about the street sign issue by Cllr Liston and Mrs Corbin. He thought that it would be wonderful to see some of the old names return in the town. He also thought that the Welcome signage to the town could be improved to reflect the status in relation to its distinguished history in education, religion and sport.

Dr Shepherd deplored the excessive signage with sometimes in his view irrelevant information being displayed on signs coming into St. Andrews. He agreed on the need to improve the Welcome signage though wasn't as certain about the 3 languages.

4.2. Dominic Nolan.

Cllr Nolan acknowledged that he didn't have anything to report having just been elected. He would hope to have reports at future meetings, but on this occasion was happy to observe the CC meeting.

4.3. Brian Thomson

4.3.1. Control of Fife Council

Cllr Thomson reported on the outcome of the recent Council Election in which the SNP gained the most seats, followed by Labour, then the Conservatives and Liberals. Discussions are currently taking place as the SNP could not rule alone and will require the support of another party.

4.3.2. Greenside Place

Cllr Thomson reported that the condition of the road down Greenside Place had been a big issue on the doorsteps during his campaigning. He will be taking up the issue with officers again. He informed the meeting that Largo Road was the top of the list at present with Greenside Place on the reserve list, but he will try to persuade officers to rethink the road's priority scoring.

4.3.3. Planning Policy in relation to Second Homes

Cllr Thomson said that now he was re-elected he was keen to push ahead with a policy on second homes. He had been aware of the situation in St. Ives where second homes can't be purchased and any purchases have to be as a person's primary residence. He had supplied details of the policy to Fife council Planning with a view to having it in the next development plan.

4.4. Anne Verner

Mrs Verner introduced herself and acknowledged that so far she had nothing to reported but looked forward to working with the Community Council over the next five years.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Report

Planning Committee met twice in the past four weeks, looked at 26 applications and objected to 2 applications. She reported that the saga of the pergola at the Westport Hotel was continuing with a new application, which will be forthcoming in the near future. Preliminary plans for the Western extension have been revealed but an actual planning application has not been lodged.

The committee had also received several requests from Planning Dept case officers recently asking it to withdraw its objections to certain applications because of changes in the

applications. Miss Uprichard said that the committee are concerned by this trend as it meant that the committee were being asked to make decisions based on second hand information from officials. The committee's view that where there were significant amendments there should be fresh applications. She felt that the committee should have a chance to meet and make decisions about amendments rather than deal by email. She felt it was less satisfactory as there could be no proper discussion by email compared to meeting and viewing plans together. She wasn't certain where the trend discussed had come from and there was a possibility the committee would write to a senior Planning official for clarification. She added that 95% of applications are decided by delegated powers and hoped that officials weren't aiming at 100%!

Mr Roberts whilst recognising that the Planning Committee had delegated powers should try to take into account the views of other Councillors and possibly the wider public. The recent issue which had led him to reflecting on the operation of the committee was that he'd only heard about the committee's decision to object to the lighting of the Cathedral by reading the local press and national press as the objection had been picked up by the Times newspaper. He didn't think it could be right that he'd heard about the objection in that manner.

Miss Uprichard replied that the committee usually sent information to the Courier about any objections they were making. Their concerns about the application she said had been based on a number of concerns, including the fact that there had been a lot of detail missing from the application which might have cleared up some questions about the project. She gave a few examples of the areas where information was in the committee's view inadequate. One particularly contentious suggestion in the application had been the suggestion that on Valentine's Day the lighting could be pink. The committee didn't think it was appropriate for a cathedral, which was a burial ground. In reply Mr Roberts reminded the meeting about the St Andrews Winter Festival a developing event. The event starts with the Civic Reception and also takes in the switching on of the Xmas lights and extends into the early New Year. He felt that the lighting of the cathedral went well with that celebration. He added that the Planning Committee hadn't consulted with the St Andrews Partnership about the plans and he didn't feel that the objection should have gone in without any attempt to communicate with the relevant body on the plan. Mr Greg Newman who is now on the Partnership for the CC said he'd mentioned to the Partnership that he thought the Planning Committee would not be very happy. He therefore thought that the Partnership would have had inkling that there might be an objection.

Mr Stewart suggested that the full CC should vote on the matter as to whether they supported the lighting or objected. Miss Uprichard thought that members should read the details including the supporting statement. Mr McLeod added that the Planning Committee objection related to the possible lighting up in multiple colours, which he didn't remember being mentioned before as a possibility for the project. He added that he also recognised the committee's concerns about the idea of lighting up on Valentine's Day in pink feeling it was disrespectful for an old sacred building and graveyard. He also explained that the committee had considered the merits of the application not just the issue of the colour used to light up the cathedral. The application was in the committee's view missing detail on areas such as who would be in charge of the lighting and when it would be switched on and off. Miss Uprichard added that as Historic Scotland supported the application the Planning Committee's objection would likely not make any difference but the committee would have appreciated answers to some of their questions from the Partnership.

Mr McLeod reminded the meeting that the CC is a statutory consultee in Planning Applications and its objections lead to applications going to North East Fife Planning Committee for determination. Mr Roberts felt that the damage had been done as far as the project was concerned and that the funding upon which it was dependent was dependent upon getting planning permission and he thought that funding was likely to be withdrawn anyway. He had a bigger concern, which related to major applications such as the Western Extension, the school and other contentious subjects. He felt that those should not be decided exclusively by the Planning Committee alone but should at least come to the full CC and possibly further afield into the community.

Mr McLeod sought Dr Goudie's guidance on how the level at which the CC should be involved in scrutinising Planning Committee decisions and commented that he didn't view the cathedral lighting in the same category as the new school or the Western Extension. Dr Goudie explained that the standing procedure in the past had been that the Planning Committee looked at applications and did the detailed footwork. In major applications the Planning Committee would not make the final decision but would circulate its report on any major application to the CC for comment and discussion before submission. Mr McLeod asked Dr Goudie who would decide what applications would come to the whole CC? Miss Uprichard wondered how could anyone be sure that CC members would read all the relevant documents of which there could be dozens. She felt that it would be a mistake to allow CC members not on the Planning Committee to vote in such circumstances. Mr Newman reminded the meeting that Planning Committee meetings were open to other members and the public. He thought that if someone was interested in particular applications they should attend the Planning meeting. There was also a suggestion that the Weekly List available online could be consulted by members if there was an application which they were interested in and was due to be published. Mr McLeod suggested that members could sign up for weekly email alerts from Fife Planning if interested. He concluded that if members knew of a major application which they think the whole CC should consider should make their views known. He reminded members that the Planning Committee usually worked on a fairly tight time schedule. In response to a query from Mr Stewart, Miss Uprichard said that a major application might be something over 2 hectares or over 200 houses.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Reports from Representatives

6.1.1. East Fife Sports Council Awards

Mrs Corbin reported on the annual Awards presentation for local athletes in East Fife. This took place at the Gateway in St Andrews a few days before the CC meeting. The CC awards an annual trophy for older athletes and Mr Crichton and Mrs Corbin have attended as CC representatives to award the trophy.

6.1.2. Cosmos Management Committee

Mrs Harding reported on her attendance as a CC representative at the management meeting of the Cosmos Community Centre. She had nothing significant to report back. She thought that the centre was well organised and running smoothly. Miss Uprichard asked when the Cosmos lease was to end? Mrs Harding admitted she didn't know and thought that Niall Scott would be the person to ask and guessed that the lease was up in about 12 years.

6.2. Web Site Charges

This issue has arisen following invoices being received by the secretary in relation to excess use and additional costs for that use. Dr Goudie explained that in recent months it was realised that the CC was exceeding its monthly usage limit. He explained why this couldn't have been predicted. He also explained that in discussion with Mr Munn they'd agreed to pay a couple of pounds extra to allow for excess usage and there would be a review of the contract at the end of August when annual renewal would normally happen. The current limit for the site is 1000 mbs and with the small extra payment this would increase to 2500 mbs monthly. He thought that it was unlikely this would be exceeded. Mr McLeod asked members if this increased expenditure was acceptable? In response to a query from Mr Crichton, Dr Goudie explained that there were different kinds of contracts available from different providers. The main thing they'd need to check was whether a new deal would still give the facilities and customer service provided by the current provider.

6.3. Facebook Update

Mr McLeod reported that the working group hadn't met in the past month by mutual agreement, as there wasn't anything problematic happening on the site. Mr McLeod said that he was posting items each week on at least a couple of occasions.

6.4. Nominations Committee

Mr McLeod reported back on the progress being made ahead of the AGM when new co-opted directors would be chosen under the modified rules. A recent planned meeting with Danny Campbell of the Links Trust was called off by the latter at short notice. He is due to meet with Danny Campbell next week to finalise the applications for the co-opted directorships. There are five applicants for the posts and the Nominations Committee will send their guidance to the Trust Committee for their eventual decision at their AGM in June.

6.5. Election Hustings

Mrs Corbin reported back on the recent Council Election Hustings. It had been well attended with more than 80 in the audience more than the official capacity of 50 or so. She thought there had been some very good speakers. Overall it was a useful and successful evening.

There was then a discussion on whether there should be a hustings for the General Election. Some members felt that it was an important democratic process and should be supported. It was decided to use the new Bowling Club on Kinburn campus. A provisional date was set after discussion with Mr Corbin to help set up the meeting if possible.

6.6. other matters Arising

6.6.1. Madras College – Educational Consultation

Mr McLeod reminded and explained to members that the initial consultation would be an educational consultation not a planning one. Miss Uprichard was concerned about the simplistic nature of the consultation which she said was either a simple **yes or no**. She didn't understand the way it was being done. Mr McLeod said his understanding was that it had to be done by law. Mr Roberts felt that there should be no doubt it should be supported as the CC had campaigned for a site in the area now being offered. Dr Goudie offered brief historical perspective on the history of the process in finding a suitable site. When he was Chair of the CC between 2009-2011 Madras Langlands was the preferred site, thought the CC objected to any such move. In terms of the more recent one he thought he was correct in saying that the CC didn't comment in the educational consultation for Pipeland. He thought that the CC should adopt the same approach for this education consultation. Given the likely outcome he didn't think that a contribution from the CC at this stage would have much value. The stage where the CC might have something more useful to say would be the planning stage and he thought the CC should wait for that stage. He added that the CC had been lectured about not taking up positions in recent years before public consultations. He had his reservations about that attitude. He thought that the CC shouldn't undermine its ability to contribute on the planning front if it made a statement at this stage. Mr Newman wondered if this could be covered by saying that we have no educational disagreements with this site? Mr Roberts repeated his view that it was simply a case for the CC to say that it supported a school on that site. Miss Uprichard thought that responding to the education consultation would constrain the ability of the CC to respond to the planning application.

Mr McLeod said that any planning application would be dealt with in the usual way.

Cllr Thomson who arrived at this stage confirmed that an education consultation was brought in several years ago primarily to deal with issues arising from school closures. Cllr Thomson said that the question was completely unrelated to planning. It wouldn't preclude the CC from making any decision on planning matters.

Mr McLeod asked for a show of hands in relation to the question about responding to the education consultation. "Do you support the proposal to relocate Madras College from the existing school sites of South Street and Kilrymont Road, St. Andrews to a new single site at Langlands adjacent to the University?" 9 for and 4 against the question being asked. A vote was then taken to confirm that the CC would answer the question posed by Fife Council - vote was 10-3.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Recreation Committee

Mr McLeod reminded the meeting that Mr Greenwell wasn't wanting to remain as Chair so a new Chair is required. Mr. McLeod suggested that the decision could be made by the committee at a meeting.

7.2. GP Meeting

No meeting

7.3. 200 Club

1st Joe Peterson 2nd Margaret Illingworth 3rd Miss F Smith

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin reported on a four year plan for NHS in Fife which can be viewed on the NHS Fife website. Another item related to looking at ways to reduce medication wastage which is a big problem for the NHS.

Mr McLeod then brought up the subject of the Safety Panel which had been brought up by Bill Sangster who had requested that the CC take over the operation of this panel. He thought it could either be a sub committee in its own right or a part of HEW. He said that there was funding for the Panel and it included representatives of the Police, Fire Service etc. Mr Crichton informed the meeting that the Panel covered the whole of North East Fife so dealt with business not of interest to St Andrews. He didn't feel it was our responsibility to run the Panel. It was agreed that Mr McLeod would inform Mr Sangster of the decision to decline his request.

7.5. Rail Sub Committee

Dr Goudie informed the meeting that he'd received a completed version of the Policy Review, a first step towards getting a major appraisal. He felt that the review had achieved what it set out to do. He acknowledged that a route hadn't yet been safeguarded but he felt that the policy review showed that such a link would fulfil a positive role in promoting a range of the broader goals of the various plan documents. The committee's aim had been to break down the STAG appraisal into a series of chunks. The committee and Starlink would now have to meet to look at how funding could be sourced to further the project. He was grateful to the CC for its support which had allowed some progress to be made. Mr Crichton thought there should be a bus link into the town from any revived St Andrews station. Mr Dita Stanis-Trachen informed the meeting about the bus situation saying that buses didn't fit into the optimal transport solution. He said that the bus uptake from Leuchars station was quite low at only 15% for the Dundee Service bus and a golf link bus during the Open had an even lower take up rate.

8. New Business

8.1. European City of the Reformation

Mr Stanis-Trachen read out the content of his email to the CC at the end of March 2017 "Per intimation of Secretary Mr Marks on 28 February 2017, St Andrews has been named one of the "Cities of the European Reformation", a network of 81 cities across 15 nations of the European continent.

It is important to stress that St Andrews is not only the sole Scottish City of the Reformation; it is also the only city to be named as such across the entirety of Great Britain, the United Kingdom and the geographical British Isles. Although this initiative has been initiated by a network of European churches, the Reformation should not in the present day be viewed as a purely theistic phenomenon but as a key geopolitical milestone and irrevocable turning point in our ancient nation's twelve-hundred year journey: surely our designation as a European City of the Reformation should be more widely intimated to the community of St Andrews and perhaps some thought could also be given as to how the Reformation and its St Andean martyrs could be especially commemorated over the coming months in light of this recent conformant?

Mr McLeod asked Mr Stanis-Traken if he'd be willing to form a small group to investigate how this could be progressed? Mr Stanis-Traken said he had no more details than that which Mr Marks circulated. He'd really just wanted to see how the CC wanted to in some way promote and be involved in this initiative. Mr Stanis-Traken thought that it should be made more widely known at the very least by the use of the CC facebook page or similar. He thought that it was something that was part of St Andrews reformation history. Mr McLeod asked whether anyone might write to the Principal of St Marys College on the subject. Mr Stanis-Traken agreed to write on behalf of the CC. Mr McLeod felt that this would be a good starting point and would allow the CC to see if there were any plans which it might be able to support in some way.

8.2. Air Pollution Monitoring

Mr Crichton wondered if it was possible for one of the committees to obtain monthly details about the air pollution in St Andrews? Miss Uprichard informed the meeting that this was an issue concerning the World Health Organisation and she'd written on the subject due to the increasing traffic pollution in St Andrews. She'd written at one time to Fife Council Transportation asking if alternative routes could be found for construction traffic which didn't go through the town. So far she hasn't been able to get a positive response with comments that it would be more expensive and would take longer. She strongly felt that it should be done as certain routes through town are used and she thought that this must have an effect on local residents of those streets. She believed that there were air quality monitoring points in the town but she wasn't completely certain what happened to the information collected. Mr McLeod suggested that it might be something the Planning Committee could tackle but Dr Goudie believed it was an issue for local Fife Council members. A few months ago he'd asked local members how many of these monitoring points there were in town and got a view that there were quite a number. However Dr Goudie thought it would be good to get detailed data to clearly evidence this as it was a potential health issue for local residents more regularly exposed to the particulates etc emitted. Cllr Thomson agreed that there were a number around town and he'd asked for one to be installed at the end of Lamond Drive after a concern raised by a local resident. In relation to routes for construction traffic it should be possible to impose conditions in relation to where the construction traffic should be routed. The planning authority he said had the right to insist upon certain construction routes. He suggested that Dr Goudie could raise this as something to put into responses by the Planning Committee when writing to Planning in Fife Council about major development applications. Miss Uprichard informed the meeting that routes for construction traffic were not included in planning applications. Routes for traffic are usually discussed after the approval of an application between the applicants and Fife Council. She felt that the applicants generally got their way and this was usually the shortest routes not necessarily those avoiding the areas such as she'd got concerns about e.g. Lamond Drive.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Mr McLeod reported he'd attended the Kate Kennedy Procession on behalf of the CC. He also written his article for the St Andrews in Focus for the issue published 1st May but hadn't had any response to date.

9.2. Treasurer

Treasurers Monthly Report on the website.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence

See list. Mr Marks briefly commented on the correspondence received and circulated.

Mrs Corbin suggested that a letter of thanks for his support and service should be sent as he has recently retired from Fife Council. Mrs Corbin agreed to send a letter on behalf of the CC.

Mr Roberts asked about CGF applications and reminded Mr Marks and Mr McLeod about an application from Fife Council in relation to the Dutch Village, which requires substantial repair work before it, can be fully utilised by the Friends of Craigtoun. Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that at present the Dutch Village didn't form part of the lease for the running of Craigtoun by the Friends of Craigtoun. An application had indeed been received on 27th April for the amount of £17258 to come from the CGF with the bulk of repair costs coming from Parks Development & Countryside capital.

10. Any Other Competent Business

No other business.