

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – January 2012

For Approval

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0. Preliminary Remarks by Chair

Mr Roberts announced the resignation of Mrs McAnaw from the Community Council due to pressure of work and family and other commitments. Mr Roberts expressed his regret at her resignation and said that he had emailed her to express his sadness at losing someone with her enthusiasm and drive. Her skill in organising events and encouraging volunteer help will be sorely missed.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Marysia Denyer, Izzy Corbin, Robert McLachlan, Howard Greenwell, Carol Ashworth, Judith Harding, Ronnie Murphy, Kyffin Roberts, Meg Platt, Henry Paul, Ken Crichton, Ken Fraser, Penny Uprichard

Students' Association Representatives

Nominated

Niall Scott
Lindsey Adam

Fife Councillors

Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville, Bill Sangster

Apologies

Andy Primmer, Keith Cordrey, Catherine Rowe, Chloe Hill, Callum Corbin

2. Minutes of December 2011 Meeting

4.3.6. Last line of 2nd Para should be "not enough consensus" instead of "enough consensus".

3. Presentations

3.1. Planning Commission on Housing – follow up

Mr Middleton reminded the meeting that at the last CC meeting there had been a suggestion in December that the proposed Commission should be taken forward in the early new year. He wanted to get a meeting of interested parties and stakeholders organised in the near future to kick start the proposals. The meeting would be to set out the framework about how the Commission would go about its affairs. Mr Roberts agreed that it was a good idea not to lose the emphasis and asked for a suggestion of a venue for the first meeting. Mr Middleton said that the Preservation trust could provide the secretariat but did not have the meeting facilities. The possibility of using Madras College was suggested by Mr Paul and Mr Crichton suggested the Hope Park meeting room. Wednesday 18th January was provisionally pencilled in for the first meeting with the venue to be confirmed.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. Four bin recycling roll-out

Cllr. Melville had previously alerted the Community Council about this plan and the offer of a brief presentation prior to the rollout by a Council officer. Mr Marks confirmed that he had had contact and after discussion. Cllr. Melville mentioned the positive experience of the residents of Strathkiness following the introduction of the scheme. It was agreed to have the Council officer do a presentation, and Mr Marks will arrange which month she will come to introduce the details of the scheme.

4.1.2. Ladebraes Tidy up

Cllr. Melville reported that the work to tidy up parts of the Ladebraes was making excellent progress. Maries Cassells of the Pilgrim Trust has suggested that they might be able to assist with some replacement of the park furniture.

4.1.3. Wildflower Planting Scheme

Cllr. Melville had had a meeting with Mr Keith Jackson about this idea of planting the verges coming into St Andrews by Station Park with a wildflower mix. She will keep the Community Council updated on the progress of this idea.

4.1.4. Craigtoun Park

Cllr. Melville reported that progress on tendering for the activities to take place at Craigtoun is progressing. There will be a meeting chaired by Kate Hughes on the matter later this week and there will probably be competitive tendering required from possible operators. Mr Roberts commented upon the slowness of Fife Council in progressing the matter and hoped that things would now get moving.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Police Station move

Cllr. Sangster reported on the planned move of the Police Station to the old Health Centre in Pipeland Road. It was hoped to start the structural changes quite soon. There might even be a chance that the building might be dual purpose as the Police had indicated that they would not necessarily require to use the whole building. Dr. Goudie wondered about the rationale behind the move of the police to the old health centre. He was concerned that this would lead to the loss of a potential site for affordable housing. Cllr. Sangster replied that the current premises are not up to modern standards as required for a police station, hence the need to move.

4.2.2. Bassaguard Industrial Estate Regeneration

This is progressing to a second stage with potential developers asked to express an interest.

4.2.3. Greyfriars Gardens - Pavement Works

The east side of this street will see parking stopped while pavement work is undertaken between 23rd January and 30th March. In answer to a query from Miss Uprichard, Cllr Sangster confirmed that pavements are always done before road repairs as part of any work. Cllr Waterston explained that this was to do with having the pavement kerbstones in place before the roadwork was started. Mrs Denyer questioned Cllr Sangster about how the work would affect shop deliveries? Cllr Sangster replied that shops and residential premises had been warned about the work and there would still be access to shop and residential buildings similar to the way work was done in Market Street and elsewhere in the town centre. The work would also be done in stages to reduce the scale of disruption.

4.2.4. Crails Lane

Fife Council has repainted Crails Lane after the spate of graffiti.

4.2.5. Kinnessburn Work

Cllr. Sangster reported on the progress of the work at the Kinnessburn, which is still ongoing.

4.2.6. Scooniehill Road Repairs

Cllr. Sangster reported that the Council are trying to find funds to do road repair work in Scooniehill Road before the end of this financial year.

4.2.7. Ellis Place – North street

Cllrs. Sangster and Waterston confirmed that work on the road at Ellis Place would recommence in the coming month.

4.2.8. Graffiti at East Sands

Mr Greenwell reported that 4 out of 5 areas of graffiti at the east Sands/Harbour area had not been cleaned to date. Cllr Sangster agreed to check and speak to the Council Dept responsible and would send them photos of remaining graffiti.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Madras Public Meeting

Cllr Waterston reminded the meeting about the Public meeting this coming Thursday at Kilrymont on the Madras proposals. Cllr Waterston also commented on the recent public statement by the Muir Group, which had proposed a possible school site close to the Community Hospital on land they own. He hoped that this wouldn't muddy the waters too much in the ongoing debate. The meeting will be at 18.30 at Kilrymont. Miss Uprichard queried the purpose of the meeting given the apparent clear intention of the Council to refurbish Kilrymont. Cllr Waterston replied that this was a consultation to allow questions to be asked of the proposals and seek thoughts on them from the public.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. Winter Pack CD

Cllr Morrison had brought along a CD produced by Fife Council which contained details of plans for the winter period, with information about who to contact etc in bad weather.

4.4.2. Hamilton Hall

Cllr Morrison had been approached by some local citizens concerned about the situation with the work at Hamilton Hall, which they thought might not be all it seemed to be. Cllr Morrison contacted officials in Fife Council to make them aware of the concerns and consider whether there should be a site visit. An enforcement officer will visit to check what is happening and determine if any action to rectify matters is necessary.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Chair's Comments

Mr Greenwell reported that the Planning Committee had only one meeting in December. They had put in objections to a couple of HMOs in the conservation area. They had also noted a PAN on the Wonderyears Nursery application for the Student Accommodation at the East Sands. The consultation on the application will take place on the 25th January in the Nursery. Further discussion took place on the Wonderyears application with questions about how their ownership had arisen and the history of the site. There was a query about looking out the deeds of sale by Fife Council, if they hadn't been lost!

The committee had also followed up with the Cosmos Centre about the meeting space to see how it could be made suitable for planning meetings. The committee were helping to co-ordinate a proposal to the St Andrews Community Trust for a digital projector and screen, which would aid planning meetings as well as be useful to the Cosmos Centre.

Miss Uprichard reported on the saga of the Balgove Larder signs, which had been refused by the Reporter recently. There had been one problem as not all the relevant papers had been available to the Reporter due to problems in the Appeals Directorate before the decision was taken. Miss Uprichard said that if the applicant appealed to the Court of Session the Reporter's department would not oppose it and would pay all reasonable costs, a worrying thought!

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Martyrs Monument

Mr Roberts reported that the £100000 mark had been reached in fundraising. Mrs Ashworth added that Fife Council was putting together paperwork so that tenders for the work could be requested.

6.2. StandEN

Still awaiting the outcome of the application for funding in association with the Transition University Group in the coming month.

6.3. Craigtoun Park

Mr Roberts reported that the progress on trying to sort out the future of Craigtoun had stalled a bit. Mr Roberts thought that there should be a meeting of the proposed Friends of Craigtoun as soon as possible. He recognised that various things needed to be done to progress the issue, such as getting somebody to manage it and set up a website etc. He recognised that more people were needed to become involved in this issue. He sought the meeting's thoughts on how best to proceed and gained a view that getting an outside body to manage it might be the best idea. He thought that setting up the Friends of Craigtoun should be the first step and progress from there. A possible meeting date and venue was then discussed. Mr Paul suggested the use of the Supper Room when available, funded by the Community Council. Mr Roberts suggested the possibility of a meeting the following week with an advert in the Citizen. The possibility of Monday the 23rd January was mooted with publicity in the Courier and other media. Mr Roberts said he'd try to action something in the next few days.

Chair to sort out publicity and venue for Craigtoun meeting with support from other CC members as required.

6.4. Botanic Gardens

Cllr. Waterston reported that there was a steering group focussing on working with a consultant and with the Council and University. The lease between the Council and University has now been extended to 2013. The extension will give more time to do a proper job of developing a business case and allowing a more orderly transition.

6.5. Whyte-Melville Fountain

Cllr. Sangster reported that work was still ongoing to check out the fountain and refurbish as necessary. Once work has been completed the fountain will operate on a seasonal basis. Cllr. Sangster in response to a query said that the fountain is a dribbler not a gusher.

6.6. St Andrews Community Trust

Mr Paul reminded the meeting that in its first year the Trust had been under spent. The Trust will consider about 6 requests for funding at its first meeting in 2012. He reminded the meeting to point possible suitable applicants with project ideas to the Trust. Mr McLachlan asked about the amount going into the Trust funds. Mr Paul replied that it would be about £50k.

6.7. Reports from Representatives

No reports

6.8. Any Other Matters Arising

No other matters arising

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

Mrs Denyer reported back on the work of the Recreation Committee. Mrs Denyer thanked the University for helping out with the Senior Citizens Party when there were last minute difficulties. Mrs Denyer hoped to have another Committee meeting to discuss a possible Coffee Morning in the next few weeks. She also hoped to forward plan for other events such as the Garden Competition and updating information for events such as the Civic Reception.

Mrs Denyer also wanted to place on record her sincere thanks to Mrs McAnaw for her valuable contribution as a Community Councillor. Mrs Denyer thought that her enthusiasm and organisational skills would be missed, as well as her network of helpers. Mrs Denyer added that Mrs McAnaw will be sorely missed.

7.2. General Purposes

See report published separately. Some items discussed under other agenda items.

7.3. 200 Club

1st Mr M.B. Wilson 2nd Rev Moffett 3rd Mr C. Alexander

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No report from HEW.

8. New Business

8.1. Research Project on Community Councils

A student Lisa Coles who is a 3rd year student at Dundee University had emailed the secretary to discuss her project for her course – see Appendix C in the agenda. Mr Marks asked if members would object if she might approach them to ask questions relating to her research. There was no dissent and Mr Marks to contact Lisa and make her aware of the outcome.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

9.1.1 Chairs Report

The Chair thanked the University for the last minute support when a change of venue was required for the Senior Citizens Treat.

9.2. Treasurers Report

The current account was distributed and was explained by the Treasurer. The CC has £4572 in the running account, up on the previous year. He reminded the meeting of the large cost of running the Bandstand Concerts, which is about £2400. This would be affordable this year but could not be continued, so fundraising preferably with long-term commitment from donors would be ideal. Mr Roberts added that a letter to potential donors asking for sponsorship of individual concerts and possibly on a long term basis was due to be sent out in the name of the chair and treasurer.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

The secretary commented that correspondence of interest was listed in the appendix of the agenda. The secretary briefly went through correspondence for the benefit of the meeting.

Mr Marks asked about the request by Lindsay Murray to come to speak to the CC. Mr Greenwell said that he'd not heard anything back so far, but would circulate her email when he eventually heard from her.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Newsletter

Dr Goudie raised the issue of putting together of newsletter dealing with the Madras College issue and also making the public aware of the work of the Community Council. Dr Goudie reminded the meeting of the tight timescale for getting the newsletter out to allow members of the public to respond to the consultation period on the refurbishment proposals for Madras. Cllr Waterston acknowledged that it could be very helpful to have some comment from the Community Council. He added that the public were being pulled between the information as presented by Fife Council and the views of the group campaigning for a new school. He thought that there was a danger of not going for a good if not perfect solution and then finding oneself in a difficult situation. He hoped that the Community Council would acknowledge that as a potential risk. Mr Roberts added that he recognised the difficulty in the matter and that was why he didn't think the Community council could chair any group debating the matter, as there wasn't an easy answer.

10.2. Greyfriars Garden Issue

Mr Fraser noted that there appeared to be some developments in the future of the garden on the corner of Greyfriars Gardens and Market Street. He reminded the meeting that this site was the source of a previous attempt to do something about it when the CC had a Millennium Committee. He added that some funds had been raised for the possible project at the time, which had never been spent, as the planned project didn't take place. He thought that these funds might be a way for the CC to give a new project some money. Mr Roberts asked about the present whereabouts of these funds. Mr Fraser thought they were absorbed into the general CC account, a fact confirmed by Mr Paul. Mr Crichton mentioned other past problems, namely the cost of acquiring the site, partly because the owner wanted a lot more than the District Valuer's estimate. He feels that this could still be a stumbling block.

10.3. Olympic Torch Celebration – 13/06/2012

Mr McLachlan asked if there was any more information on this event? Mr Paul reported on information available from a meeting before Xmas. He said that the torch will arrive in a van and that there will be two photo opportunities to which the Community Council is not invited. The torch will be lit by some local worthy in the University Quad, then run around to South Street and out via the West Port. It will be in public view from 7.30 to 8.00 am. Mr Roberts added that hopefully the day of celebrations would continue after the departure of the torch.

10.4. Preservation Trust Annual Quiz Evening

Mrs Denyer announced that the preservation trust will be holding its Annual quiz evening and invited teams from the Community Council to attend and participate in the evening, which will take place on Thursday 23rd February at the New Golf Club. There will be a free glass of wine and nibbles.