

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – May 2011

For Approval

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1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Ken Crichton, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Audrey McAnaw, Penny Uprichard, Kyffin Roberts, Catherine Rowe, Ronnie Murphy, Izzy Corbin, Meg Platt, Andy Primmer, Keith Cordrey, Howard Greenwell, Judith Harding, Carol Ashworth, Callum Corbin.

Students' Association Representatives

Nominated

Lindsey Adam

Co-Opted

Niall Scott

Fife Councillors

Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville

Apologies

Rebecca Ladley, Robert McLachlan, Meg Platt

2. Minutes of April 2011 Meeting

Callum Corbin was omitted from attendance at the April Community Council Meeting

4.1.5. Dr Goudie commented that there was ambiguity in the references to "she" as to whether it was meant to be Mrs Corbin or the café owner. Mr Marks acknowledged the ambiguity.

5.2. Cllr Waterston commented that the committee name in the first line should be the "North East Fife Area Committee", the East Area being the older name.

6.1. Dr Goudie pointed out that the last sentence in the first paragraph was incomplete. Mr Marks acknowledged the omission and agreed to amend.

6.2. Dr Goudie suggested a greater formality in the first line to identify "Bill" as Cllr Sangster.

6.6.1. The last line describes Mr Middleton incorrectly as representing the Links Trust. This should be the Preservation Trust.

Miss Uprichard had also given Mr Marks some amendments to the minutes prior to the meeting.

3. Presentations

No presentations this month

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. Royal Wedding Breakfast

Cllr Melville felt that the Royal Wedding breakfast was a great success and congratulated the efforts of all the Community Councillors involved.

4.1.2. Fife Fair Trade Celebration

Cllr Melville hoped that the Community Council had received an invitation to attend this event to take place in the Town House in Kirkcaldy to mark the recognition of Fife County as a Fair Trade area. Mr Marks acknowledged that he'd received an email from Marie Robinson on this matter.

4.1.3. Playground Award for Cockshaugh Play Area

Cllr Melville was delighted to learn about the award given to renovate the Cockshaugh Play area as part of a national campaign. A sum of £15000 would be used towards the improvement of the play area. She congratulated local parent, Brenda Thomson for her initiative in applying for this award and successfully achieving the award against stiff competition. The award will enhance plans by Fife Council to put in new equipment as part of a range of work in Cockshaugh Park.

4.1.4. Kinnessburn

Cllr Melville informed the meeting about problems with sewage in the Kinnessburn and the millpond areas. A notice had been put up in the latter area on this matter at the request of SEPA. Robbie Blyth, Beach Manager has been involved in assessing the problem. Cllr Melville thought the problem might have been resolved and the notices might be due for removal soon. She acknowledged that the millpond itself probably needed cleaning out, but that this would be a Community Services job. In reply to a question from Mr Roberts, Cllr Melville confirmed that the problem was due to sewage due to a burst sewer at Cairns mill Caravan Park

4.1.5. "A" Boards

Cllr Melville had sent information supplied by Mrs Rowe on this subject to the Head of Transportation Services, but had only received a reply a few days prior to the meeting. The response offered to have someone walk around with Mrs Rowe and get a picture of the problems. The long promised leaflet on the subject has been delayed despite having been requested early last year. Miss Uprichard asked about the aim of the "A" Board publicity campaign. Cllr Melville reminded the meeting that there had been an attempt to educate shopkeepers on the proper way to put out their boards and avoiding obstructing public movement. As part of this campaign it was decided to develop a leaflet to issue to shopkeepers detailing the guidance on this subject. Cllr Melville acknowledged that there had been delays with the production of the leaflet, thus delaying the whole campaign.

Mrs Adam asked about the regulations with respect to the "A" Boards, as she didn't think most businesses in town were aware of what they were. A new member of the Merchants Association had approached her to try and find out about "A" Board regulation as she'd struggled to find out anything from Fife Council. When she had managed to speak to an official in Fife Council they'd informed her that there weren't any regulations and that she should just use her common sense in setting the boards out and avoiding blocking the pavement. Cllr Sangster in reply reminded the meeting that the suggested gap to avoid obstructing the public was 2 metres. Cllr Melville was also surprised at this advice from Fife Council, which she thought was incorrect. Miss Uprichard commented that in some areas of Market Street a 2-metre gap was not possible due to the width of the pavement. Cllr Sangster replied that in such an area there shouldn't be "A" Boards at all.

4.1.6. St Andrews Colts Presentation

This event, which was honouring the Colts trainer, has been delayed, but Cllr Melville hoped to be able to make the presentation at a new date to be fixed.

4.1.7. Meeting about Knightsbridge Plans

Cllr Melville and her colleagues had attended a meeting at the local office the previous week with Mr Birrell and a colleague. Several representatives also attended the meeting from Knightsbridge. The outcome of the meeting was that no application would be considered until the SDF and Master Plan had

been drafted and put out to consultation, before going back to Committee. Cllr Morrison added that Knightsbridge had considered their SDF to be their Master Plan, but she added the SDF was really only about where the roads etc should go and wasn't therefore a Master plan. Mr Roberts acknowledged the difficulty in the definition of what constituted a Master Plan. At an earlier meeting with Knightsbridge, he'd had to point to erroneous assumptions on Knightsbridge's behalf about what constituted a Master Plan and that it didn't meet Master Plan handbook guidelines. The response from Knightsbridge was that what they were presenting "was only a Master Plan in name, because people wouldn't understand it if it was a real Master Plan". Cllr Melville added that a representative from Kingdom Housing had also been at the meeting, representing the affordable housing aspect of the plans for the site.

4.1.8. Lawhead School Parking Consultation

The report on this consultation had now been completed and would be considered at committee later in the week. Cllr Melville expressed disappointment at the poor level of response, with only around 30 responses out of over 150 letters sent out asking for views from those affected. Most of the responses were from the residents of the housing beside the school where parking has been an issue. The report states that the original decision should stand with parking restrictions for non-residents. However parking at the entrance to the school area will be examined to see if improvements can be made to allow parents to park.

4.1.9. Review of Structure Plan

Dr Goudie asked if there was any more news on a possible review of the Fife Structure Plan? He reminded the meeting about the clause in the Structure Plan, which might allow a re-examination of the figures in relation to future housing need etc. Cllr Waterston replied that he'd got something on that.

4.1.10. Tree Preservation & Footpath

Mr Crichton hoped that preservation of trees in the Knightsbridge site would be managed properly. Cllr Sangster replied that this had been discussed amongst a range of other matters. Cllr Melville however added that the meeting had not been set up to look at the detail, more to ensure that the SDF and the Master Plan were sorted before discussing the detail.

Mr Crichton also asked about the path, which ran along the edge of the site by the Kinnessburn to the hospital, which he also hoped would be respected. Cllr Sangster reassured Mr Crichton that the route would be treated as a Right of Way and would be cleaned up and improved to allow on-going access.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Royal Wedding Breakfast

Cllr Sangster added his congratulations to the Community Council in relation to this event.

4.2.2. Cockshaugh Park Playground Award

Cllr Sangster added his congratulations to Mrs Thompson on her achievement in getting the funding award from Robinsons as part of their national scheme of awards for play areas. He felt that it demonstrated what members of the community could achieve if determined.

4.2.3. Market Street Works

Cllr Sangster gave an update on the progress of the major work to Market Street. Work includes putting in hard core to replace the sand and hopefully making the final result easier to maintain.

4.2.4. "A" Boards

Cllr Sangster thought that the pamphlet on "A" Boards should be available soon in the local office.

4.2.5. Seagull Problem

Cllr Sangster informed the meeting that there should be pamphlets available for anyone wanting to know how to deal with the seagull problem. He reminded the meeting of the responsibility of property owners to try and prevent seagulls from nesting.

4.2.6. Shield for Community

Cllr Sangster suggested the possibility of the Community Council getting a special shield in the form of the town crest, made with a view to presenting it to local citizens who had been judged to make a significant contribution to the town. Many years ago, the then Community Council had presented such a shield to him when he represented the Merchants Association for looking after the floral displays. He had determined that the firm, which made his shield, was still in business. Such a shield would cost around £35.

Mr Roberts suggested that this idea could perhaps be discussed at the next GP Meeting.

4.2.7. Craigtoun Park

Cllr Sangster mentioned that he would be attending a meeting this coming Wednesday for an update on the plans for Craigtoun Park. He would like to see the park brought back into full use again and expressed his support for Community Council efforts.

4.2.8. Mini Roundabouts

Cllr Sangster has asked Transportation Services to freshen the mini roundabouts in St Andrews as they have faded badly. Mr Marks asked if the usefulness of the mini roundabouts had been assessed, as he thought that some appeared to cause drivers confusion and other appeared to have little obvious benefit. Cllr Sangster thought that they acted as a way to slow down drivers on roads like Canongate and Bogward.

4.2.9. Ladebraes Paths & Other Matters

Mrs Denyer commented on the poor state of stretches of the paths in the Ladebraes as well as a couple of the benches. Cllr Melville replied that funding was available from the local budget for items such as the benches to be fixed or replaced. Cllr Sangster added that a major problem with the paths was that they were only laid on sand and had no hard core, so would deteriorate more quickly, particularly when there were severe weather conditions. Miss Uprichard added that the worst part of the Ladebraes paths was above Cockshaugh Park as it descends towards the stream. Cllr Sangster noted this information for further action. Mrs Ashworth reported that a drain by Plash mill Cottage was still leaking despite having been reported several months ago. Cllr Morrison added that she'd reported the problem several times and had established that the repair was the responsibility of Fife Council. She agreed to chase up why it hadn't been repaired to date.

Mr Greenwell asked that some remedial action be taken regarding the litterbins some of which had fallen down. He also commented that there were very few bins for dogs owners to put their bags of dog litter. Councillor Morrison said that she'd reported this problem to Fife Council to action.

4.2.10. East Sands

Mrs Rowe reported that at the steps on the East Sands closest to the harbour, a lady had fallen because of deterioration in the steps and had injured her leg. Cllr Sangster said he'd speak to the Beach Officer, Robbie Blyth.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Royal Wedding Breakfast

Cllr Waterston added his congratulations in respect of his event.

4.3.2. Japan Fund Raising Concert

Cllr Waterston commented on the recent concert set up to raise funds towards Japanese victims of the Tsunami and Earthquake. He'd been very impressed by the quality of the music and congratulated Mrs Corbin on her work in relation to the event.

4.3.3. Information on the Review of the Affordable Housing situation in the Structure Plan.

Cllr Waterston said he'd send round the email with the full details, but essentially the review had looked at the detail of the percentages and the detail of the site thresholds as opposed to reviewing the whole policy. It was out for consultation last year and there were a number of responses, which maintained that the thresholds were too high. The outcome of the review hadn't decreased the percentages required or increased the threshold. Only in very small sites had there been any concession about reducing the

threshold requirements. Supplementary planning guidance will be produced very soon. Dr Goudie in reply, whilst welcoming the new guidance commented that his query was broader than just affordable housing. His reading of the Structure Plan policy suggested the whole basic number on which local planning would be based for the period 2011-2026 would be subject to review after the first five years of the Structure plan which is 2006 – 2011. Cllr Waterston replied that the reference he'd found in the Structure Plan was for a review of the affordable housing percentage requirements. With regard to the Structure Plan as a whole, Cllr Waterston didn't think it would be reviewed as it had been taken over by the Tay Plan. He acknowledged that the Tay Plan could just take on board the figures from the Structure Plan without revising them. He added that the house build rate is completely out of tune with predictions. He asked about this at Planning Committee and got the reply that the Council simply creates opportunities for builders by ensuring that there is enough housing land supply. Dr Goudie replied that in St Andrews there would be concern about oversupply of land given the down turn in building due to the economic recession. He also hoped that the Tay Plan that at the present time had used Structure Plan figures would review these and make fresh calculations based on more up to date data. Cllr Waterston replied that there was an assumption in the Tay Plan about house build rates for the next twenty years, which he acknowledged were very similar to those used in the Structure Plan. Cllr Waterston had asked how this related to the real world? He was told that it might relate to it in relationship to the fact that the house sales might differ nevertheless the final target remained in relation to what they hoped would be the final house build.

Miss Uprichard wondered if there was no way to stop these figures being carried on and adopted by the Tay Plan. She reminded the meeting that the Structure Plan started in 2002 when the economic situation was very different. Fife Council had stated that the figures were based on General Registrar Office figures, but as Dr Goudie had pointed out on numerous past occasions they were using the figures as forecasts instead of as predictions. As previous trends have not continued the figures will not be accurate with respect to demand or need. She was concerned that without a review the figures would be used despite changes in the economic situation. She couldn't understand why the Tay Plan would accept out of date information without question.

Cllr Waterston agreed with Miss Uprichard's concerns. He reminded the meeting that the Planning Committee, in spite of the questions that were raised, had approved the Tay Plan. An answer given to critics was that the changed situation might affect the phasing of the proposed building of the housing as detailed but the planned numbers would still eventually be built. Cllr Melville added that the approval still had to be ratified by the full Council later in the week.

4.3.4. West Sands Management Plan Public Meeting

Cllr Waterston announced that there will be a Public Meeting on June 13th at 19.00 at the Burgh Chambers.

4.3.5. Botanic Gardens

Cllr Waterston reminded the meeting that the lease by Fife Council with the University expires in September 2012. He emphasised that the situation after that date could not and would not stay the same as it was at present. He reminded the meeting that there had been a consultation about a possible Trust. A report by the consultants is to be published soon. He anticipated a Stakeholders meeting again some time in June to hear the consultants report and hear from the University and Fife Council. He thought that there would need to be significant changes, mainly ways to raise revenue to allow the Botanic Gardens to continue. He acknowledged that there would be difficult decisions to be taken, and added that it was important for the local community including the Community Council to work with other stakeholders in this time of change for the Botanic Garden. He thought that it would be achievable.

Mrs Denyer encouraged Community Councillors to join the Friends of the Botanic Gardens organisation and extolled the benefits of the £10 pa membership.

4.3.6. St Andrews – Top Tourist Destination

Cllr Waterston finished with some good news that in a survey St Andrews had come in the top ten of British tourist destinations.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. Harbour Toilet

Following concern expressed at the last meeting about the opening and management of the harbour toilet, Cllr Morrison had approached the council officer with some responsibility in this matter. She had been

promised that it would be open 24/7 for the rest of the summer. Mrs Corbin added that she'd spoken to the café owner who had been involved in the matter and she had been delighted to hear the news.

4.4.2. St Andrews Colts

Mrs McAnaw asked Cllr Morrison about the changing facilities issue for the St Andrews Colts. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that Mr Howden from Fife Council had got a bit mixed up about whether the Colts were staying at Tom Morris Drive or going back to Cockshaugh Park. She'd tried to clarify the situation with him. Cllr Morrison added that she'd been trying to get the situation resolved more speedily in the past week. Mrs McAnaw commented on a curious recent incident when the Council staff had cut the grass around the pitch but not the grass on the pitch. Cllr Morrison added that she would keep working on getting the toilets issue resolved. She said that she'd had funding in place before the recent confusion in the mind of the Council.

4.4.3. East Sands Incident

Mr Crichton asked the Councillors what Fife Council and the Police were going to do about the recent student party on the East Sands. This party had resulted in broken glass being left on the beach, on top of disturbing local residents at the time of the event, which had moved from the Castle Sands because access to the latter had been blocked following a recent landslip. Cllr Morrison acknowledged the issue and said that she hoped the incident would be discussed through the new Town/Gown forum and some way found to ensure responsible behaviour in the future. Mr Scott was asked for a view from the University on the incident. Mr Scott replied that he endorsed Cllr Morrison's concerns, but apparently the police who had been in attendance had been generally satisfied with the way the event was run. He did acknowledge that the noise had been an issue for some local residents but thought it was possibly amplified by a peculiarity of the acoustics of the area.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Meeting Reports

Mr Roberts reported that there had been two planning meetings in the period since the last CC meeting. One meeting had not been quorate but those attending had a useful discussion on planning matters. The second planning meeting saw Mr Greenwell take over the reins of Convenor from Mr Roberts.

Mr Greenwell reported that April had been a quiet month with nothing new, which the Planning Committee had felt a need to comment upon. The on-going request for a Public Inquiry into the Local Plan had been discussed, as well as the Knightsbridge planning situation. They had discussed the possibility of requesting a review of the number of properties planned for the site but decided to await for the Local Plan and had noted that the Preservation trust and the residents of greenside Place had put in similar requests.

An item of interest, which they noted was the refusal of another HMO in Southgait, which was refused as part of the policy on the number of HMOs allowed in a development.

Miss Uprichard mentioned that on the 28th April the Local Plan papers were sent to the Communities Directorate. The Community Council had written requesting a Public Inquiry a call, which had been supported by Sir Menzies Campbell and Iain Smith as well as a number of other local Community Councils who had also written on the subject. She reported that the general response had been that the reporter would decide if there would be a Public Inquiry, but the Preservation Trust had received a different reply. In the reply the Preservation Trust who had requested that the Reporter be informed of their request were informed that their request would not be put forward to the Reporter, as it was part of the issues arising out of the Local Plan and had not been received timeously. Miss Uprichard had then written on behalf of the Planning Committee to Sir Menzies Campbell asking for his opinion on this reply. She had asked if he agreed that this was not an issue arising out of the Local Plan but a procedural issue? Cllr Waterston suggested involving the new MSP in this matter.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. St Andrews Community Trust Update

Mr Paul reported that he believed that the Selection Committee had appointed the final two members of the Trust. He looked forward to receiving details and being able to start meeting to discuss applications for funding. He reminded the meeting that the Trust would welcome applications. Dr Goudie commented that the Selection Committee had actually only appointed one at this juncture, but was hoping to appoint the remainder in the very near future. Mr Roberts commented that he'd written on the subject to the Selection Committee a few weeks ago, but hadn't received a response. He felt that the Trust should be in a position to start awarding funds by now.

6.2. Standen Update

Mr Murphy reported on the work of Standen to acquire new funding and to develop a plan for their future development. Standen have developed a new constitution and are applying for new funding. Fife Council has awarded some funding, which will cover expenses, but the staff are otherwise working on a voluntary basis. One idea the staff had been investigating was the possibility of using part of Craigtoun Park as a sort of Eco development with displays of renewable energy.

6.3. Craigtoun Park Update

Mr Roberts reported on developments, mentioning the Standen idea. He'd encouraged Standen to come up with more detail, possibly a business plan. Mr Roberts also reported that more people are coming forward to express an interest in trying to save Craigtoun as a local resource. He wasn't certain about the answer, but felt that there should be an attempt to harness the enthusiasm generated following the Wedding Breakfast towards the Craigtoun problem. He suggested that there would be a need to have a Craigtoun Meeting open to the public to see what kind of response it generates. If the meeting was successful he thought that could then see a committee being formed to organise the saving of Craigtoun Park.

Mr Roberts commented, that he'd been informed, by Robin Evett that there might be heritage funding, which could be used towards the listed buildings in Craigtoun Park. Standen also believe that there is a lot funding available for projects of eco friendly or sustainable nature. Mr Roberts concluded that it might be the case that any funding to manage Craigtoun would come from a range of sources according to the nature of the project proposals.

Mrs Corbin still thought that the Trust shouldn't be forgotten. Mr Roberts replied that the Cameron Community Councillors hadn't thought that the Trust idea in its original form was viable, but still wanted to be involved if other viable ideas could be developed.

Cllr Sangster reported that he had three business people interested in supporting the rescue of Craigtoun Park and possibly investing money in the project. Cllr Sangster thought that once the need to save Craigtoun was known further afield more interest would emerge.

Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that the need to also save the Botanic gardens should not be forgotten.

Dr Goudie acknowledged that Cameron Community Council might have been right in turning down a Trust in the terms in which it was defined at that point. He also suggested that the Community Council disassociate itself from the Citizen report and that the Community Council was still prepared to contemplate the possibility of a Trust suitably formed and on terms that the Community Council specifies rather than on terms given to the Community Council. He added that a public meeting was appropriate at some stage, but in the short term he felt that a much smaller meeting to come up with some sort of structure on the manner in which one might move forward. He was concerned that at a Public Meeting one would get numerous ideas and not know how to prioritise them appropriately. He felt that there needed to be some sort of general procedure carved out to tackle this problem before getting overwhelmed with numerous, well-meaning suggestions at a Public Meeting. He also felt that Fife Council needed to be encouraged to manage the Park sensibly. He cited the decision only to open the café in the Park in late June for a couple of months as a questionable decision. Cllr Sangster said that he'd like to have seen the café opened at Easter but acknowledged that it needed work done to make it acceptable to run.

Mr Roberts thought that a lot of work needed to be done on the matter and wondered if there was interest in setting up a committee within the Community Council to explore the issues further. He sought a show of hands on the idea. Mrs McAnaw suggested that the committee should combine the issues of the future of the Botanic Gardens as well as Craigtoun Park. Mr Roberts acknowledged the validity of this suggestion. Cllr Morrison said that the St Andrews Partnership would be interested in having an involvement and Mr Scott indicated an interest from the university.

Dr Goudie asked if a date could be set for a meeting on the matter. It was agreed to have the meeting on the 16th May at 19.00.

6.4. Martyrs Monument Update

Mrs Corbin reported on the subject of the Martyrs Monument Project. Mrs Corbin had recently attended a meeting with St Andrews Partnership. She said that a lot of things were happening with the report by Steven Newsom now available on what possibly could be done. A figure of £160000 is being quoted for the project. The need to raise funding is now considered to be the main issue. At the present time Mrs Corbin thought that there was about £7000 in the fundraising account with promises of more to come from a variety of sources.

6.5. Reports from Representatives

6.5.1. St Andrews in Bloom Group

Mrs Denyer reported on a meeting she'd attended of the St Andrews in Bloom Group. Mrs Ashworth added that St Andrews Partnership hope to be able to support St Andrews in Bloom from the donations received through the Visitor Payback Scheme.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

The main business of the committee had centred on the Royal Wedding Breakfast in recent weeks. Mrs Rowe will organise further committee meetings as required.

7.2. General Purposes

There has been no GP Meeting in the past month, but one will be held on the 18th May at Madras Kilrymont at 19.00 in room 306.

7.3. 200 Club

1st No.92 Mrs Rose. 2nd No.79. Mr Savage. 3rd No.17. Mr W. Sangster

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

7.4.1. Visit to New Victoria Hospital Wing

Mrs Corbin recently visited the new wing of the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy. She gave some impressions of her visit to the meeting. She was impressed by the new state of the art facilities and layout of the new wing

7.4.2. North East Fife Sports Award Evening

Mr Crichton and Mrs Corbin had attended the Sports Award evening on behalf of the Community Council to present the Community Council Shield. Mrs Corbin reported that it had been an enjoyable evening. She had been impressed by the achievements of so many young persons

8. New Business

No new business

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

No additional report

9.2.1. Treasurers Report

Mr Paul reported the current situation and how the money was divided up in the accounts. He reminded members that fund raising would have to take place for some events and members could not assume that the money would be available. Any request would have to be considered by the GP Committee.

Mr Roberts raised the issue of the Bandstand Concerts. He acknowledged that he'd done nothing to date to seek funds or confirm anything with the bands. He hoped that funds could be found somewhere. Mr Paul replied that he'd put in an application into the Smalls Grants Fund of the Community Fund and was also seeking funding from other sources.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Travel Plan

Mrs Corbin commented on additional car parking spaces now provided by the hospital. These are on the road outside the main car park. Mr Marks doubted that the additional spaces would make a significant dent in the demand at peak times from his experience as his office base is in the hospital. Mrs Corbin mentioned that Mr Dove from NHS was trying to encourage a car-sharing scheme and she was also aware that the work being done at the Adamson Hospital had displaced some NHS staff and when this work was completed and they returned to the Adamson Hospital the parking situation might ease a little. Mr Roberts agreed with Mr Marks's comments on the difficulties in getting parked. Mrs Harding mentioned that there was only shelter for three people at the bus parking bay and eleven bicycles.