

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes –12<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### For Approval

*(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

#### Community Councillors

Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Kyffin Roberts, Izzy Corbin, Judith Harding, Ken Crichton, Alice Alexander, Harry Stewart, Bernadette Cassidy, Patrick Marks, Penny Uprichard, Wendy Donald

#### Students' Association Representatives

Zara Evans

Chloe Hill

#### Co-Opted

Stuart Foulkes

#### Fife Councillors

Dorothea Morrison, Brian Thomson, Keith McCartney, Frances Melville

#### Apologies

Callum Corbin, Howard Greenwell, Robert McLachlan, Lindsey Adam, Tom Waterton-Smith

### 2. Minutes of Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> April

The minutes of the meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> April were accepted as correct.

### 3. Presentations

None

### 4. Fife Councillors

#### 4.1. Frances Melville

##### 4.1.1. Cycle Racks

Cllr Melville reported that following a longstanding request for more cycle racks officials had assessed the possibility of more in Market Street. They had come to the conclusion that more cycle racks were needed near Tesco but in order to have these installed planning permission would be required. The possible location would be in a parking bay and the Council also had to consider how to source similar racks as the current racks in Market Street are stainless steel and the Council only has galvanised racks so would have to identify a budget for similar racks. Mr Marks welcomed the possible provision of more cycle racks in Market Street. He pointed out the ongoing problem of cycles abandoned at the cycle racks currently in place. These bikes were labelled at one time by the police to determine whether they had been abandoned and were removed if they were still in the racks after a certain length of time. Cllr Melville acknowledged that this problem had been discussed as well.

#### **4.1.2. Parking Problems – Murray Park & Murray Place**

Cllr Melville reported on ongoing issues relating to parking in the above parts of the town. There were a number of issues being dealt with by different sections of transportation.

#### **4.1.3. Madras Pipeland Planning in Principle Application**

Fife Council was still waiting for the decision of the Scottish Government which had extended the period during which they would make a decision as to whether to call in the application. Cllr Melville acknowledged that there was still the issue about the other sites and what might happen to them eventually. Councillors had asked Martin McGroarty and Bill Lindsey to develop some policy in respect of these former potential sites, which they would then discuss with Councillors.

#### **4.1.4. Melville Fountain**

When the fountain was being tested it was discovered that the flow was not good. The Council have asked the contractors Gilmartins to inspect the pipes and determine what needs to be done to improve the flow.

#### **4.1.5. Funding for Craigtoun**

Cllr Melville asked Mr Roberts if he'd received the email about the funding from Fife Council. Mr Roberts confirmed the receipt of the relevant email.

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Enquiry about possible commemorative stone for Victoria Cross Winner**

Cllr Thomson reported that he'd raised the matter with Councillor Charles Haffey, who is Fife Council's Armed Forces Community Champion. Cllr Haffey had confirmed that there was some funding in place for such a request. Mr Murphy thought that it was a great idea to commemorate VC Winners and wondered if there were any more local VC Winners worthy of commemoration? Mr Fraser commented that as far as he was aware there was no other VC winner for the First World War period in St Andrews area. Mrs Denyer informed the meeting about a talk to be given later in the year by the relative of Sgt Ripley who'd emailed the Community Council and that the Preservation Trust was putting on an exhibition about St Andrews in the Great War from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 28<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **4.2.2. Enquiry from Mr Bricourt of Caudry about possible connection with St. Andrews**

Cllr Thomson had also spoken to Cllr Haffey in relation to the query from Mr Bricourt of Caudry who had emailed the secretary of the Community Council. Cllr Thomson reported that Mr Bricourt's belief that the Gordon Highlanders had an St Andrews connection was mistaken and thought that he would be better to make enquires in Aberdeenshire.

#### **4.2.3. Condition of Bogward Road**

Cllr Thomson said that he'd been receiving a lot of complaints about the state of the Bogward Road and had written to the Director of Transportation in Fife Council to raise the matter

#### **4.2.4. Saltire above Town Hall**

Cllr Thomson had noted the state of the flag above the Town Hall and advised the meeting that there would hopefully be a delivery of a more robust cotton flag from Cupar.

#### **4.2.5. Parking Restrictions**

Cllr Thomson reported on a decision by the NEF Area Committee to issue an order restricting parking at certain points in the Donaldson Gardens, Wardlaw Gardens, Kennedy Gardens and Hepburn Gardens. This was decided in order on road safety grounds and to allow emergency vehicles easier access.

#### **4.2.6. Fence behind Police Station**

Mrs Alexander wondered if there would be any repair of the fence behind the Police Station? Cllr Thomson agreed to check what might be happening.

#### **4.2.7. Condition of road in Wash Bay in Forrest Street**

Mrs Alexander also mentioned that the road in this vicinity was in a poor condition with some of the loose tarmac being washed down the drain. Cllr Thomson agreed to pursue the matter

#### **4.2.8. Pothole on City Road Brae**

Mrs Alexander also reported that there was a pothole just before the pedestrian crossing at the top of the road.

### **4.3. Keith McCartney**

#### **4.3.1. Potholes**

Cllr McCartney reported that potholes have been reported and repaired on Hepburn Gardens, Kennedy Gardens, Tom Stewart Lane, Trinity Place and Wardlaw Gardens.

#### **4.3.2. Fencing along the Kinness Burn, Kinnessburn Road**

Cllr McCartney reported that the chain link attached to the fence was removed in April and work to replace broken and missing sections of the fence began on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **4.3.3. Lade Braes**

Cllr McCartney reported that the repainting of the bridge and surrounding metalwork at Plash Mill has been completed. Work continues on the bridge at Hallowhill.

#### **4.3.4. Kinburn Park**

Cllr McCartney reported that the work to deal with the ponding across the width of the path leading into Kinburn Park from Double Dykes Road is out for costings. Mrs Harding mentioned that the ponding was more extensive along the path up as far as the tennis courts.

#### **4.3.5. Hope Park Roundabout**

Cllr McCartney reported that the barriers are to be erected this financial year. He was continuing to seek clarification on a date.

#### **4.3.6. Double Dykes Road**

Cllr McCartney reported that he was seeking clarification as to when the pavement on the north side of the road beside the new house added to the existing terrace will be reinstated.

#### **4.3.7. Sgt John Ripley VC**

Cllr McCartney reported that he had passed on information on Sgt Ripley to the Secretary.

#### **4.3.8. Flooding at Queens Terrace**

Mrs Denyer asked Cllr McCartney if the flooding near the church at Queens Terrace had been fixed. Cllr McCartney agreed to check what was happening.

#### **4.3.9. Loose Flagstones in Muttoes Lane**

Mrs Denyer had received an email from Audrey McAnaw who had contacted them about the concerns expressed by a student in relation to loose flagstones in Muttoes Lane. Cllr McCartney agreed to look into the matter.

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

#### **4.4.1. Bus Shelter at end of North Street**

Cllr Morrison reported that there was no funding available for a bus shelter at the North Street location near the cathedral end of North Street. However the request would go on to the New Shelter List for Priorities should funding become available in the future.

#### **4.4.2. Parking in St Andrews**

Cllr Morrison reported that at a Locality meeting earlier in the day councillors had met a representative from St Andrews Partnership and Lindsey Adam of the Merchants Association to discuss parking issues in St Andrews. She said that local Councillors had asked the Council for a half hour free parking throughout the town and were successful in that, but what came

out at the meeting was a suggestion of an hours free parking at either end of the day to allow local people to come into the town to do their business. A report will eventually go to Fife Council's Executive Committee for consideration compiled by the Head of Transportation, Bob McLellan. Dr McLellan had indicated to councillors at the meeting that any measure would have to be Fife wide and he claimed that parking charges were not a fundraising measure and the Council could cope with a drop in income.

Mr Crichton suggested an idea of residents' permits as used in other cities/towns.

#### **4.4.3. Seagull Problem**

Cllr Morrison reported that seagulls continue to be a problem. She has asked for an official dealing with waste management to attend a Locality meeting and also an official from Environmental Health to speak on the health issues. She commented upon the problem of food left on tables in the front of cafes and not cleared up quickly attracting seagulls, thus creating a health risk.

#### **4.4.4. HMO Moratorium**

Cllr Morrison reported that at the Area Committee and the Executive it was agreed to keep the moratorium on HMOs going for another couple of years. She added that there was hope that the new group which has arisen from the Housing Commission will by then be able to come up with some positive ways to address some of the problems of affordable housing in St Andrews. She admitted that this was quite a task. Mrs Alexander welcomed the success of the moratorium on HMOs in the town centre but felt that it needed to be expanded, as she was concerned that the availability of social housing was rapidly diminishing as HMOs spread into areas of former Council Housing.

Cllr Melville mentioned that the area meeting had asked the Housing Commission to present some evidence of housing needs at the May meeting and also asked Mr Derek Muir to present the following meeting on the Council's joint approach to housing issues with the University.

Miss Hill felt that while it was understandable that there were local concerns she thought that it wouldn't do to jump the gun in relation to changing the policy on HMOs.

Cllr Morrison hoped that the Housing Commission would come up with solutions based on hard evidence. She felt that whatever happened at the end of the day there might have to be compromises from everyone in town.

#### **4.4.5. Statue of St Andrew – possible move**

The moving of the statue of St Andrew currently in the entrance to the Botanic Gardens was discussed at the St Andrews Partnership's recent monthly meeting possibly to nearer the entrance to the town. The options will continue to be discussed to decide upon the most appropriate option for removal and relocation.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Planning Committee Report**

Mr Roberts asked for questions about the minutes of the planning meeting.

Miss Uprichard had two points to bring up, the first relating to Cllr Poole's letter to the Community Council. She thought that two of Cllr Poole's statements in the letter were incorrect. The first related to his claim that the Pipeland application was up for determination, but Miss Uprichard informed the meeting that Fife Council did not have the power to determine it. Cllr Poole had also said that planning permission in principle was approved a claim which Miss Uprichard again commented was incorrect and could only be determined by Scottish Ministers. She couldn't understand how Community Council could discuss the letter given that these major matters had not been approved.

Miss Uprichard then went on to comment on comments made on the Facebook pages run by supporters of the Pipeland application. She acknowledged that she'd not had any past experience of such a site but when alerted to some of the comments she was horrified at what was being said which she claimed was the vilification of individuals with photos of critics of the application also displayed. She felt that untruths were being published, which she said were entirely unacceptable. She was considering trying to determine whether any of the comments she'd read could be considered defamatory. She felt that it was unacceptable that individuals with a different opinion should be attacked in this way. She considered it to be a Campaign of Hate. Mr Roberts acknowledged Miss Uprichard's concerns and added that others had read these comments and understood her concerns. However he did not feel that the meeting was the place to go into a discussion about the comments.

Miss Uprichard also added that she deplored the attacks on the Preservation Trust, which she felt was protecting St Andrews and its environment. She thought it was ridiculous that the supporters of Pipeland were claiming that there was a conspiracy by the Preservation Trust trustees in relation to the Pipeland application. She thought that those making such claims should rethink their attitude towards those who have a different view from them and should try and be more accurate and less abusive.

## **5.2. Fairmont Hotel – Planning Application**

Miss Uprichard alerted members to an application from the Fairmont Hotel, which was essentially similar to a previous one, which had been refused a few years ago. They were asking that the time limit on the previous application be lifted. She thought that this application needed further investigation.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. WW1 Centenary Remembrance Plans – Sgt Ripley**

Cllr Thomson discussed the item on Sgt Ripley VC earlier in the meeting

### **6.2. Reports from Representatives**

#### **6.2.1. St Andrews in Bloom**

Mrs Denyer reported that St Andrews in Bloom is preparing for the Britain in Bloom competition and hopes to achieve an award. It is competing against St Peterport in Guernsey and Sidmouth in Devon.

### **6.3. Any Other Matters Arising**

#### **6.3.1. June Meeting Date**

The change of June meeting date to 9<sup>th</sup> June was discussed earlier and it was agreed that it would change.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Recreation Committee**

Report of Recreation Committee sent by email.

#### **7.1.1. Putting Challenge Competition at the Himalayas**

Mr Murphy informed the meeting about the preparations for this competition, which had been revived last year. The players will be playing for the Victory Cup and the Andrew Kirkaldy Cup. On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June the first round will take place, the winners progressing to the following evening 11<sup>th</sup> June. Refreshments will be available. Murray Donald are sponsoring the competition to ensure running costs can be covered. Mr Murphy asked for volunteers to help with refreshments and encouraged members to come along and take part. Mr Murphy also encouraged members to put up posters advertising the competition.

## **7.2. GP Meeting**

There has been no recent meeting.

## **7.3. 200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Effie Reid 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs McAnaw 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr Brocklebank

## **7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee**

### **7.4.1. Nominated Neighbours Scheme**

Mrs Corbin reported on a scheme being promoted by Police Scotland called the “Nominated Neighbours Scheme” in which people so nominated keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours, especially the elderly who might be preyed upon by unscrupulous callers.

Mr Roberts made the meeting aware that the HEW Committee would benefit from more councillors joining to assist it in its activities.

## **7.5. Rail Sub Committee**

Dr Goudie reported that Ms Liston is investigating other ways to fund a STAG assessment. Ms Liston is to meet Scotrail representatives later this month.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Request for possible connection between St Andrews & Caudry**

This item was discussed earlier. The secretary will write to Mr Bricourt advising him to contact the area where the Gordon Highlanders were based, which was not St Andrews.

### **8.2. Presentation from Fife Coastal & Countryside Trust**

It was agreed to invite the new Chief Executive to discuss plans for a new visitor centre at the West Sands for the next CC meeting

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

### **9.1. Chair**

No further report

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Mr Paul reminded members that the April accounts had been sent out and thanked Mrs Denyer for the £260 raised at the Coffee Morning.

### **9.3 Secretary**

#### **9.3.1. Correspondence**

Further details of correspondence available from the secretary as requested. No other comments.

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

### **10.1. Student Events**

Ms Hill wondered if it might be possible to advertise student events, which were open to, the public and which had a particular interest to the general public? Mr Roberts and Dr Goudie thought that it would in principle be possible if given the details in good time.

