

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Draft Minutes – October 2008

For Approval

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1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Ken Crichton, Ken Fraser, Zoe Smith, Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Marysia Denyer, Rob Fett, Shaun Atkinson, Henry Paul, Dave Finlay, Judith Harding

Students' Association Representatives

Andrew Keenan

Matthew Guest

Nominated

Jude Innes

Co-Opted

Penny Uprichard

Fife Councillors

Frances Melville, Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston

Apologies

Dorothea Morrison, Catherine Rowe, Robert Fett, Larry Reed, Matthew Verrell, Carol Ashworth, Karen Hutchence.

2. Minutes of September 2008 Meeting

3.2. Climate Challenge Fund - Ms Smith informed the meeting that a working group had been set up and had had one meeting to date. Mr Marks added that the meeting was open to anyone interested in participating.

4.2.3. Hot Water Taps – Toilets in Church Square. Ms Smith asked Cllr Sangster for an update. He thought the problem had been fixed.

4.2.5. Toilets at Harbour – Ms Smith asked Cllr Sangster for an update on this as well. Cllr Sangster said that the keys hadn't yet been handed over to the Harbour Trust. He hoped that this would take place in the next month.

4.2.8. Weeding in the town. Ms Smith asked if this had resumed. Cllr Sangster was uncertain, but reminded the meeting that the work wouldn't be done in damp weather. He agreed to check out the situation. Mr Marks commented that someone had been out in his area recently, as his lawn had been partly sprayed leaving a large dead patch.

4.3.2. Bus Routes. Cllr Waterston reported that from the information he'd received, the route in question wasn't a subsidised route but a commercial one. Because it wasn't profitable enough the route was changed. Cllr Waterston sympathised with the residents of the area, but said that it wasn't a Fife Council matter. Ms Smith commented that residents had to use their taxi vouchers. Cllr Sangster suggested that a letter to the bus company might be appropriate, expressing concern about the withdrawal of the service.

4.3.5. Community Safety Open Day – Ms Smith attended the event and commented favourably on both the event and the improvements to the Fire Station.

5.3. Green Belt – Ms Uprichard felt that the wording should be – “ the Approved Structure Plan 2002 included the Green Belt to encircle the town, but the boundaries have not yet been set by Fife Council” .

3. Presentations

3.1. Sgt. Graham McCallum

3.1.1. Vandalism in Queens Gardens – Update

In response to Mrs Harden’s question about the possibility of CCTV in Queen’s Gardens, Sgt McCallum reported that Inspector Thomson had looked into the matter. At present there is CCTV coverage in the centre of town, but to extend coverage in the same way to Queen’s Gardens would be costly. Patrols in the centre of town, including Queens Gardens/Terrace area have been increased, and the police are investigating the possibility of remote CCTV known as Domehawk. The main difficulty relates to the level of lighting in the area, which may not be adequate for CCTV. The architecture of the street lighting would have to be changed to improve lighting, but this can’t be easily done in a conservation area.

3.1.2. Out of Hours Police Contact Number

Mr Paul related a story of vandalism to his garden when he was on holiday recently. His neighbour had witnessed the event, but had difficulty getting through to the local police. Mr Paul wondered what was the local contact number at night? Sgt McCallum advised that the local station in St Andrews is staffed 24/7, but front desk staff aren’t available between 2.00 am and 8.00 am, so if it wasn’t an emergency anyone phoning should be put through to the Police Contact Centre in Glenrothes – 0845 600 5702. The centre would contact the local officer on duty or the nearest officer, if the former were busy.

3.2. Presentation on Hamilton Hall by Michael Buchanan.

Mr Buchanan said that there had just been a long article in Scotland on Sunday about the situation regarding Hamilton Hall. He reminded the meeting that Hamilton Hall is a “B” listed building in a conservation area, and is an iconic background symbol during the Open and other gold tournaments on the Old Course. It is now listed on the register of “Buildings At Risk” listed buildings following local initiative and a site visit. He commented on the concern of neighbouring businesses at having a derelict site beside them over the past two years. He felt that decisive and urgent action had to be taken, particularly with the Open back in St Andrews in 2010. He thought that only some work to improve the façade could be achieved by the next Open, but this would at least be better than the present state. He thought that planning permission should be rescinded, given that the plans for which permission had been given had failed to materialise. He felt that the status prior to the sale should be restored. He also felt that the matter should go to the Scottish Office given the importance of the building and it’s location. He wondered about the possibility of enforcement notices, to at least get the external appearance fixed before the Open. He speculated about possible ways that the building could be used, given that the current scheme does not appear to be attracting lots of interest from the wealthy audience at which it is aimed. He hoped that the Community Council would support him and write to John Swinney asking for action to rescue Hamilton Halls from its present state of neglect.

Ms Uprichard noted that in planning matters, if work isn’t started within five years, permission could be withdrawn. She said that it was about four years since permission was granted. If nothing happened in the final year, what would happen? Cllr Sangster in reply said that work had started, but had then stopped, so technically the conditions had been met, nullifying the five-year rule. He added that there was also no finish date for the planning application for Hamilton Hall. Cllr Waterston added that he agreed with Mr Buchanan’s feelings and views and said that he and his fellow councillors would be working hard to try and progress the matter. Cllr Melville added that she had been approached by the R & A, who have also been in consultation with the Chief Executive on the matter. Mr Buchanan expressed his doubts about how Fife Planners could cope with this matter, and suggested that there might be a need to hire a competent legal person to challenge the current owner and somehow get Hamilton Hall out of the present limbo.

Dr Goudie thought that there was a need to find a mechanism within existing procedures to protect Hamilton Hall at Regional planning level, or Scottish Government level. If these didn’t work then a

wealthy benefactor able to buy it from the present owner was possibly the only remaining option. Mr Buchanan wasn't certain how a response from the Scottish Government could be triggered, though he cited the response in relation to the Trump development as a possible mechanism. Dr Goudie replied that the Trump decision had been triggered by the planning application, unlike Hamilton Halls where planning permission had already been granted.

Cllr Melville reminded the speaker that there is the possibility of asking a question at the Area Committee. Mr Buchanan acknowledged the idea, but felt that perhaps it would be more appropriate for the Community Council to raise the matter. Dr Goudie wasn't certain how a planning angle could be established in the given circumstances and could only suggest that Mr Buchanan could raise it at the East Area Committee, or that a general letter of concern could be sent to Fife Council.

Mr Crichton blamed the university for selling off Hamilton Halls as the roots of the crisis. He couldn't understand why it couldn't have remained suitable student accommodation at an affordable price. He was critical of the university building residences partly with Conferences in mind, thus putting up the cost to students for accommodation, which he felt, was more upmarket than they needed. Cllr Sangster in reply advised that the main reason for the sell off was that it wasn't fit for purpose, as it didn't match up to the new HMO regulations. Mr Keenan added that the use of residences as conference venues actually subsidised the student rents, helping keep them down.

Ms Uprichard queried the method of assessing how work could be said to have been started and who would make that decision. Cllr Sangster added that part of the problem was the lack of any completion date.

Secretary to write a note of general concern to Fife Council on this matter.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. Beautiful Scotland and other Floral Awards

Cllr Melville congratulated the community of St Andrews for its success in the Beautiful Scotland competition and other floral awards. She announced that there is to be a Civic Reception for all Fife's award winners in the Beautiful Scotland competition. Date and venue to be confirmed.

4.1.2. West Sands Project Update

Cllr Melville reported that Fife Council is still trying to progress this project with local partners. The original project would not be possible, but there would be an attempt to do as much as possible with available funds.

4.1.3. Market Street Update

Another project whose future has been significantly affected by the withdrawal of Scottish Enterprise. Fife Council will try to progress the project, but it may have to be phased over three years, due to the loss of Scottish Enterprise funding.

4.1.4. Strathkiness High Road Traffic Calming

Residents of this road have received a second letter detailing slightly modified traffic calming, following consultation. This is to be progressed accordingly.

4.1.5. Beach Management Conference

At a recent conference in St Andrews at which a report from SEPA was presented. This talked about the changes in Water Quality Directives, officially to start in 2015, but to be phased in from 2012. Standards will become much tougher for bacterial and other standards. This will require a considerable improvement countrywide by local authorities. Dr Goudie asked for clarification about the water clarity issue. He didn't see what the Community or individuals could do about water quality. Recollecting the debate at the time the sewage plant was built, he wondered if the new standards would imply a need for an upgrade at the sewage works. Cllr Melville thought that the high rainfall this year had led to many of the problems, with many communities losing their blue flags partly as a consequence. She felt that Fife was very lucky to keep five blue flag beaches.

4.1.6. Waterstone's Air Conditioning

Jude Innes asked Cllr Melville for an update on this situation. Cllr Melville believed that there was a new application coming in for some form of air conditioning. The PF had apparently deemed that there wasn't enough evidence in relation to the noise levels. Cllr Melville acknowledged that it was a sad situation for the elderly couple affected by the plans. Ms Uprichard informed the meeting that she'd written as a shareholder to the new owners of Waterston's, which is HMV. She is awaiting a reply on the matter. She noted that there was a new application, but wondered that, as the air conditioning hadn't been on for eighteen months whether it was necessary!

4.1.7. Street Furniture

Mr Crichton asked why a new post had been erected in his street to hold a sign about the East Sands, as an award winning beach, when the sign has originally been on another lamp post only ten feet away. Cllr Melville agreed to check out the reason.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Beach Clean Up

Cllr Sangster notified the meeting about another clean up at the West Sands. Roddy Yarr is organising it for end of October/ early November.

4.2.2. Scottish Water Board – New Community Contact

The new public contact person will be Mr Steven Scott whose email is steve.scott@scottishwater.co.uk.

4.2.3. Martyr's Monument

Cllr Sangster is still pursuing the renovation of the Martyr's Monument. Fife Council have taken it on board and have asked several masons for quotes to do the work to at least make it safe. Cllr Sangster is also looking for sources of funding to get decorative aspects replaced, where too worn to have any renovative work done on them.

4.2.4. Access to Planning Applications in Public Library

Planning applications are to become accessible on the library computers. Community Councils will receive paper copies as requested. Ms Smith said that from information she'd received planning applications, which Community Councils could request, would be those deemed to be of public interest. She wondered who defined those criteria, Fife Council or the Community Council. Cllr Sangster replied that the Community Council made the judgement on what was of public interest. Ms Smith also commented that the Community Council is already having problems receiving plans requested and wondered why? Cllr Sangster felt there was no reason for being unable to receive requested plans. He agreed to check on this matter.

4.2.5. End Date for Parking Vouchers

Last date for use of parking vouchers will be beginning of November.

4.2.6. Cutbacks in Municipal Planting

Ms Smith asked Cllr Sangster about proposed cutbacks in municipal planting. Cllr Sangster was aware of the matter but hadn't found any official able to enlighten him on the matter. He agreed to pursue the matter further.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Flooding Problems in Lamberton Place and area.

Cllr Waterston announced that Councillors had been successful in getting work started to deal with the flooding in this area. The Housing Dept had funded improvements in the gully and drainage at the back of Lamberton Place, which would hopefully stop this longstanding problem, except in the most extreme circumstances. Work would also take place in a second phase to solve flooding problems further along by Jamie Anderson Place.

4.3.2. Opening of Extension to Fire Station

Cllr Waterston had attended the opening ceremony for the extension. He had been particularly impressed by the Diversify Programme run by the Fire Service in collaboration with other agencies including education. This is an opportunity to provide a youth work programme in terms of training and awareness rising as to what the fire service does and how they do it. He felt that it was a very impressive programme, particularly helping young people potentially at risk of starting fires, though he added that it was wider than that.

4.3.3. Free Information Leaflets

Cllr Waterston had received some information leaflets on various subjects, including appropriate disposal of cooking fats, issued by Environmental Health, due to the problems of cooking fat causing drainage obstructions, particularly in Central St Andrews. This was being distributed to Guest Houses and HMOs free of charge. There was also a leaflet about free insulation in lofts and cavity walls being available to the over 70s.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison - absent

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Report

No report this month. Ms Smith appealed for more members. She also welcomed Penny Uprichard who has been co-opted on to the Planning Committee.

5.2. North Haugh

Ms Uprichard circulated some photographs of the North Haugh where the new Medical Building is being built. She asked the Regional Councillors about whether it had been known at the time of approval of the Molecular Sciences Building, that there would be so many aerials and other devices sticking up beyond the roof line. Cllr Sangster commented that there was screening on the top of the building as a condition of the planning approval, as a means of shielding the air conditioning units from view.

Ms Uprichard was concerned that the new building would block the view towards Kennedy Gardens and the town. Dr Goudie added that when the plans first came out, the Planning Committee had submitted an objection about the loss of view. He said that the problem didn't arise from the basic height of the building, but from the additional plant rooms on top of the three storeys, plus a number of flues. He concluded that there would be further loss of view as a result and felt that this was a further example of the failure of the planning process. He added that even if it had been appropriate to put the building on the site, he could not understand why the University, the consultants or the Fife Council planners could not see a way of providing the same volume of accommodation without destroying the view.

Cllr Sangster replied that the Regional Councillors had taken all the concerns into consideration and had fought for a more appropriate alternative without success. He added that the view couldn't be considered as part of the reason for opposing a planning application. Councillors had asked at the time that there should be future planning for the area. Cllr Melville commented that there was a master plan, which had been discussed at joint meetings between the University, Community Council and Fife Council a few years ago. Mr Keenan said that the University has a 20 year plan, which is on the University website.

Dr Goudie said that it was an irony that it was only about 4 years since the University had signed a Section 75 agreement with Fife Council to remove the top stories of the Maths and Physics buildings.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Beautiful Scotland Update

Mr Crichton reported on the result of this competition. Mr Crichton had attended the awards ceremony in Musselburgh on the 17th September as St Andrews had won the Silver Salver for a Coastal Resort and the Silver Gilt Award for Coastal Resort 2008. He read out the statement he'd made at the Award Ceremony, commenting on the sterling work of the St Andrews in Bloom Committee and that of the Kilrymont Special Needs children for their sterling work at Hope Park Church, as well as the work of other groups and Fife Council.

6.2. St Andrews in Bloom Floral Awards – update.

Ms Smith thanked the St Andrews in Bloom for all their work in the past year. She announced the intention of co-opting a member of St Andrews in Bloom on to the Community Council in the hope that we can help next year's bid that is more fitting in respect of the role of the Community Council. She mentioned the idea of town art, of which she thought St Andrews was particularly bereft, commenting that other towns, such as Leven and Methil had public sculptures. It was hoped to pursue this idea in the coming year.

6.3. Best Kept Town Award – Report

Mr Crichton reported on this award. St Andrews had been awarded the best medium sized town category and he had attended the Award Ceremony on the 15th September in Glenrothes, where had accepted the award from Cllr Melville.

6.4. New Councillors

Ms Smith announced that letters had gone to the St Andrews Citizen and the Courier, as well as an article for St Andrews in Focus. She added that there had been some interest already. Three vacancies are to be filled.

6.5. Art and Photography Exhibition Update

No update as Mr Bain was absent. Ms Smith appealed for more volunteers to help man the event.

6.6. Royal Burgh of St Andrews Charitable Trust

Mr Crichton proposed that the new Trust be adopted by the Community Council, as he believed it to be in the best interests of locals people. Mr Fett said that he had a number of changes, which he thought were needed, as well as a couple of questions. His first query was about the quorum (5F), which was mentioned as being 3 persons. He felt that the quorum should be a percentage of the committee, rather than a set number, possibly 2/3 rds, but he was open to other possibilities.

His second query related to the number of trustees. He felt that there should be a specific number, with Community Councillors being in the majority.

Under sections 8A, 9A and 5H, he queried the idea of the Secretary and the Chair of the Community Council being automatically appointed, as Chair and Secretary of the Trust. He thought that these positions should be filled independently.

4A,B & C was a change about non Community Councillors terms of office on the Trust. He suggested three terms of two years, with terms to be out of sync with the Community Council elections to ensure continuity.

He then asked how much it would be proposed to put into the Trust and also who the solicitor was who was drafting up the Trust.

Mr Crichton in his reply to the first proposal to change the quorum disagreed with the percentage needed, but Mr Fett maintained his view that 3 was too small a number, if there were 12 on the Trust Committee. He asked for a vote on the change of clause. Ms Smith queried the need to vote on the details of a document, which hadn't been accepted in general principle. Mr Paul asked about the current quorum needed for the Community Council, which is half of the membership. He thought that seemed a reasonable percentage for the Trust. He had other concerns about the Trust, such who would control it and where the assets would come from, as well as an overview of what the Trust would be supposed to do. He felt that it could go outwith Community Council control.

Mr Crichton in reply said that it was impossible for the Community Council to control a Charity Trust. A Charity Trust he added was not allowed to give money to any elected body or organisation perceived to be associated with that body. This was why the proposed Charitable Trust needed to be at arm's length. It would not be allowed to have a majority of Community Councillors running the Trust. Ms Smith noting that the Community Council had quite a lot of money not being used, asked if this Trust would allow local community projects to be helped with money transferred into it from the Community Council funds? Mr Crichton in reply said that he saw one role of the Trust as writing round to get additional funds from other sources to aid its work. He thought that the Trust would be able to achieve some of the hopes of the Community Council in being able to fund larger projects, because of it's ability to legally access other funding sources. The trustees would decide upon the use of the funds, with the Community Council having no legal influence upon their decisions. Mr Finlay asked about the type of projects, which might be funded, from a Charitable Trust. Mr Crichton said that anything we might think off, which couldn't be

funded by official sources. Mr Finlay also asked about how the funds would be disbursed and if the Community Council had a project could it apply? Mr Crichton repeated that such a Trust could not give money to any official body. Cllr Sangster queried the need for a Charitable Trust. Mr Crichton reiterated that it would have the advantage of being able to access other sources of funding, unavailable to the Community Council. Mr Crichton corrected a statement by Cllr Sangster who thought that the Community Council still had a trust fund, by reminding him that this fund had been wound up a couple of years ago. Ms Smith and Mr Paul confirmed this as a fact. Cllr Sangster wondered why the Community Council couldn't just set up a Trust again. Mr Crichton replied that this was what was being proposed, but as a Charitable Trust. He acknowledged that the Charity Commissioner would have oversight in that case.

Mr Paul expressed his reservations about signing to set up a Charitable Trust over which the Community Council would have no authority. He felt that such a decision would be irrevocable, and he wasn't happy at the idea. Ms Denyer expressed her own confusion about the matter, and asked what was in it for the Community Council and the town. Mr Crichton explained the way that the Trust would be able to meet a local need, which came within its charter. It could both apply for additional funds from other sources, as well as arranging for the use of the funds for the required purpose.

Mr Fett in an attempt to make the matter clearer for the meeting explained that as he understood it, there were certain bodies with pools of money, which they would be unable to give to Fife Council or the Community Council because of their official status. He saw the attempt by Mr Crichton to set up the Charitable Trust as a way of getting around this problem. Cllr Sangster was still uncertain about the need to set up a Charitable Trust and felt that it seemed unnecessarily complicated, just for the purposes of giving out some money. He thought that the Community Council could still give out money without going to this length. He suggested getting legal advice about the possible benefits or otherwise.

Mr Paul said that he couldn't see how the Trust could be called the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Charitable Trust, particularly if at some stage there might be no Community Councillors on it. Mr Paul still felt that the Community Council still needed to have some control of the workings of the proposed Trust. Mr Crichton explained the mechanisms he'd included in relation to the appointment of the Chairman, who would normally be the Chair of the Community Council. If this wasn't possible, preference would be given to a serving Community Councillor. Mr Crichton acknowledged that this appointment would be made by the Trustees. Mr Paul asked who appointed new Trustees. Mr Crichton said that the appointment was made by the Trustees, but they had to have the Chairman's agreement. Mr Paul still felt that the Trustees should be appointed by the Community Council.

Mr Keenan asked in the text had been approved by OSCAR. Mr Crichton acknowledged that it still had to be checked by OSCAR. Mr Keenan noted that it could then take several weeks to get a response on the suitability of the text. Mr Crichton thought that it could be 3 months. Mr Finlay commented that he could see the point of having it, but that it would benefit from some research to determine the potential scope. After that the value of having it might become clearer, at which point the working details of the Trust could be thrashed out. Ms Smith agreed with Mr Finlay's thoughts. She suggested to Mr Crichton that concrete examples would give Community Council members more of a handle on the potential usefulness of the proposed Trust.

Mr Atkinson wondered how much Community Council money would go into the Trust. Mr Crichton replied that no Community Council money would go in, unless the Community Council wanted to donate some of the funds from the former Trust. The main aim of the Trust he felt was to try and attract money from outside donors for the benefit of St Andrews. Dr Goudie thought that the question of goals and procedural issues needed to be looked at in relation to the proposed Trust. He wasn't keen on a large amount of Community Council money going into the trust, possibly no more than 10 % he suggested. Mr Crichton reminded Dr Goudie that the money from the previous Trust could only be used in accordance with the principles of that Trust and no other purpose. Ms Smith asked how much was involved. Mr Crichton thought about £8K. Mr Fett acknowledged that there was such a sum of money for which the use was limited to charitable aims.

Ms Innes expressed concern about finding sufficient Community Councillors to join the Trust, even at the low number suggested, given that there was difficulty finding volunteers to join some of the other Community Council committees.

Mr Paul announced that according to previous records from 2006, there was £4K in the account. Mr Finlay asked Mr Crichton how the idea had originated. Mr Crichton replied that he'd had advice from Regional Councillors and others that if a Trust Fund was set up, it would be a way of getting more money to use for local projects. He proposed to put the document up to OSCAR, as he needed their thoughts on whether the safeguards he'd installed for the Chair and the Secretary would be allowed. He emphasised that the Trust had to be at arms length from the Community Council.

Cllr Waterston detailed the recent process by which Fife Council had set up its Sports and Leisure facilities into a Trust. He said that a minority of Councillors were appointed to the boards running the local facilities. It had been hoped that this set up would allow more money to be attracted into the facilities to improve them. He said that it had been a complex process and emphasised that it could not have been called a Fife Council Trust. He said that finding trustees had not been an easy job, and that from his knowledge other Trusts found it difficult to attract trustees. This was partly because the legal requirements on trustees are a lot more stringent than in the past. He felt that it would be difficult for the proposed trust to attract trustees, and that it couldn't be called the St Andrews Community Council Trust and that it couldn't be in control of the Community Council. He thought that these issues would need careful consideration before going ahead with the idea.

Mr Atkinson wondered why the Community Council had to be involved in setting up the Trust if no Community Council money was going into it?

Ms Harding proposed moving on from the discussion and suggested that perhaps Community Councillors should think about the matter and email or write in their thoughts for or against the Trust. This could be followed by a further discussion when members have had more time to think about the detail of the proposals. Mr Crichton said that he'd put forward the Trust proposals to OSCAR for their comments.

Mr Fett asked for the name of the solicitor involved in drafting the proposed Trust. Mr Crichton refused to divulge this, feeling that it wasn't pertinent to the matter. Mr Fett replied that he couldn't endorse something when he didn't know the sources of the legal advice. He felt that good legal advice was required in a complex matter and he wasn't prepared to go any further in supporting something when he didn't know who the legal advisors might be.

Ms Smith in summing up said that it was an issue not really for the Community Council to decide, as it would be external to the Community Council, but it might be something that individual Community Councillors might be interested to be part of, but it couldn't be combined. Mr Crichton replied that he was doing this, like other events he organised in the name of the Community Council because of the high regard he had for the Community Council. Mr Crichton was reminded that the Trust couldn't use the name of the Community Council in its name by Ms Smith. Mr Paul suggested that perhaps the Trust should just be called the St Andrews Trust.

Mr Finlay suggested that the meeting should thank Mr Crichton for the work he'd done in investigating the possibility of setting up a Trust. He thought that there would in all likelihood people prepared to give money for a trust with the St Andrews name in it for local worthy causes. Ms Smith added that from what she'd heard it didn't seem appropriate for the Community Council to continue to be involved but felt that Mr Crichton should continue to work on it, particularly if there might be ways of getting money which could be used for local needs. She felt that some sort of trust in the town was a good idea, which some members of the Community Council might want to be involved with, but it wasn't a pursuit for the Community Council.

6.8. Update from Arms Convenor

Mr Paul reported as new Convenor. He asked the meeting if he could invite the agent for the company, St Andrews Ltd, Mr White to the November meeting to give a presentation. Mr Paul also promised to give an update on the Arms situation. There was no objection to the idea.

6.9. Reports from Representatives

6.9.1. St Andrews World Class

Mr Fraser reported. There was discussion about the withdrawal of Scottish Enterprise funding from the Market St project. There was also talk about a scheme to rationalise street signs. Mr Loughlin is prepared to attend the Community Council to discuss the idea, which is at an early stage.

6.9.2. Festival Committee

Mr Crichton reported. Issues discussed included the provisional programme, which was checked to ensure that no events were mixed, also the Xmas lights. Ms Smith mentioned that there had been some uncertainty about the Xmas lights, with an indication that there might not be any. Ms Smith said she'd welcome confirmation on this matter. Cllr Sangster said that the matter was being discussed with the local office. South Street he thought might be the most problematic.

Mr Finlay sought clarity on the Xmas lights. Ms Smith said that because of changing regulations all the Xmas lights would have to be renewed, but there was no money to do so. She'd been told that there might

not be any lights this year. Cllr Sangster said that the electrical boxes in South Street hadn't been finished so lights couldn't be attached until they were completed. Ms Smith queried about the other streets. She'd been informed that the fittings in Market St and adjacent streets were too low, and couldn't be used and will have to be changed. Cllr Sangster added that the lights in South Street will have to be off a lower voltage for health and safety reasons – 110 volts as opposed to 240 volts. Ms Smith thought that it would be a struggle to get lights for the traditional lighting ceremony on St Andrews day, even if money were available. Cllr Sangster said that there would be further discussion with Kate Hughes later in the week.

The cost of the lights was another factor, as there was no budget in Fife Council to buy new ones. Cllr Sangster said that the Xmas lights were usually funded by a variety of sources such as the Merchants Association, Community Council etc. Ms Innes said that the cost of erection and dismantling of the lights was in excess of £20000, and with new regulations the lights had to be checked every day. Additional costs could put the total up to nearer £80000. Cllr Sangster said that there was talk that if lights were put up in trees in South Street they might be left in situ, though they would have to be LED and would have to be renewed every 3 years.

Ms Innes commented that she'd thought about applying to the Climate Challenge Fund for assistance with the lights on the basis that new ones would be more carbon efficient. She also mentioned the possibility of solar powered lights. Mr Finlay wondered about concentrating efforts in a smaller area such as Church Square.

Ms Smith said she'd check what other Community Councils were doing in their towns and villages.

6.10. A.O.C.B.

6.10.1. Substitution of Co-opted Members.

Cllr Sangster asked if it was possible for co-opted members to be substituted if they were unable to attend meetings? He asked because as a co-opted member from the Merchants Association he'd had colleagues stand in for him at times. Mr Fraser didn't think he'd heard of this taking place, and considered that it would not generally happen and that if a co-opted member couldn't attend that would be that.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

No report as Convenor was on holiday.

7.2. General Purposes Committee

No report

7.3. 200 Club

No report or draw.

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No report.

8. New Business

8.1. Community Council Networking Sessions

No fixed date for these events, but Mr Marks said he'd had some expressions of interest, and would keep everyone informed about dates.

8.2. E planning

Information had been received by Mr Marks from Fife Council, but this had already been touched upon earlier in the meeting

8.3. Data Protection Training Sessions

These are full at present, but Fife Council will advise about new dates.

8.4. Citizen Advocacy Development Project - includeME

Information on the inaugural meeting was circulated with the agenda. Anyone interested can attend the meeting in Cupar on 30th October. This relates to the need to include citizens with disabilities in community matters.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Ms Smith congratulated Canongate School in achieving their Green Flag. She also expressed the Community Council's best wishes to Ms Rowe for her full recovery following her recent operation. She also thanked the members of the public who had attended the meeting with an interest in becoming Community Councillors. She explained that because there was going to be an article in St Andrews in Focus any decision about the election of new councillors would be delayed until the response from that magazine's article was known.

9.2. Treasurer

Mr Fett reported that there was £1325 in the fund, which could be used to donate to worthy causes. He made a plea to members to seek out potential recipients of some of this money.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence

Very little correspondence had been received. See agenda.

10. Any Other Competent Business – none.