

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Approved Minutes – 1st December 2008

For Approval

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1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Shaun Atkinson, Alex Bain, Ken Crichton, Dave Finlay, Ken Fraser, Zoe Smith, Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Marysia Denyer, Rob Fett, Henry Paul, Judith Harding, Laurence Reed, Matthew Verrell, Ray Pead, Derek Skelhon

Students' Association Representatives

Matthew Guest

Nominated

Jude Innes

Co-Opted

Penny Uprichard

Fife Councillors

Frances Melville, Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison

Apologies

Catherine Rowe, Andrew Keenan, Judith Harding,

2. Minutes of November 2008 Meeting

Cllr Waterston commented on a minor inaccuracy when the minutes referred to "Regional" Councillors, a term which he reminded the meeting had not been the case for over 10 years. The secretary noted the point.

Mr Guest commented briefly on the success of a campaign where students had been sold bike lights at substantially discounted cost. The campaign would be continuing, with the possibility of extending it to the wider community.

3. Presentations

3.1. P.C. McLeod

3.1.1. Drinking in the Street

The previous Friday/Saturday nights the police had issued 22 tickets for offences such as drinking in the street and carrying an open can.

3.1.2. Operation Tinsel

This operation is aimed at catching shoplifters and will be in operation during the run up to Xmas. Mr Crichton asked how they would get in time to respond to calls from shops that have seen a shoplifter in action but haven't challenged them? PC McLeod acknowledged the problem, and didn't expect shop assistants to tackle shoplifters, but the police would rely upon CCTV or descriptions from shop staff of potential offenders. The police were also aware of possible places where shoplifters might stash goods on a

temporary basis and would be monitoring these area both the retrieve stolen goods and hopefully catch the offenders in action. Mrs Denyer who works on a voluntary basis in a local charity shop commented on thefts even taking place in charity shops. PC McLeod added that staff needed to be vigilant and keep their own personal valuables secure as some shoplifters taking advantage of low staffing levels had been known to steal staff valuables from the back room of the shop. Cllr Sangster wondered if there were many shops in the town, which were linked in a network to alert other shops of potential shoplifters. PC McLeod said that there had been a system of radios in operation in some stores but this had not been kept up with sufficient rigour by stores. He commented that the radios were not always to hand to be used as planned, so while it was potentially a good scheme it depended upon proper use of the equipment.

3.2. Ladebraes Biodiversity Project

Leslie Cunningham from the Botanic Gardens gave a presentation on a pilot project to rethink some aspects of the management of Parks owned by Fife Council. The idea was to begin to introduce a different regime of management to improve biodiversity of Park areas. Usually the Parks Dept had a maintenance regime in which the parks were clear cut every fortnight. In the Ladebraes Project, which was a pilot project, it was proposed to leave some areas of Hollowhill to grow and only cut at the end of the summer by a special cutting machine. The resultant cut would be baled and taken away and then the areas would have some plugs of wildflowers planted to begin the creation of more diverse areas of meadow. She said that the wildflowers chosen would be perennials, as it was felt that these gave a longer lasting result compared to annuals. In nearby areas there would also be removal of invasive species such as Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. There would be some thinning of Sycamore trees in the nearby woodland to allow more flowering plants to grow in the under storey.

She acknowledged that there might be some members of the public who would think that it was just a cost cutting exercise, but she emphasised the biodiversity aspect of the project. Such a project would have its costs from the cost of the seed to the need to hire special machinery to cut the longer growth. She reminded the meeting that a meadow is a man made environment, which requires maintenance in its own way. There would also be litter picks to keep the area tidy. Local house owners would be leafleted on the project as well.

The benefits she said would include a greater diversity of fauna and flora, and there was an educational potential with local schools. She mentioned a similar project in Cupar at the Haugh Park, which has been on the go for a year.

Mr Crichton asked about the timescale of the project. Ms Cunningham replied that this coming year the initial wild areas would be identified and set aside. Then in August the grass would be cut and baled, after which the wildflower plugs would be planted.

Mr Crichton commented on a similar project being undertaken by the local Girl Guide troop. He wondered if anyone would be available to give advice. Ms Cunningham replied that she would be happy to give advice.

Mr Paul wondered about the planting of Community Orchards? Ms Cunningham replied that this wasn't in the present plan and it was the first time she'd heard mention of a Community Orchard. She said that if there was a call for a Community Orchard she'd be prepared to look at it, but reminded the meeting that an orchard would require quite a lot of maintenance. Mr Paul commented about a project at Newburgh, which Ms Cunningham acknowledged and added that it would be viable where a group of people were prepared to get together to manage the orchard.

Ms Ashworth asked about plans to control the Japanese Knotweed, as she'd had experience of problems in eradication in another area where she'd lived. Ms Cunningham acknowledged the problems, and said that it might require use of herbicide and digging out and carefully bagging to reduce the risk of leaving rootstocks.

3.3. Fife Park/Lower Rents Campaign

Ian Nicol started the presentation explaining why there is opposition to the University's plans for Fife Park. He explained that until 2004, the University was offering very cheap accommodation, but because it was apparently making a loss it substantially increased the rents that year. A promise was also apparently made by the University to retain 500 beds in the lowest quartile of student's rents and also appeared to say that it would keep 1/6th of beds as affordable. He felt that the current proposals are very far from meeting that promise. He then defined affordability, and referred to the Fife Structure Plan and the Local Plan and the percentage of affordable houses which developers could be expected to build in a development.

He related this need to that of students. He claimed that St Andrews University was sixth worst in British Higher Education institutions for the number of students from low-income backgrounds, the fifth most

expensive university in Scotland for student rent. He added that a large number of students applying for affordable accommodation are turned down, so he felt there was a clear need for more such affordable accommodation. He claimed that the University wanted to replace Fife Park with the equivalent of David Russell Apartments. The latter are £123 pw for self-catering and in his view offer unnecessary luxury, being ensuite and with TVs in every room.

At present Fife Park has 252 affordable beds at £56 pw. There are proposals to build 210 non-ensuite rooms, which he thought might be £100 to £117 pw, with the ensuite rooms even more expensive. He claimed that the combined cost of rent and basic living costs for a student would be more than the basic student loan for both non ensuite and ensuite. He added that the Scottish Tourist Board advertised David Russell Apartments as 3 star accommodation out of term time in the summer. He suggested that students didn't really need 3 star accommodation!

Ian and Patrick are part of an opposition group, Lower Rents Now who have started a campaign and at a protest earlier in the year over 100 students took part. A petition run in conjunction with the Student Union saw over 1000 students sign indicating their opposition to higher rents and in favour of affordable rents. He claimed that the University was very unsympathetic to the needs of students for affordable accommodation. He cited a Scottish Government document SPP3 about affordable housing policy followed by Fife Council, but he claimed that the University had asked that all student accommodation be classified as affordable, even that at £130 pw, so that they did not need to build accommodation which he would classify as affordable to replace all the accommodation they were planning to demolish.

With regard to alternatives to the University proposals, he cited the idea of refurbishment, which he believed had not been adequately examined. He cited refurbishment at Albany Park without a significant increase in rent and similar work done by the University of Abertay. The University had claimed that refurbishment was not cost effective and feasible, so Mr Nicol asked for a copy of the Feasibility Study under the Freedom of Information Act, but was told by the officer from FOI that the University no longer had a copy. He believed that the study must not have conformed to what the University really wanted to do, and that was to have accommodation, which could be rented out over the summer on a commercial basis. He added that ensuite accommodation was also more profitable for the University in terms of what they could charge.

Another option which Mr Nicol thought the University hadn't seriously considered was to ask an architect to design the most basic student accommodation, which would also meet Fife Council HMO standards, but he believed that this hadn't been considered. He felt that the designs demonstrated that the accommodation wasn't designed with needy students in mind, but for the conference market in the summer. Mr O'Hare added that there had been a promise from Mr Roger Smith, Head of Residential Services that he would carry out a study to get a quote for the cheapest build possible, which would meet HMO and sustainability standards.

Mr O'Hare continued by outlining a forum which the Students Association in conjunction with the Lower Rents Campaign were setting up which would touch on the future of Fife Park and also look in a broader way at the issues of affordable accommodation in the local community. A meeting is being planned at which the University and Shelter have been asked to speak. He wondered if the Community Council could consider sending a representative to speak as well.

Mr Finlay asked for a clarification in relation to the proposed increase in the number of beds, which he understood from information recently received to be in the area of 500. Mr O'Hare confirmed that the number was correct. Mr Finlay went on to comment on the situation in the Buchanan Gardens/Hepburn Gardens area, which he thought was dangerous at present with students often spilling out on to the road from the pavement when walking into town at the same time as heavy commuter traffic heading into town. He thought that this additional accommodation would be better built elsewhere where traffic was less of an issue and upgrade the existing Fife Park. If the present plans continued, he thought that the University should be developing an off-road cycle/pedestrian route as a safer alternative to the present narrow pavements.

Ms Smith commented on her attendance and that of other Community Councillors at the consultation on the proposals for interested parties and neighbours. It was put to University Representatives at that meeting that the accommodation they were proposing would have higher rents both than the existing accommodation and also than accommodation in the town. She felt that that was quite telling. She added that she would be happy to join the planned forum. She added that the Community Council supported the student cause and had lots of questions about Fife Park.

Mr Crichton asked about a date for the meeting and also commented on the fact that the University claimed to house the highest percentage of its students in residential accommodation in Scotland. He was concerned however about the proportion of students in private rented accommodation compared to the size of the town. He felt that this large number had effects upon the nature of the town in a number of

ways, from the type of shops to the lack of families living in the town. He didn't feel that the University would change its mind, and recollected that several years ago the University had talked in terms of only 3500 students in accommodation, but this number has now more than doubled and has resulted in an accommodation crisis this year.

Mr O'Hare asked if the Community Council could pass a motion opposing the current proposal for Fife Park. Mr Fett asked if the Community Council could still put in an objection and what was the timescale to do so. Ms Uprichard replied that an objection could be put in when the application was published, which she thought could be in a couple of weeks. Mr Fett asked the basis of the planning committee's possible objection. Ms Smith briefly explained the limitations of objections. Ms Smith asked if someone would care to make a proposal that the Community Council express concern over the affordability of the proposed accommodation at Fife Park.

Dr Goudie agreed with Ms Uprichard that the affordability of the proposed accommodation could not constitute a planning issue. He added that while the Community Council had to an extent encouraged the University to provide additional student accommodation to relieve pressure on the town, by pricing proposed accommodation at twice the current rental, it could force students out, and thus negate the intention of providing accommodation for students. He hadn't been aware that there might be a revised application in the pipeline, but remembered that with the original application issues of concern had included the height of the buildings and access. He remembered when DRA had been redeveloped it had been the hope of the Community Council that a suggestion to provide suitable off road cycle/pedestrian access would be included in the work, to reduce the danger to students walking on the main route into town. Unfortunately the University backtracked on this idea and upgraded the path to Andrew Melville instead. He hoped that the issue would be revisited, especially given the plans, which could see an increase in students living in the area.

Mr Finlay said that when he'd looked at the original plans there were around 50 objections from local people. Ms Uprichard added that if there were to be an amended plans objections would carry forward, whereas if there were a new plan, the objections wouldn't stand. Also a new plan would be advertised in the local paper, whereas with an amended plan one had to check the online planning site regularly to find it when published.

Ms Smith asked for a proposal to show support to the students. Mr Fett suggested a letter to demonstrate Community Council concern over the affordability issue, which could be sent to Fife Council and also the local press. Ms Smith agreed that while not a planning issue, the affordability issue could be publicised by a letter.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. West Sands Project

Cllr Melville announced that this project would get a large chunk of the planned funding from Fife Council, The Links Trust and the R & A, with only the Scottish Enterprise Funding being unavailable now. This project would hopefully start in the spring and would allow the necessary work to be done on the road and other nearby areas included in the project. Mr Finlay wondered why the project wasn't started earlier than March/ April? Cllr Melville thought that it might have to do with tenders etc. She felt that there was full awareness of the need to get the work done as quickly as possible. Mr Pead asked about plans for the areas not being dealt with under the scaled down project. Cllr Melville said that these would be addressed when funding became available. Ms Smith asked about the various levels of financial contributions from the three main partners in the scaled down project. Cllr Melville replied that the R&A were contributing £150000, the Links Trust £450000 with the balance from Fife Council at £450000. The original project was budgeted at about £1500000. Ms Smith questioned the extent to which the project would benefit the ordinary citizen, as it would not go the whole length of the West Sands road, only according to Cllr Sangster as far as the R&A Sheds. Cllr Melville replied that the demise of the Scottish Enterprise involvement had been a shock and there had been general agreement to still try and do something. Ms Smith agreed with Cllr Melville's comments about the need to get something salvaged from the withdrawal of Scottish Enterprise funding. She added that there had been a hope that the entire road and the dunes would be done, and it now seemed as if Fife Council were paying a large sum of money to clean things up for the Open and the Links. Cllr Sangster replied that there was a lot to be done in the car park as well. Cllr Morrison felt that the work would make the area safer for families with children.

4.1.2. Links Road Temporary Closure

Scottish Water is doing an inspection of water pipes in the area by camera to determine the present condition. The area is prone to flooding.

4.1.3. Fife Structure Plan

Cllr Melville commented that the Structure Plan appeared to have disappeared from sight, with no indication of when it will reappear.

4.1.4. Greyfriars Primary School

The District Valuer has determined that the price being offered by the University is acceptable, despite an objection from a nearby Building Development Company. Ms Uprichard commented upon the fact that the previous valuation didn't include the Cosmos, but the present application does include the Cosmos so she thought that there would need to be a revaluation. Cllr Melville replied that the District Valuer is to make a report to the Council on the matter.

4.1.5. St Andrews Week Celebrations/Activities

Cllr Melville congratulated the Community Council for a very successful St Andrews Week.

4.1.6. Lamp Post St Mary Street

Mr Crichton commented on the nature of the new lampposts. He reminded the meeting that these new lampposts were of a thinner gauge and could only hold signposts of up to 1/3 metre. He had discussed the options with the local Fife Council official involved and had made a suggestion about how the sign could be modified to go on the lamppost. This idea is being checked out.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Community Safety Panel

This had arranged and run a Women's Personal Safety Course over a four-week period recently. The course had been well attended with the course participants finding it beneficial.

4.2.2. St Andrews Week Festival

Cllr Sangster congratulated the Community Council and Fife Council on the successful St Andrews Week Festival.

4.2.3. Britain in Bloom

Cllr Sangster commented on the success of St Andrews. He added that the entry into Britain in Bloom would present new challenges, both for the Council and local people. High standards would be expected from the Britain in Bloom judges. Ms Smith added that there would be a meeting of the new committee to look after the Britain in Bloom bid on 4th December at 10.30am. Mr Guest said that the Student Association might be interested in becoming involved in this bid.

4.2.4. Taxi Operators Meeting

The Regulation and Licensing Committee had met with the local Taxi Operators to discuss the standards expected to maintain their licences. He commented that there had been a fairly poor pass rate in the previous year, so the committee had given the operators a clear reminder of the expected operating standards. Mr Pead asked for clarification. Mr Sangster explained that the taxi operators had annual tests on their vehicles and even a minor fault resulted in a failure. Cllr Sangster said that the failure rate was higher than the rest of Fife, so the committee had decided to have a meeting to discuss the problems. He emphasised that the majority of taxi operators passed, but were let down by a couple who had quite a few faults.

4.2.5. Hamilton Hall Development

Following receipt of a telephone number for the Contractor for Hamilton Hall, Cllr Sangster had passed the details on to Fife Council Development Services to contact the Contractor and request that remedial action be taken to make the property at least wind and watertight. He believed that remedial action would be undertaken.

4.2.6. Floral Decoration at Entrance to St Andrews

Cllr Sangster reported that one business was interested in sponsoring the area at the town entrance used to advertise local events/anniversaries of organisations etc in a floral form. He thought that it would be a good idea to try and get a system to promote the sponsoring of this floral display. Any sponsor he thought would be able to have their name put on a small sign beside the floral display. Cllr Sangster added that without sponsorship there would be no display as Fife Council claim to be unable to afford to do it. Ms Uprichard asked about a couple of large signs currently up in the area. She asked if any sponsorship sign could perhaps be put underneath at the road level to prevent the display being obscured. Cllr Sangster said the matter had been noted. Mr Guest asked the cost of making a donation towards the cost of the floral display. Cllr Sangster replied that it was about £5000 for design work, labour and plants. In reply to a question from Mr Atkinson, Cllr Sangster explained that the Council was still looking for sponsors as well as needing names of local groups/organisations who might have an anniversary to be the subject of the floral display.

4.2.7. Harbour Toilet Keys

Cllr Sangster reported that this matter was still ongoing. Mr Finlay noted that the harbour toilets were locked when he was at the harbour area on St Andrews Day. He wondered about the access times. Cllr Sangster was surprised that they were locked and added that the owner of the restaurant at the Harbour usually had the keys. Cllr Sangster was informed that the restaurant was closing down for the winter. He replied that in that case the owner should hand the keys to the Harbour Master. He agreed to check out the situation.

4.2.8. Martyrs Monument Work

Still awaiting quotations for the repair work to the decorative aspects. Mr Fett asked why it was taking so long to get quotations for the work. Cllr Sangster said that he had no trouble getting quotations from local stonemasons, but Historic Scotland wanted a particular Edinburgh Company to do work as well, hence the delay. Mrs Denyer expressed her surprise that Historic Scotland couldn't use the current squad of masons at the Cathedral for the work. Cllr Sangster replied that Council and the Pilgrim Foundation had been ready to employ a local stonemason, but were stopped by Historic Scotland.

4.2.9. Pavement in North Castle Street

Mrs Denyer asked on behalf of Ms Rowe about the state of the pavement in this street. Cllr Sangster replied that the problem had been reported.

4.2.10. New Notice Board – South Street

Ms Smith asked who had a key for the new notice board in South Street. Cllr Sangster thought that whoever put the notice board up would have the key. Cllr Waterston said he'd been informed that the notice board didn't have a key to make it more accessible to anyone wishing to put up a poster.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Cycle Racks

Cllr Waterston wondered if the cycle racks in South Street were removable. Cllr Sangster confirmed that while the bases were cemented into the pavement, the racks could be removed as required. Mr Marks asked about the long promised improvement in cycle rack facilities in Market Street near Tesco. Cllr Waterston acknowledged the issue, but had to acknowledge that the budgeting situation was delaying minor work. He hoped that there would be more news in a month or two.

4.3.2. Community Engagement

Cllr Waterston and other Councillors had had a meeting with Superintendent Birrell and other police officers on this subject. The idea was to get some idea from a questionnaire sent out about local community priorities in policing. Mr Marks and Ms Smith confirmed that they'd received copies, but had requested electronic copies to allow for easier distribution to other Community Councillors. These hadn't so far been received. According to Cllr Waterston, Superintendent Birrell feels that a visible police presence is important. Cllr Waterston mentioned the possible use of bicycles as a step towards this aim.

However according to Cllr Waterston the interesting part of the evening related to the detection and reduction of crime, which has seen a reduction in crime and a high detection rate. Serious crime and house break-ins are at low levels, but drug problems are increasing. General problems in St Andrews are minor

vandalism, theft, and anti-social behaviour. He reported that the Police were having a reasonable success in retrieving stolen bicycles. Students have been issued with security packs by the police to help make their bicycles more secure. He felt that the Police genuinely wanted feedback from the Community Council, after which they might want to do a presentation.

4.3.3. Lamberton Place Flood Defences

These are almost completed, with a complete reconstruction of the ditch and a renewal of underground pipes. Cllr Waterston hoped that this would alleviate this serious local problem.

4.3.4. Fife Landscape Study/Review

According to Cllr Waterston there are ongoing discussions between Councillors and officials.

4.3.5. Newpark Development Planning Appeal

An appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the Newpark development is to go to appeal and is to be heard in January. Cllr Waterston will be involved with giving a presentation at the Appeal as well as other local bodies.

4.3.6. Communication Difficulties between Community Council Planning Committee and Planning Officials

There was a meeting between the Planning Committee and Fife Councillors to try and begin to resolve the communication problems related to the receipt of plans. Progress is being made but Cllr Waterston admitted that it hasn't been completely resolved yet with planning officials.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. Changing Rooms at Cockshaugh Park

Cllr Morrison had been contacted about the state of the changing rooms at Cockshaugh Park. She had a meeting to see the facilities and was shocked at their poor condition. She was determined to pursue the issue, as she felt that it was important to encourage young people in sporting activities, and poor facilities could be a deterrent.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Report

The secretary has to apologise at this stage as he forgot to switch on his recording equipment, until 6.4. The following notes are based on some of the written notes to accompany the audio recording, and cannot be taken to be fully representative of the discussion.

5.1.1. Fife Landscape Study Meeting

Ms Uprichard had attended this meeting at Cupar earlier in the afternoon at which Fife Councils officials had made a presentation of the draft recommendations. She felt that there was considerable opposition to the Landscape Study, which was recommending a reduction in the number of areas of outstanding landscape value by a large number. She felt that the recommendations of the study shouldn't go into the local plan, and that the current areas should remain.

5.1.2. Master plan for the University

Ms Uprichard brought up this issue because of the ongoing development proposals for further developments by the University on the North Haugh. She felt that the development was piecemeal. Mr Guest thought that there was a 20-year plan he'd seen for the University. Cllr Melville asked if he could access a copy. Dr Goudie was less hopeful about the value of a Master plan. He viewed the University's strategy as more short term. If the University were offered the chance of getting funding from a wealthy donor it would be difficult for them to refuse. Cllr Morrison commented that while she could see concerns about the height of the Medical Sciences building, she acknowledged a difficulty in deciding between preservation of a view and the long term value of the building in terms of its research output.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Election of New Councillors – Update

Three Councillors have been elected, but one vacancy remains.

6.2. Report from Arms Convenor

Mr Paul reported no further progress with getting Mr White along to a meeting. He hoped to have more news at the January meeting.

6.3. Climate Challenge Fund – update

Mr Marks had circulated the latest write up expressions of interest from the Climate Challenge Fund meeting. Debate followed about the content and merit of the proposals. During the debate Ms Smith expressed the view that the proposals were premature and there had been no consultation. She felt that there was no evidence from the community of what the support would be for any of the five bids. She believed that it could be embarrassing for the Community Council if the local community didn't support most of the five expressions of interest. She thought that the allotment scheme might have the most support as she thought it might be the most accessible and might capture people's imagination. She suggested that a lot more consultation should take place before anything was submitted. Mr Marks acknowledged that there was a time limit for submission of the expressions of interest. He had hoped for more public participation, but there had been little time to publicise the meetings effectively. He expressed disappointment at the relatively poor attendance at the meetings, given the serious nature of the problem. He also commented on the possibility that what might be put forward as expressions of interest might not all be accepted for further funding. Mr Fraser noted that one of the main proposals didn't have funding costs attached to it. Mr Marks replied that these had been discussed, and could be added in if the expressions of interest were put forward. The costing in No1. would be mainly staffing costs, as Fife Council had indicated a willingness to offer office accommodation.

Mr Marks went on to indicate that a special meeting might be the best forum to discuss the expressions of interest in more detail and hopefully achieve consensus on what, if anything should be put forward. Ms Ashworth asked if her understanding was correct that the form being discussed, was the one to be sent to Beautiful Scotland for its response as to the viability of the proposals, or was it to go straight to the Government? Mr Marks confirmed that this was merely the initial form to go to Beautiful Scotland for their response about the potential merit of the expressions of interest. Mr. Marks went on to explain the role of Beautiful Scotland in the process, which was to aid applicants in putting forward the most viable proposals.

Mr Paul talked about the meeting with Rachel Nunn from who was employed by Stirling Council. At that meeting she had emphasised the benefits to everyone in reducing their carbon footprint, with the financial aspect being a major immediate benefit, as reduced fuel consumption would help everyone. He could see why this idea was being pushed by Mr Yarr, who has been helping the University to reduce its own carbon footprint by introducing renewable technology, as well as other energy saving measures. Mr Paul saw the main expression of interest as a way to help local people know the best ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Dr Goudie on a procedural point commented that in his understanding it was the same body, Beautiful Scotland who would judge the final proposals as well as advise on the expressions of interest.

Ms Smith asked Mr Marks for his proposals on the matter. She added that she couldn't see the benefit of a town energy carbon advisor sitting in an office if no one wanted to see them. Mr Marks clarified Ms Smith's misunderstanding of the role of the advisor. He said that the advisor would have a more managerial role, while the carbon coaches would do the main legwork going out to see people and do the initial assessments. Mr Marks went on to suggest that it would be possible to have a special meeting to meet with Mr Yarr to discuss the expressions of interest in more detail and get answers about any uncertainties from him. Mr Marks emphasised that it was important to make a decision soon because the bidding periods were time constrained, and if the current period was missed, it could be another year before there was another opportunity. Cllr Morrison commented on a recent course she'd attended on carbon reduction within Fife Council and felt she'd learnt a lot which she could apply to her own energy use. Ms Ashworth commented that there needed to be other ways to educate people about reducing their carbon footprint as she didn't think that Fife Council hadn't the facilities to cope with the scale of the task. She was also aware that Fife Council was behind the Carbon Challenge idea as Mr Yarr had been in contact with Fife Council. She added that the main thing which bids were being accepted on was the carbon footprint, namely reduction of energy use. Cllr Waterston confirmed that Fife Council viewed the scheme as being extremely important. He added that there weren't enough people working on it and saw it as the main challenge for everyone for the indefinite future. He went on to say that the kind of reductions

expected of everyone were enormous. He hoped that there would be agreement to have a further meeting to make the expressions of interest more acceptable to everyone. He felt that it had to be recognised as a priority. Mr Crichton thought that there was still a degree of public ignorance on the urgency of the need to reduce energy use. He suggested that simplifying the message might make people more likely to respond.

Ms Smith acknowledged Mr Crichton's points, but added that she wasn't certain who had been invited to the meetings. She said she'd met someone whom she'd have expected to be invited who wasn't aware of the meetings. She wasn't certain who the meetings had been aimed at initially? Mr Marks said that it was aimed at everyone in the community, but he acknowledged that it hadn't perhaps been well publicised and had come quite quickly into the awareness of the Community Council. He added that perhaps the Community Council had been a bit slow on the uptake compared to other Community Councils. He reminded the meeting that the expressions of interest were only that and might not necessarily get approval. He acknowledged the possible benefit of another meeting.

Ms Smith still expressed her concerns about the nature of the expressions of interest. She felt that there was a lot of information being bombarded at the public about such matters from the media and local authorities and government. She also felt that the main expression of interest was a repetition of services and facilities that already exist, and she also felt that a large percentage of local people would tell the Carbon Coaches where to go in no uncertain terms. She thought that the same people might be more interested in being offered a water butt or being offered an allotment etc than saving energy. Mr Marks acknowledged that Mr Yarr was a vital part of the framing of the bid given his professional expertise. Dr Goudie thought that the expressions of interest could be rewritten in a way, which he felt might reflect the community view. Ms Smith proposed a meeting to be held the week beginning the 8th December. A date of Tuesday 9th December was agreed upon with Ms Smith hoping that as many members as possible could attend. There was some debate about whether there should at this stage be any attempt to involve other interested persons. It was eventually agreed that this wouldn't be practical at this late stage. Ms Smith still expressed her strong reservations on certain aspects of the expressions of interest. Mrs Denyer reminded the meeting that these were just expressions of interest and might not all be accepted.

6.4. St Andrews Day Reception/ Christmas Lights

Ms Smith reported on the success of the Reception at which Dennis Canavan was Guest of Honour because of his work towards the promotion of St Andrews Day. However Ms Smith recognised that some aspects of the previous week had shown a degree of disorganisation and there would have to be a post mortem to try and learn from the mistakes. She thanked all those who assisted in various ways throughout the planning and the actual events.

6.5. Fife Landscape Review

Discussed earlier under Planning – Ms Uprichard had attended the meeting.

6.6. Reports from Representatives

No reports due to shortage of time

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

No report

7.2. General Purposes Committee

No meeting has taken place.

7.3. 200 Club

200 CLUB DRAW

1ST No 32. W.G. Fowkes £50

2nd No 111 Mrs Howell - £30

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No meeting

8. New Business

8.1. St Andrews Day Rugby Match

See Appendix B of the agenda. Mr Marks to write out to Mr Topping. Mr Crichton suggested that it could come under the St Andrews Festival Committee remit.

8.2. St Andrews – Road and Pedestrian Signposting for Visitors

Request by Patrick Loughlin to come and discuss this report with the Community Council – A date in the New Year to be firmed up.

8.3. Accommodation Forum

Dealt with under presentation

8.4. Hamilton Hall

Also dealt with under the presentation by Mr Nicol and Mr O'Hare.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

No report

9.2. Treasurer

9.2.1. Treasurer's Report

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Number of Student Volunteers

Mr Guest thought that the Community Council might be interested to know the number of student volunteers in the town. Over a hundred assisted weekly in local Charity Shops, but a much larger number 1300 were registered with the Student Voluntary Service and would be doing some form of voluntary work at some stage throughout the year.

10.2. Public Transport to and from New Hospital

Mr Marks commented that he'd been approached about the ongoing concerns about establishing suitable bus access to the new hospital. He thought that this might be a topic for the Community Council to discuss in the New Year and possibly write to the Bus Companies expressing concern about any identified problems of access by bus.