

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – March 2009

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

Ken Crichton, Ken Fraser, Zoe Smith, Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Carol Ashwoth, Laurence Reed, Derek Skelhon, Ray Pead, Catherine Rowe, Shaun Atkinson, Marysia Denyer

Students' Association Representatives

Matthew Guest

Nominated

Co-Opted

Penny Uprichard

Fife Councillors

Robin Waterston, Bill Sangster

Apologies

Dave Finlay, Rob Fett, Jude Innes, Judith Harding, Mathew Verrell, Andrew Keenan, Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville

2. Minutes of January/February 2009 Meetings

The minutes of the Community Council Meetings were approved, subject to an amendment to 5.3 in the February minutes relating to discussion about his letter of objection to the Modifications to the Structure Plan and SEA.

3. Presentations

3.1. PC Brian Robinson

PC Robinson was in attendance to answer questions from the Community Council

3.1.1. Noise Problems

Mr Pead asked how the police would deal with night time noise nuisance. He had recent concerns from what he believed to be a student event in a marquee along the Scores. PC Robinson mentioned the Night Time Noise Team. This was used instead of the police, unless there were other offences being committed.

3.1.2. Taxi Parking – Kinkell Terrace

Ms Rowe asked about progress in the concern about taxis using Kinkell Terrace as a parking area. She'd mentioned this before her recent period of absence on health grounds. PC Robinson acknowledged that there was little the police could do as the road had no parking restrictions and no offences had been committed.

3.2. Marysia Denyer – Josef Stanislav

Mrs Denyer gave a presentation on the accomplishment of a Polish soldier stationed in St Andrews during the 2nd World War who had invented the first portable and practical mine detector. His accomplishment was recognised by King George VI and the Polish Government. The mine detector was used up until about 1991 in the First Gulf War and Mrs Denyer thought that this tremendous achievement, which had saved countless lives, should have some form of recognition in St Andrews. She thought that the Bruce Embankment would be a suitable location for any commemoration. She appealed to the meeting for ideas about a way to commemorate and a way to fund the commemoration. Cllr Sangster made various suggestions about procedures and possible funding sources. Dr Goudie suggested the possibility of a plaque or similar in the Kinburn Park area, possibly on the museum wall, and an involvement with the museum in relation to further recognition of the Polish contribution.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville - absent

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Public Toilets at the Harbour

Cllr Sangster reported attending a meeting with Environment Services in the past week in relation to the future management of these toilets. A lease is being set up under which the Harbour Trust will take over the toilets. Cllr Sangster acknowledged that the toilets shouldn't have been closed, but had been, due to an error by an official in Fife Council.

4.2.2. Market Street

Cllr Sangster felt that as a result of efforts by local councillors some repair work would be starting soon. He hoped that the plan to properly improve the street would also take place in the not too distant future. Mr Marks commented that the effect of the work would be interesting to observe, comparing it to a form of temporary pedestrianisation of the area.

4.2.3. South Street – Former Wilson's Shop

Cllr Sangster reported that long ongoing work outside this property would no longer obstruct the street. Fife Council had received a letter from the developer to say that the materials etc obstructing the street would be removed by 6th April. Cllr Sangster added that there weren't any details available to say how the work would be set up and how it would impact upon the street. He thought that there would have to be access for vehicles, but in a much more controlled fashion. Mr Marks acknowledged the need for access for some transport for delivery etc.

4.2.4. Noticeboard – South Street

Mr Guest commented about the recent modification to the noticeboard which now has keys to open it, to allow posters to be put inside. He had advised his Student Association colleagues on this matter so that they could publicise the change to Student Associations using the board.

4.2.5. Ladyhead Pavements

Ms Rowe asked when the work to repair the pavements in this area would take place. Cllr Sangster replied that it had been reported to the appropriate Council Dept. He hoped that it would be started soon, whilst acknowledging that he couldn't understand why the Council couldn't have a squad able to respond more speedily to such problems.

4.2.6. Pavement near Holy Trinity Church

Ms Rowe also reported problems for wheelchair users near Holy Trinity Church. Cllr Sangster was aware of a problem at the Church Street end which had been reported as well. Ms Smith suggested that Ms Rowe should report such problems to the Local Office. Such reports would then be recorded with a reference number which could be quoted when asking about progress in a repair.

4.2.7. Kilrymont Road/Kilrymont Crescent – Sewer Cover

Mr Reed reported a sewer cover which has been sinking at the junction of these roads.

4.2.8. Glebe Road/ St Nicholas Street Path

Mr Reed also reported a deterioration of the surface of the path between these two streets as well as overhanging trees which were causing hazards to pedestrians and other path users.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Noticeboard – South Street

Cllr Waterston also commented upon the noticeboard situation. He'd been aware of the problems of the posters stuck on the outside and had personally tried to clean the glass. He added that he was pleased to see the boards being used more appropriately now.

4.3.2. Market Street

Cllr Waterston reported that there would be temporary patching of the surface of Market Street on the 23rd March, which he had been informed should last for a couple of years. Funding had also been agreed for the main refurbishment project, but this still required approval by North East Fife Area Committee to release some of the funds to start the process. When officially started there will again be a consultation process, however he wasn't certain that the work would be completed by the time of the next Open.

4.3.3. St Andrews Design Guidelines

Cllr Waterston commented on the publication of these guidelines, which had been agreed by North East Fife Area Committee about a year and a half ago. They have been in use since then, but only printed in hard copy recently. He felt that it was a very good document.

4.3.4. St Andrews Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan 2008

This publication which Cllr Waterston said hadn't been published, would be consulted upon during the course of the Local Plan consultation. Mr Marks commented that the Community Council had received a copy which he'd passed on to the Planning Committee. Cllr Waterston felt that any comments upon the content of the document would be useful. In a reply to a query from Mr Pead about the plethora of Plans, Cllr Waterston acknowledged the complexities of the situation. He briefly explained the current situation with the Structure Plan Modifications consultation being recently completed, and the Local Plans, as well as the Strategic Environment Assessment still to be consulted upon. Dr Goudie added that the situation was very unsatisfactory because of the timescale in which to prepare responses to lengthy documents. Cllr Waterston acknowledged Dr Goudie's concerns, but added that the Community Council would have a chance to put in submissions later in the year on the Local Plan. He added that the consultations for the Local Plan had originally had a deadline for the 6th March, but Fife Council had been forced to extend the period twice to the current date of 6th March. The latter wouldn't be published until the Structure Plan was published. Dr Goudie in reply commented that Community Councillors like himself still struggled to meet these type of deadlines, given the voluntary status of Community Councillors and the need to balance full time employment and the demands of the Community Council. Cllrs Waterston and Sangster also acknowledged that it wasn't within their power to determine the process.

4.3.5. New Madras College Plans Meeting

Cllr Waterston announced that there would be a meeting on the 26th March at Kilrymont at which all Community Councils, Parent Councils, Teachers etc would be invited. The purpose of the meeting is to set out the framework for the programme and process for the planning process. One part of the meeting would be the formation of a consultation or a stakeholder group to consist of 12 people. The initial meeting is partly to identify potential group members, two of whom would be Community Council members from the catchment area of the school. Representatives will be able to have alternatives should they be unable to attend meetings.

4.3.6. Viaduct Walk Works

This work will be completed by 10th March.

4.3.7. Blue Bin – Marine Place

Ms Rowe reported that the large paper bin for the flats in this area was not being emptied regularly. She'd complained to the Council, and had been told that the Council had no official obligation to empty the bin at regular intervals. Cllrs Waterston and Sangster agreed to check into the matter.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison - absent

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Reports

Nothing to add to Appendices in Appendix. Mrs Denyer commented about ongoing difficulty in receiving paper copies of plans. She also reminded members of the amount of work undertaken and invited members to attend a Planning Meeting to see what took place as she was concerned about a slightly negative image being presented.

5.2. Ottakars/Waterstones – Update

Ms Uprichard raised the ongoing concerns about this planning matter. She reported that another application had been submitted for a much simpler, non-intrusive device to replace the old air conditioning units. However she was concerned that the owners of Ottakars/Waterstones should be required to remove the current air conditioning units before permission is granted for the new devices. The removal of the current units was recommended by the Reporter and the Council had issued an enforcement order with which the company has so far not complied. Ms Uprichard had discussed the issue with Mr Birrell who she said had agreed that it was reasonable to request removal of the current units before granting planning permission to the new devices.

5.3. Letter about Planning Appeal – Kennedy Gardens

Dr Goudie commented upon a letter received in relation to the refusal by Fife Council of planning permission for a development on the grounds of Laddie, Hepburn Gardens. Dr Goudie thought that the Councillors might like to make note of this appeal. Dr Goudie thought that the removal of the trees had contributed to some problems by making the adjacent road more exposed to problems like icing.

5.4. Gin House Beer Garden

Ms Smith asked about the issue of concern relating to the Gin House. She was informed that it related to a retrospective application for a beer garden which could have an effect upon neighbouring residential properties.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Arms Convenor – Update

Mr Ray Pead who has taken up this role in the temporary absence of Mr Paul reported on the current situation.

1. Mr Paul and Mr Skelhon recently met with the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh to try and clarify the legality of the use of the Coat of Arms in a commercial agreement. The Lord Lyon was not able to comment due to his position as he would be chairing any court in which the matter might arise.

2. Mr Paul and Mr Pead met with Mr Lang of the Links to update the Links management and get their response on the current situation.

3. A meeting with Mr White is supposed to be imminent according to Mr Pead. Cllr Sangster commented upon the importance of keeping minutes of any such meeting.

4. Another small cheque has been received from Mr White in relation to royalty payments, bringing the total from £38 to £45.

5. Possible ways forward include raising the issue in the Lyon Court to get a judgement as to whether Heraldic Law has been broken, also getting our solicitor to send a letter seeking agreement on memorabilia only or seeking confirmation that our agreement was for memorabilia only. A third option is to try and

send a letter to cancel the agreement, but Mr Pead didn't believe this would meet with a positive response. We could also try to meet with Mr White to discuss cancelling the agreement on non-performance.

Mr Pead acknowledged that any of the options would necessitate further costs, a potential problem given the expenses to date. The possible need to seek funding from other sources was briefly mentioned by Mr Pead.

A final option would be to wait out the eight years, but Mr Pead felt that this might not be good, given the potential for developments abroad of which we would have no control.

Mr Skelhon added that it might be possible to get an opinion from the Lord Lyon's fiscal, as to the legality of the use of the Coat of Arms.

Mr Pead asked for the meeting's agreement on the way ahead. At present Mr Pead is awaiting a response from the Links Trust and the Community Council solicitor and is seeking potential sources of funding for future legal costs.

6.2. Climate Challenge Fund – update

Mr Marks reported that Roddy Yarr had eventually received a response from Margaret Hood at Beautiful Scotland. This response essentially gave backing to the idea of the Carbon Coach/ Advisor idea, but emphasised that it could only be with individuals and community groups, not with businesses. She pointed out various sources of funding as well as commenting upon the proposed scale of the Expression of Interest. She suggested starting on a smaller scale and getting a clear expression of interest from a local group of householders by survey or questionnaire, rather than depending upon cold calling, to kick start any bigger effort. She suggested contacting other groups who had already received funding to gauge their reaction based on their experience.

On the renewable energies expression of interest she commented that EST could fund feasibility studies of up to £10k and advise of recommended contractors. CCF could fund studies over £10k.

The Rail Link she suggested she would need to get clarification from government, as she added that transport links and networks would have a wider implication than just on a grass roots community. The carbon reduction potential of this to the local community would have to be more clearly demonstrated.

Regarding allotments, she said that funding a feasibility study would in itself not reduce carbon emissions, but projects have been funded where local communities have the site and land in place to use.

Cycle paths could potentially be funded, but the construction of paths in themselves would be considered to create carbon rather than reduce it.

Dr Goudie added that he felt that the response was a bit unclear in places, and he wasn't certain whether it was viable to put in an application still covering all the expressions of interest or a reduced list, given the tone of the response.

Mr Marks felt that the Carbon Challenge group needed to get together to discuss this initial response and decide what would be the best way to progress with any application.

Ms Rowe asked about the potential for a local church getting funding for improving its energy efficiency. Mr Marks thought that there might be, but would check to confirm how a Church group might fit into the scheme.

6.3. Community Council Website

The Chair commented that she had nothing to report, but there is a need to get the website situation resolved following the resignation of Mr Bain from the Community Council.

6.4. Stunning St. Andrews Report

Mr Crichton gave a report. He mentioned the purchase of planters, and the decision to delegate responsibilities for various sectors, with Ms Smith dealing with the Schools side, and Mr Crichton dealing with the War Memorials. He hoped to involve the local junior Forces organisations in this area. There was also mention of a wildlife garden at the Girl Guides hut. A couple of other local groups, such as the Scooniehill Sheltered Housing Residents Association were keen to help with plant sales. Mr Marks added that he had attended a meeting organised by Stunning St Andrews at the local Episcopal Church Hall in Queens Gardens at which a company, Green Cone introduced two types of food and garden waste recycling bins, which they claimed to be very effective and simple to use. They were hoping to encourage the Council to demonstrate an interest and they would supply their bins at reduced prices. Ms Smith

added that she'd been using a bin purchased via Waste Aware Scotland at a vastly reduced price for a few years. She encouraged members to look at the Fife Council website for this product.

Mr Marks further explained the rationale behind the scheme and the potential benefits.

Mr Crichton announced that the next meeting of Stunning St Andrews would be on 17th March at 2 pm in the Supper Room.

Cllr Waterston asked about the name of the group. He openly acknowledged that he was uncomfortable with the name and asked if there was similar feeling within the Community Council? Ms Smith commented that when the naming of the group had been discussed there had been three options and the preferred choice of MS smith and Mr Crichton had not been Stunning St Andrews. Cllr Waterston acknowledged that in discussion about the group, the name was in his view a bit of an embarrassment.

6.5. Notice Board – South Street

Dealt with under Councillors business

6.6. Reports from Representatives

6.6.1. Cosmos Community Centre

Ms Smith had attended the Cosmos Soup Group. She explained the rationale behind this group which was to help equip youngsters who had left school and were unemployed etc, with a skill. The young people were now making and selling soup as part of this project, and had acquired food hygiene certificates for their efforts. The group sells soup between 12 & 1.30pm on a Thursday at a very reasonable price.

6.7. Any Other Matters Arising

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

7.1.1. Appeal for Members etc

Ms Smith mentioned that the Recreation Committee was in need of a Convenor and members. Mr Crichton mentioned that Mr Pead had agreed to take on board the Photographic/ Art Competition. There was still a need for someone to look after the Gardening aspect of the committee work. Ms Smith agreed to convene a meeting of this committee in the near future.

7.2. General Purposes Committee

No meeting has taken place.

7.3. 200 Club

200 CLUB DRAW

1ST R. Wood

2ND Mrs Pirie

3RD Mrs I Hughes

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

No meeting, but Ms Smith plans to convene a meeting. The meeting will invite Mr Sam Taylor along to discuss the concerns about the public transport to the new hospital.

8. New Business

8.1. Election of New Member

An application had been received for the existing vacancy on the Community Council by Mr Kyffin Roberts – see Appendix D in agenda. Mr Reed proposed and Mr Pead seconded the proposal made by Ms Smith. There was unanimous acceptance of Mr Roberts application.

Ms Smith also mentioned that Mr Alex Bain had resigned from the Community Council. This would create a new vacancy which will be advertised.

8.2. Young Citizen of the Year

See agenda for names – to be awarded at the April meeting.

8.3. Access to Community Council Meetings

For information – see Appendix E.

8.4. Feedback from Networking Sessions

For information - see email sent out by secretary with reports attached.

8.5. Climate Challenge Fund Event

For information see Appendix F

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

No report

9.2. Treasurer

9.2.1. Treasurer's Report

See financial report in February agenda.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Pedestrian Crossing at Exit to St Andrews

The email from was discussed. He'd suggested the need for a crossing to the secretary in an email. There was general agreement that this was a good idea. Cllr Waterston mentioned that he'd forwarded the suggestion to Transportation Services to investigate and hopefully action. Mr Fraser reminded the meeting that cyclists frequently crossed the road at the point in question to access the cycle path. Dr Goudie expressed concern that building a crossing at the site in question could have a knock on effect on the replacing of the Petheram Bridge. The latter was supposed to have been replaced, but successive Councils have failed to follow planning conditions from the days of the District Council. Mr Marks replied that in his assessment the proposed crossing would not affect the Petheram Bridge as he thought that the crossing and bridge would serve different groups of users.

10.2. Student Radio

Mr Atkinson informed the meeting that Mr Guest hosted a programme on the Student Radio at 19.00 and would be keen to interview people from local groups etc as part of the Student Radio community slot.

10.3. Rector's Drag

Mr Crichton reminded the meeting about the Rector's Drag. He'd also received information that the time had changed and it would be outside at the corner of the street, not indoors as Mr Crichton had hoped.