

Monthly Agenda – December 2009

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm Monday 7th December 2009 in the Burgh Chambers of the Town Hall, Queen's Gardens. There will be a short break at about 8pm during which the 200 Club draw will be made. The meeting is audio-recorded to assist the secretary in producing the minutes.

(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. Apologies

2. Minutes of November 2009

Read for accuracy in matters of substance – harangue the secretary for minor errors (spelling etc) outwith the meeting.

3. Presentations

3.1. Macdonald Estates Presentation

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Reports

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

6.1. Art and Photography Exhibition - report

6.2. Climate Challenge Fund - update

6.6. Civic Reception - report

6.5. Reports from Representatives

6.5.1. Report from Reps to ASCC Meeting – see Appendix C

6.6. Any Other Matters Arising

7. From Committees

7.1. Recreation

7.2. General Purposes

7.3. 200 Club

7.4. Health, Education & Welfare Committee

8. New Business

8.1. Business Improvement Districts Scotland

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

9.2. Treasurer

See Appendix B

9.3. Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – Appendix A.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Meeting Procedures/Councillor Conduct

Please notify Chair of AOCB items before the start of the meeting or at the break. Hint: Given that the end of the meeting is often taken in something of a rush, unless items are urgent it might be better to submit them for next meeting's New Business.

Appendix A Correspondence

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| 05/11/09 | Neil Galloway – Macdonald Estates | Email - re St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan - Land at Craigtoun Road asking for a meeting |
| 16/11/09 | Sian.Williamson@visitscotland.com | Email to ask if CC are involved in any ecotourism project as part of an enquiry by the International Ecotourism Society about a conference venue at St Andrews in 2012 |
| 19/11/09 | Email from development.services@fife.gov.uk | Planning Aid Scotland Event - Finalised St Andrews & East Fife Local Plan 2009: Planning for People community training |
| 20/11/09 | Planning Aid for Scotland | Letter enclosing a couple of leaflets on planning advice and training. |
| 04/11/09 | Waterwatch Scotland | Letter about public meeting 25/11/09 at County Buildings Cupar with Waterwatch North East Panel answering public questions since the introduction of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 |
| 04/11/09 | Business Improvement Districts Scotland | Letter with newsletter about this organisation and what it can offer in the way of a grant to assist groups in partnership with their local authority to develop an Improvement District – more info on www.bids-scotland.com |
| 04/11/09 | Kate Hughes | Email about refurbishment of local office St Andrews and need to relocate Planning Committee meetings. |
| 11/09 | VONEF | Volunteer Centre Magazine/ Handbook on volunteering |

Appendix B – TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER 2009

Total funds are broken down into the following Sub-Accounts:

| | |
|--|------------|
| ADMIN | £1,199.14p |
| <i>Expenditure: Rent, Auditor, Adverts, Laptop, Website, Stationary, and Printing.</i> | |
| <i>Income: Fife Council Grant</i> | |
| BANDSTAND | £495.15p |
| <i>Expenditure: Bandstand Concerts only</i> | |
| DONATIONS | £152.58p |
| <i>Expenditure: Donations/CC Grants</i> | |
| <i>Income: Coat of Arms royalties, Bank Interest from BOS, Donations</i> | |
| EX-TRUST | £2896.73p |
| MILLENNIUM | £0.00p |
| RECREATION | £309.08p |

Expenditure: Floral, St Andrews Week, Receptions, Prizes

Income: Annual allocation from Fife Council Grant

RESERVE CAPITAL £0.00p

Expenditure: Interest put into Donations fund.

Extra-ordinary items such as legal fees and larger grants to more ambitious projects within St Andrews are also paid from this account.

Income: Interest, donations

Total Funds Available @ 2nd Dec: **£5,052.68**

Less Ex-Trust Fund £2,896.73p

Less Art & Photographic Exhibition Expenses – approx £ 250.00p

Less Printing costs for Planning Leaflets £ 399.00p

Less un-presented cheques £ 67.38p

Total Usable Funds Available @ 2 Dec: **£1,439.57p**

Financial Transactions since last meeting:

| Ser. | Date | Description Of Transaction | Cheque | From / To Sub-Account | Income (£) | Expenditure (£) |
|------|--------|--|--------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | 30 Oct | Lady Haig Poppy Factory | 11124 | Admin | | 30.50p |
| 2. | 30 Oct | Interest | | Donations | 0.44p | |
| 3. | 11 Nov | Civic Reception Funds | 11126 | Admin | | 150.00p |
| 4. | 19 Nov | Chamber Hire – Floral Awards | 11125 | Admin | | 38.90p |
| 5. | 23 Nov | Chamber Hire (Sep) | 11127 | Admin | | 38.90p |
| 5. | 30 Nov | Interest | | Donations | 0.44p | |
| | | Total Income / Expenditure for Period | | | £0.88p | £258.30p |

Un-presented Cheques:

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------|--|-------|-----------|--|----------------|
| 1. | 16 Nov | M. Denyer - Stationery | 11128 | Admin | | 8.48p |
| 2. | 26 Nov | Chamber Hire (Oct) | 11129 | Admin | | 38.90p |
| 3. | 26 Nov | Assn For Protection Of Rural Scotland | 11130 | Donations | | 20.00p |
| | | Total Income / Expenditure for Period | | | | £67.38p |

Ray Pead – Treasurer

Appendix C. ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH COMMUNITY COUNCILS REPORT

On 14th November, Carol Ashworth and myself attended this conference. St Andrews Community Council is not at present a member of the Association, but this may prove useful and I suggest that we join. The meeting was well attended with some 200 Community Councillors; indeed there was a waiting list, as the meeting room could not hold more than 200. Representatives were from all parts of Scotland, but if there is one criticism of an interesting event, it was the lack of name tags.

Vince Waters, National President opened the meeting and Kenneth Gibson MSP who'd sponsored the meeting spoke briefly on the importance of Community Councils to communities.

The keynote speech was from Jim McKinnon, Scottish Government Director of the Built Environment & Chief Planner. He gave a brief history of post war planning and tried to analyse the current planning issues and how to improve outcomes for communities. He acknowledged that a lot of problems related to poor development, but cited examples of good planning movements, such as the New Urbanism Movement, and the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative, where he cited Lochgelly as an example.

He quoted Sam Galbraith, who had asked, "Where are the conservation areas of tomorrow?" He also acknowledged the frustration that planning is an issue of process not outcomes. He also acknowledged that there were big questions around the skills of planners and their understanding of places when making decisions.

He hoped that in the 2006 Planning Act there would be better efficiency, though he had doubts that the new system was any simpler. He had questions about the capacity of the system. He saw more scope in mediation in planning issues, particularly if plans could be discussed in a pre application consultation.

John Mayhew, Director of the APRS was next up, talking about the rural agendas for Community Councils. He talked about the need to promote effective landscape protection and encourage genuinely sustainable development. The APRS sought to influence Govt policy and was involved in the development of sustainable landscape policy. The APRS he said could advise members of the public on how to respond to issues. He cited a threat to landscape by development on which they'd been advising local people in the Wormit area. He felt that it was unfortunate that there was no 3rd party right of appeal.

In relation to wind farms, he acknowledged the need for some, but not at the expense of landscapes.

Dr Evelyn Silber, Chair of Langside Community Council was next with a short talk about a pilot project, enabled by money from the Scottish Govt to see if Community Councils could do more in their communities with a bit more funding. The pilot in Glasgow, Queens Park and another on the Isle of Arran had been given grants of £15000. In Glasgow Langside and neighbouring Community Councils had decided to work together to improve the local Queen's Park particularly an amphitheatre for local community use. It was hoped that there would be an evaluation of the ability of CCs to run community projects and at times work with neighbouring Community Councils if there was overlap and develop capacity to demonstrate ability to take on larger projects. The Glasgow project received support from Glasgow Council with administrative aspects. After the project evaluation the Govt may look at rolling out to other Community Councils, but this will depend upon funding availability from budget constrained by the present financial crisis etc.

After lunch, Jack Law of Alcohol Focus, Scotland talked about initiatives his organisation was taking to tackle increasing drink problems. He supported a minimum price per unit for alcohol.

Vince Waters, Dr Nicola Welsh and Dr Nicholas Walker later took questions from the floor on a variety of topics concerning many CCs. Examples of good practice were cited and there was a commentary on the legalities of Community Councils by a veteran Community Councillor, Henry Shanks. He mentioned the 1971 Local Govt Act, which saw the set up of Community Councils. He also mentioned the in terms of liability Community Councillors were not protected if they made defamatory remarks in a meeting.

He mentioned the 1491 Common Good Act and talked a bit about the changes since 1971 in the management of Common Good and the responsibilities of Local Authorities if they sold common good property. There is an interesting article on this subject in the latest magazine of the ASCC.

All in all, it was a very interesting day and I say again, it appears to be worth joining for a number of reasons.