

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Minutes – January 2010

For Approval

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1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Dave Finlay, Ken Fraser, Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Marysia Denyer, Judith Harding, Ray Pead, Derek Skelhon, Andy Primmer, Kyffin Roberts, Ronnie Murphy, Penny Uprichard

Students' Association Representatives

Holly West

Nominated

Jude Innes

Co-Opted

Fife Councillors

Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison

Apologies

Frances Melville, Catherine Rowe, Henry Paul, Izzy Corbin, Ken Crichton, Jill Hardie, Carol Ashworth

2. Minutes of December 2009 Meeting

3.1. In the fifth paragraph Miss Uprichard commented that the statement that the Alison Grant study had proposed 700 houses was incorrect. The Alison Grant Study, she added hadn't made any recommendation on housing numbers. There were also no bits in this study, which said that there could be significant development. Mr Marks acknowledged that the statement in the minutes was probably an incorrect interpretation of what had been stated and he'd check the detail and correct the minute.

3.1. Page 3, 1st Paragraph. Miss Uprichard pointed out that it wasn't the Alison Grant Study, which had originally reached the conclusion about the landscape capacity, but the 1998 Strategic Study.

4.3. Page 6 – Para 2 – Miss Uprichard asked that the comment about the number of objections to the structure plan be more clearly stated to "4 times as many" rather than just many more as recorded. Mr Marks agreed to this correction.

10.1. Interaction with the Press – Miss Uprichard commented that she'd suggested at the time that in relation to important business, such as the Local Plan that only the Chairman should make comments to the Press. As she recollected there had been no disagreement with this suggestion.

3. Presentations

3.1. P.C. Peter Todd

3.1.1. Raisin Weekend

This event is now well policed and if there is an incident the offender may be charged

3.1.2. Letter of Complaint

This matter reported by Mrs Denyer is still being investigated. Mrs Denyer thanked the police and Councillors for their support in this matter.

3.1.3. Student Cycling on Pavements

This is an ongoing matter, which the police have to tackle, though it is not only students who are the offenders. The connected issue of lights on cycles was also mentioned by PC Todd and the ways that the police were trying to tackle the issue. There had been a scheme in the past where the Police and the SRC had set up a scheme for the purchase of lights for bicycles at a heavily subsidised rate and this would be looked at again.

3.1.4. Speeding Taxis – Hepburn/Buchanan Gardens

Mr Findlay asked if the police were aware of the problem of taxis going over the speed limit on their way out to David Russell Hall, particularly on a Friday/Saturday evening? PC Todd acknowledged that there have been concerns raised on this matter over the years. He said that the matter has been addressed and some taxis have been stopped by the police.

3.1.5. Community Engagement Model

Cllr Sangster asked PC Todd if he was aware of this development in local policing. PC Todd replied that he was aware that the idea was being rolled out later in January. His senior colleagues would be getting in contact with Councillors and relevant bodies nearer the time with details.

3.2. Craigtoun Park Presentation – Peter Howden

Mr Howden thanked the meeting for the opportunity to come and speak about Craigtoun Park, but emphasised that he was keen to have the views of the Community Council on the future management of Craigtoun Park.

In April 2009 there had been a report to Committee in Fife Council on the possible future of Craigtoun Park. Mr Howden reminded the meeting that Craigtoun is a pay to enter park, which makes it unique in Fife. A lot of those visiting Craigtoun Park come from further afield in Fife or from Dundee. In the past few years there has been a substantial decline in visitor numbers, though the income has stayed largely stable, because price increases have kept up with the decline in numbers visiting. Income is required to pay for the staffing of the Park. He acknowledged that the Council has a very difficult task to balance, given the nature of what the Park offers.

A reduction in the numbers coming for day visits has been a major factor in decline in numbers and he added that there needed to be investment to keep standards and quality to ensure the interest of visitors. He acknowledged that the quality of some of the visitor attractions in Craigtoun had declined over the years. The Dutch Village and the train are two of the major attractions in need of major investment, particularly the former. He commented on the investment a couple of years ago on a new play area in the Park, but acknowledged, that this alone doesn't add enough to attract visitors from further afield.

Following on from the report to Committee, two or three things had been recommended, one of which was the marketing of Craigtoun Park as a visitor attraction. Fife Council have tried various approaches, partly in conjunction with Visit Scotland to market the Park as a visitor attraction. Another of the recommendations had been to look at the refurbishment of the Dutch Village, which due to its deterioration has been a view only attraction. Mr Howden had commissioned engineers to look at the cost of reinstating the Dutch Village to active use, and they had estimated £6-700000, considerably more he added than the £100000 that Fife Council was able to afford from his Dept's budget. A lot of the cost centres on having to drain the loch and put up scaffolding. He added that the boathouse was in a particularly poor condition. The Council had also asked the engineers about making the Dutch Village more accessible, possibly making it a venue for weddings or concerts, which would add to potential income generated. Given the unpredictability of the Scottish weather he said that they would also have to consider ways of providing a covering to the Dutch Village, an additional cost. Catering facilities and easier access for the disabled were also considered, the latter having difficulty accessing the village due to the hump backed bridge. A possible pontoon bridge with a different point of access had been considered. In total Mr Howden said that costs could reach £1 million, ten times more than the current budget for maintenance/investment will allow.

He explained possible financial sources the Council had considered, such as prudential borrowing, but the amount it was estimated they could borrow, was still a significant amount short of the estimated costs for the major refurbishment described. An application to the Lottery was also impossible, because of the pay to

enter nature of Craigtoun Park. He concluded that funding was proving extremely difficult and in the end would depend upon investment from the Council or a Partnership or a Business operation. The Council he added was still putting smaller amounts of investment into the Park to improve facilities and attractions. He cited the demolition of one toilet block and improvement of another, and also the possible introduction of a National Iris collection, as a way of broadening the Park's appeal. He acknowledged that even with investment, there would have to be enough public interest to bring the numbers attending back up to a more healthy level and given the current recession etc, this might be difficult.

He asked for the Community Council's views in how Craigtoun Park could be maintained for public use.

Dr Goudie thanked Mr Howden for his presentation and opened up the meeting for questions/ comments. He started with a few comments of his own. He felt that the stewardship of Craigtoun Park under Fife Council had left something to be desired. He cited the change of the entrance to the furthest point from St Andrews as one reason for a decline in attendance, and also the fact that the Park seemed to be given less emphasis than the Duke's Course on road signs.

Mrs Harding asked why the Park had to be pay to enter? Mr Howden acknowledged that he wasn't certain about the historical reason, but added that the way it was budgeted meant that a payment at the entrance gave users free access to all facilities in the Park. The entrance charge gave income to the Park, but he acknowledged that if they didn't charge at the entrance but at individual facilities they might need less staff. However he felt that this could lead to a considerable shortfall in finances, which the Council would have to meet.

Mrs Denyer remembered in the past when there wasn't an entrance charge, but a charge for facilities, which one wanted to use. She felt that this gave users an element of choice. She felt that the entrance charge was putting off many people, especially those with children who might be on a low income or tight budget. Mr Howden explained that in the past parks in Fife did have activities, often run by Council Staff, but budgets for this type of activity had been taken away. Events in allowed in Parks now had to be run by voluntary groups, organisations etc, but even there Fife Council had to charge for the use of facilities if staff had to be involved. He acknowledged that the need to charge presented a dilemma to Fife Council.

Dr Goudie asked if it was viable to charge for the existing facilities at the point of use rather than by the gate? Mr Howden wasn't certain how much that had been gone into, but felt that you'd still have to have the same staffing level. He didn't feel that this would improve costs and if in the end of the day there were to be any investment it would have to be from increased income, so that this could be used to help improve problem areas. Dr Goudie in reply felt that his point was that there might be an increased income from point of payment facilities, once users were in the park. Mrs Harding commented on the issue of the location of the Park Entrance being off- putting to some users. Dr Goudie and Mr Findlay felt that by not having to pay at the entrance, might allow use of the other entrance for pedestrians and cyclists.

Mr Howden then commented on a separate piece of work in which he was involved, relating to a strategy for all the green space in towns/ villages in Fife. In an analysis, St Andrews and Cupar had come out with having less than the Fife average of green space, this being defined as publically accessible green space. Mr Howden was concerned that St Andrews shouldn't lose any more green space, though ironically Craigtoun wasn't defined as publically accessible because of the pay to enter aspect. Mr Findlay commented upon the cost of going for the day to Craigtoun and Mr Howden acknowledged that it could be costly for families. Cllr Morrison felt that even at around £28 it was very good value. She felt that many local people would pay more if there were an upgrade. Mr Roberts took the opposite view to Cllr Morrison, feeling that it should be free entry and pay for activities once inside. He felt that the weather factor could make it a short-lived and expensive outing.

Mr Findlay wondered about a suggestion that Craigtoun could be sold off to a private concern. Mr Howden acknowledged that it was an option, but recognised that it was a very sensitive issue, so hadn't been seriously considered.

Miss Uprichard commented that the Community Council hadn't been asked to participate in any of the meetings in the Council to discuss this issue. Mr Howden replied that discussions to date had been with the Advisory Group, which included two local Councillors and reports to the Committee. Miss Uprichard asked who was on the Advisory Group? Mr Howden wasn't certain and suggested that Miss Uprichard ask the Councillors. Miss Uprichard requested that a Community Council representative be considered for participation in the Advisory Group. Mr Howden agreed to take the request back to the Advisory Group. Miss Uprichard then commented about the fact that there had been a decline in numbers, coincidentally as prices had risen. Miss Uprichard asked about the packages for families and how these were priced. Mr Howden explained the current set-up and how Fife Council had tried to look at the best possible deals for varying groups visiting Craigtoun Park. This all had to be balanced with the need to have revenue for the upkeep of the Park. Since 2005 revenue had dropped from £146000 to £111500 in the 2009 season. The number of visitors had dropped more dramatically in the same period from 50500 to 29100. Miss Uprichard

asked about staff costs, but Mr Howden didn't have those figures to hand. Miss Uprichard went on to comment on some of the ideas being considered. She felt that any suggestion about a hotel was unrealistic, given the current local hotel occupancy rates of 58%. She also wondered about the costings for the Dutch Village and how these had been arrived at and why it couldn't be given to a local joiner to quote a price. Mr Howden replied that a Quantity Surveyor had broken down the elements, and that it wouldn't be given to a local joiner to price at this stage. The current idea was get some idea about the design and rough costs before it is taken any further. In relation to the pontoon bridge idea he added that it would be unlikely to be given to a local joiner, as it would have to be carefully engineered. At present due to financial constraints, a major project like this was not going to be easy to achieve from Council funds alone.

Mrs Denyer had a query about the ownership and why the Dutch Village had been allowed to fall into disrepair. Mr Howden acknowledged the problem, saying that other priorities had come in over the years, leading a reduction in the amount of investment in Parks run by the Council. In the coming year investment in the Parks and related facilities will be around £1.6 million for the whole of Fife, which puts into perspective the problem of getting sufficient investment into repairing the Dutch Village. Mr Primmer wondered about putting out the development of Craigtoun Park to a private concern. Mr Howden replied that several years ago, Fife Council had spoken to another company about Pittencrieff Park in Dunfermline. The firm had come up with ideas but in the end was expecting Fife Council to do the construction work, while all the firm wanted to do was manage the facilities. So for anything similar for Craigtoun, Fife Council would have to invest in the facilities and then allow a private company to run them, and there would also be a need to keep the facilities working during that period as an additional cost. Mr Howden also mentioned how they were going through a similar exercise in relation to Silverburn Park near Leven, but he felt that Craigtoun was a more difficult prospect for a variety of reasons.

Miss Uprichard felt that maintenance was a key issue, but felt that in the end it would probably have to be up to Fife Council to do something money wise. She also commented upon the Park's importance as a green space. Mr Howden acknowledged the need to invest in green space and defended the quality of horticultural input by his staff, but acknowledged that some of the buildings have suffered from a lack of investment. He also reminded the meeting that the expectations of users are much higher than in the 1950/60s, which was the heyday of the Park. These increased expectations therefore required a higher level of investment to keep up standards. Miss Uprichard felt that problems had been going on for longer than the current credit crunch. Mr Howden agreed and put some of the problems down to cuts in budgets that had come from decisions taken by Councils over a longer period. The Parks maintenance budget had been cut 3% on an annual basis over a number of years and the capital budget had also suffered. Parks were not high on the priority list for Councils faced by other increasing demands from schools to social work. He understood the need to prioritise, while acknowledging the frustration of knowing what needed to be done, but being unable to do the work to keep the facilities running smoothly.

Mrs Harding wondered whether there might be any other way to get round the problems of getting lottery funding. Mr Howden said that there was a lot of work in any application, and cited Pittencrieff Park for which an application had been put in for just under £500000. The applications even for an area eligible as a free community facility required a great deal of detail and years of work. He acknowledged that if Craigtoun wasn't a pay to go facility a Lottery application might be possible, but at present it isn't. Funding possibilities were very restricted was Mr Howden's general view. Dr Goudie commented that these comments seemed to indicate a more persuasive argument to make Craigtoun a free to enter facility.

Mr Pead thought that a change in the make up of the local population, with fewer young families might indicate a need for a change of direction in what was offered to attract people to visit Craigtoun Park. Mrs Denyer thought that there ought to still be a market for some local groups or schools to use the facilities. Mr Howden acknowledged the need to try and find ways to make Parks more attractive given changing tastes of young people, who in the past might have come out on a school excursion to Craigtoun, but would now be looking for a different experience. He also felt that Parks needed to appeal to a wider range of people.

Mr Roberts commented that the Planning Committee had discussed the seven suggestions put forward to the North East Area Committee, and was not keen on items 5,6 and 7. No.5 was to let the Park revert to a less managed state, No.6 was to sell it and No.7 was part sale to fund reinvestment.

Dr Goudie felt that it would be good to have some policy integration, mentioning core paths as an example. He added that the Community Council had, over the past fifteen years campaigned for better access. He mentioned possible ways, such as a better cycle/pedestrian access up Lumbo Den. He wondered if the focus on the Dutch Village was too specialist and whether an emphasis on better eating facilities might be a way to bring more people into the park who could then look around the facilities. Mr Marks mentioned the past presence of the Ranger Centre, and the facilities for educational purposes relating to the environment. He felt that it was a shame that there was nothing like that now in the Park.

Mr Howden admitted that it was before his time and he'd never seen the Centre, but with the Rangers now based further away, it was more difficult to focus educational activities of that sort in the Park.

Dr Goudie thanked Mr Howden for his input to the meeting, and hoped that there would be consultation when conclusions had been reached about options for the future of Craigtoun Park.

Mr Howden finally mentioned a Green Space Conference at the end of January to which Community Councillors were welcome to attend. He also mentioned the idea of allotments below the cemetery in St Andrews, along with an orchard and a meadow area. Access might be a sensitive issue, though it might be possible to have it through the cemetery. Mr Marks confirmed that there was access via Little Carron. Mr Howden wasn't certain how local people might feel about access for Allotments via Little Carron. He acknowledged that he'd not had time to investigate the various possibilities further, but with an allotments officer some more progress might be made. Fife Council has access to some funds to help with the setting up of allotments. Mr Marks commented upon discussions, which had considered putting in a bid to the Climate Challenge Fund, but didn't feel that it would now happen due to the timescale for an application being so tight.

Mr Findlay felt that there was a need to screen the cemetery from other uses and he'd had concerns expressed about the state of the ground just beyond the cemetery. When he'd asked the Council he'd been told that they were waiting for funding to make improvements to screening. Mr Howden replied that there were plans to improve that area, including the setting up of an area for possible casket burial and an orchard to act as a buffer. SEPA wouldn't allow the cemetery to extend, due to the proximity of the stream and the damp nature of the ground. Mr Findlay asked to be kept aware of developments in this area.

Dr Goudie commented on green spaces in the Bogward area, noting that most were quite small. When Craigtoun A & B had been built there had been hopes for something of a reasonable size for young people to play football etc, but the main green area had been turned into an attenuation pond. Mr Howden suggested that considerably more green space was needed around the edges of St Andrews and wondered how this could be achieved? He emphasised the fact that it needed to be publically accessible green space and as a suggestion mentioned that if the University were to allow more public access that this might deal with some of the identified need.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

Apologies.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Grit Bins

Cllr Sangster had received a note to say that the Grit Bins had been filled by the 8th January.

4.2.2. Emergency Contact Centre

Cllr Sangster was critical of the limited phone access during the holiday period. He felt that the system, despite the good efforts of the staff wasn't robust enough for the severity of the situation. A lot of people had ended up phoning their local Councillors. He hoped that the system would be reviewed.

4.2.3. Martyr's Monument

Cllr Sangster is concerned about the state of the Martyr's Monument. It will require between £60/70000 to properly repair. He is looking for an organisation to champion the raising of funds to repair the monument. The Pilgrim's Trust may be able to give a donation, but can't champion the raising of funds due to its constitution. Mrs Denyer queried the possible role of Historic Scotland. Cllr Sangster said that it came under the remit of Fife Council as it is on Common Good Land. He added that a possible collaboration between Fife Council and the Community Council to initiate fundraising was what he had in mind, citing the example of the Cupar Community Council and Fife Council with the repair of an historic monument in Cupar. He thought that there would be a number of organisations in the town that could be approached for a donation. Cllr Sangster hoped that the Community Council would seriously consider a role in this project. Dr Goudie thought that this might be a project, which could come under the auspices of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee. Mrs Denyer asked why Fife Council weren't doing more and Cllr Sangster replied that unfortunately Fife Council had limited funds for such work, hence his hope that the Community Council would see this as a worthy community project. He added that Fife Council might be able to find a little money to contribute towards repairs.

Miss Uprichard asked how much was in the Common Good Fund? The Councillors acknowledged that at this time the funds would be very low, though the income from the Lammas would boost it. Much of the Common Good funding goes towards the Byre Theatre. Miss Uprichard asked how much was given to the Byre Theatre. Councillors weren't certain, but Cllr Sangster agreed to find out.

Cllr Sangster suggested the possibility of applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which might consider the Martyr's Monument worthy of a grant.

4.2.4. Land Access by the Kinnesburn

Cllr Sangster had followed up on a query by Mr Crichton about the woods near his property, bordering on to the Kinnesburn. It was discovered that the woods belonged to St Leonards. Regarding the possible Right of Way along that side of the Kinnesburn, part of the land is owned by developers in former St Leonards land and while it may have been used as a path, it had never been designated as a Right of Way. Dr Goudie thought that it might be worth Mr Crichton or someone with the interest to try and get the path considered for designation as a Right of Way.

4.2.5. Flooding in Kinnesburn Area

Cllr Sangster has suggested demolition of two bridges across the Kinnesburn, which are too low and aggravate the flooding in the area when they become blocked by debris. The Council are looking into the idea and are consulting local people.

4.2.6. Community Engagement Model

Cllr Sangster described the new model for Community Policing. The number of Community Police will double, but they won't be coming to Community Council meetings unless there is a specific issue for them to address. The idea is that the Community Police will cover much smaller areas with greater responsibility. Sergeants will be identified for each of the five police areas in North East Fife. It was claimed that there would be an enhanced police presence in the area.

4.2.7. St Andrews Parking Plan

Cllr Sangster described some of the work done to develop the current proposals. Working out methods of charging has been a major issue for officials to resolve. One possibility, which Cllr Sangster would like, is a Park and Ride. He was hopeful that this might be part of the proposals. Miss Uprichard felt that the proposals to extend the charging zone were primarily a fund raising exercise. Cllr Sangster commented that traffic management was in there somewhere! Cllr Waterston added that having free parking, didn't mean that there would be spaces for visitors, given the way free parking can be quickly taken up by anyone wishing to park for lengthy periods.

4.2.8. Council Tax Query

Mrs Denyer asked on behalf of Mrs Rowe whether HMO owners paid Council Tax? Cllr Sangster replied that HMO owners don't pay Council Tax. The Scottish Government give Councils money in lieu of this loss of income towards the Council services required to service HMOs. If students are the HMO occupiers they don't pay Council Tax, but anyone in an HMO who is in employment or is seeking employment is liable to Council Tax.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. Delivery of Meals on Wheels

Cllr Waterston commented that the Meals on Wheels staff had managed to do an extraordinary job during the recent severe weather. He'd received no complaints and had received congratulations about the way staff had managed to do their job.

4.3.2. Meeting about Kinnessburn Flooding

There will be a public meeting on the 28th January with Fife Council, SEPA, Waterwatch and Flood Forum Scotland to listen to public concerns and see how to progress the problems. The meeting will be in the B.B. Hall

4.3.3. Balancing the Books

Cllr Waterston commented briefly on this consultation relating to the budget process, which had taken place at the end of last year. He added that the Council had to make very difficult decisions about cuts required.

4.3.4. Location of the Local Plan

Miss Uprichard had asked someone in planning who'd assured her that the Local Plan was still in the Local Office. She subsequently discovered that the Local Plan documents were not in the Local Office but in the Town Hall. She also asked about the consultations on the 2005 Local Plan and was told that they were available in the Cupar office, but then discovered that two large volumes of these were also in the Town Hall. She queried the value of the documents being in this location if this fact was not publicised. Cllr Waterston replied that copies have been in the library all the time and no one had asked him about the location of the Local Office version. Miss Uprichard still felt that the change of location should have been advertised. Dr Goudie asked if the papers would continue to be available in the Town Hall? Cllr Waterston replied that he had no idea that they were still in the Town Hall and didn't know why. He would have assumed that they would have only remained available in the Library.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. State of Local Roads

This has been a major issue for local Councillors due to the wintry weather and very limited amount of gritting, with virtually none in the side roads. Stewart Nicol of Transportation Services wanted to know about local problems in more detail. She wanted to know what the Council could do better in future. There was also the legal situation regarding what local people could do to managing the pavement outside their house. She had written to Ian Matheson in Law and Administration for an opinion. He'd replied that if people did nothing it was unlikely they'd be sued, but if they shifted snow into the road and someone had an accident it was possible that they could be sued. Clearance of waste was also affected by the problems with the side roads, but this is now getting resolved. Mrs Denyer asked on behalf of Mrs Rowe about the state of the town pavements. Mrs Denyer compared the apparent lack of preparedness with her past awareness of how these things were managed in Germany. Cllr Morrison replied that the exceptional circumstances had stretched Council resources. Cllr Waterston thought that legal advisors tended to be very cautious in the advice they gave and were basically saying that someone suing someone else could never be ruled out. However he hope that no one would be prevented from doing work to clear snow because of this remote possibility.

Mr Skelhon asked if there were procedures about keeping the grit bins filled. Cllr Morrison confirmed that there were procedures and the grit bins should have been filled during the coming week. Cllr Morrison felt that there should be more grit bins but there had been a cap put on the number a few years ago, so no more were being set up. Mr Findlay asked about the procedure for local people applying for grit bins in their area. Cllr Morrison reminded him that at present no more were being issued, despite the regular problems faced when freezing conditions did occur. She hoped that this would be reviewed. Another option she thought would be a central location for people to go and collect grit. Mrs Denyer added that even the access to the ambulance station hadn't been cleared in the recent wintry weather.

4.4.2. Have Your Say on St Andrews Parking Plan

Cllr Morrison had received details of the consultation on the next stage of the Parking Plan, starting on 18th January until Friday 19th March, with an exhibition for the first five days in the Town Hall. The local Councillors have had a number of meetings with officials, which she felt had been quite constructive. Miss Uprichard asked about availability of the transport-parking plan during the consultation period. Cllr Waterston confirmed that it would be available on line and in the library. She was also commented that it was called the Revised Parking Plan; so felt that the original Parking Plan should be taken into account. She'd added that she'd asked repeatedly for a report into the 6000 objections to the original Parking Plan, feeling that people should be entitled to see them. She requested Councillors to try and get them placed in the library so that anyone who wanted to see them could do so. Cllr Waterston said that the full Transportation Plan documents would be available on the library. Cllr Waterston added that it wasn't quite clear whether any copies of the documents would be available in the Town Hall for the whole nine weeks. Cllr Sangster confirmed that documents according to his information would be available in the foyer of the Town Hall beside the Local Plan documents. Cllr Morrison felt that the Council officials were being very helpful about the need to ensure adequate public access to information on the plans. Dr Goudie commented that in his understanding, Miss Uprichard was asking about the responses to the previous

Parking Plans, which she felt should be in the public domain. Cllr Waterston thought that these would be available on line not as hard copies.

4.4.3. Lammas Market

Cllr Morrison informed the meeting that there had been a profit of over £11000 from the Lammas Market.

4.4.4. Market Street Work

This will start now after the Open and the Lammas Market.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Planning Committee Reports

See appendix for details

5.2. Local Plan Submission

Dr Goudie had sent in the Local Plan submission from the Community Council last Friday to Bill Lindsay. He thanked the Fife Councillors for getting a small extension of the time for submission.

5.3. Vote of Thanks to Dr Goudie

Mrs Denyer gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Planning Committee to Dr Goudie for his work on the Local Plan. Dr Goudie thanked members who had assisted him in his work.

5.4. Castle Course Application Approval

Miss Uprichard outlined how the Planning Committee had put in an objection to a plan for new storage sheds at the Castle Course before Xmas. They had subsequently discovered, that an official had decided to grant approval on 17th December before the Community Council objection had been received. Cllr Waterston didn't believe that the decision whatever the rights and wrongs could be reversed. However if the timescale for comment wasn't correct the Councillors could investigate that matter. Cllr Waterston asked for a copy of correspondence. Miss Uprichard

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Climate Challenge Fund Update

Mr Murphy explained that the Renewables application had run into a bit of a problem. There was a requirement for more evidence of community support to be included with respect to the renewables bid. There was also a query about the application applying for work on a group of renewables where other applications had concentrated on one sort of renewable. Dr Yarr had taken action to try and secure some evidence of support, but the applications have to be in by the 13th January, giving little time to get all the support that might be possible. The Final Funding meeting will be in February. Mr Marks added that he also contacted local organisations and churches to try and get a quick response. Dr Goudie asked if anyone had contact with an organisation, which could put out a letter of support it would be welcomed by Dr Yarr.

6.2. Reports from Representatives

No reports.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

7.1.1. Art and Photographic Exhibition

Mr Roberts reported on the exhibition. He felt that there was a fair amount of favourable comment, but recognised the need to get it better next time.

7.1.2. Garden Competition

This is the next event to be organised by the Committee. Mr Roberts also added that the local Gardening Club was looking for a new Chairperson if anyone was interested.

7.2. General Purposes Committee

7.2.1. General Purposes Meeting

There was a meeting before Xmas, which had dealt mostly with the financial situation – see report from the Treasurer.

7.3. 200 Club

Mrs Harding has been liaising with Mr Crichton

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin is asking for anyone interested in becoming a member to contact her. Mrs Denyer reported on an informal HEW meeting at Mrs Rowe's house. She added that the group felt quite comfortable with Mrs Corbin as the Convenor and Mrs Rowe as the Co-Convenor. Dr Goudie hoped that the Minor Injuries Unit situation would not be lost to the Committee. Mrs Denyer hoped that it would be discussed at the first formal meeting of the committee. Dr Goudie added that there had been some suggestion that it had never been intended that it would be open for 24 hours, which appeared to be in contradiction to information circulating in the University. He wondered if there had been a change in position by the NHS on this matter. Mr Primmer added that he'd heard that the unit was being proposed for closure between midnight and 8.00, at which time patients have to go to Ninewells A&E for treatment"

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Dr Goudie reported that he'd updated the website, adding details of the new Vice Chairs, Mrs Corbin and Mrs Rowe. He'd also added in Roddy Yarr's name and the new name for the Climate Challenge committee, namely St Andrews Environment Network or Standen. Dr Goudie had also added a brief Local Plan page.

9.2. Treasurer

Treasurers Report Notes – January 2010:

There were no questions about the Treasurers Report submitted with the Agenda. Unfortunately, the final accounts for both the Art & Photographic Exhibition had not yet shown up on the bank statements, but both have come in within budget.

A GP meeting was held just prior to Christmas on 22nd Dec to determine our financial strategy for 2010/2011. It was agreed by those present that the events as supported in 2009, i.e. Young Citizen Of The Year, Garden Competition, Civic Reception, Art & Photographic Exhibition, St. Andrews In Focus, etc., should be supported again in 2010 and respective budgets were agreed upon. However, based on 2009 income, this will leave us a shortfall of approximately £800.00p, depending on whether we support them all or not. This sum will, of course, require raising by other means and I would therefore seek a further GP meeting early this year to determine where this shortfall may be obtained.

With respect to St. Andrews In Focus, if supported this would cost us a total £780 annually, bi-monthly at £130.00p a time for a half-page entry. This is a wonderful forum for getting our message across to residents, however it is expensive and Flora Selwyn has advised that we are already on a very good rate, the normal rate being £330.00p per half page. At the GP meeting, it was agreed to continue our support of this

magazine, however it was proposed that, assuming we can fund it, individual convenors should take turns at compiling our respective entries. Each submission deadline is 28th of the month, bi-monthly beginning 28th Jan.

It was also agreed that the Senior Citizens Christmas Party and the New Year Ceilidh would also be continued in the name of the Community Council, although not necessitating any funding by the Council itself. It was also agreed that bank statements and balances for both events would be presented at CC meetings in order to provide clarity to councillors.

With reference to the Millennium Fund, it will be a significant task to raise the £3666.03p that should be lodged within it and so it was agreed at the GP meeting that the Treasurer would trawl back through the previous minutes since the Fund was instigated and seek items which have been sponsored by the CC which could legitimately have been funded from the Millennium Fund. In this way, we may be able to negate the need to raise such a significant sum. I have begun the trawl, but you will appreciate that it may take some time to trawl through all of the previous minutes.

Mr Pead then sought support from the Community Council for the courses of action contained in his statement. He added that if the Community Council wanted to support all of the events, which we'd done in 2009, we should be committing ourselves to rally round in the fundraising effort.

Mr Pead commented again on the Millennium Fund and mentioned the flower tubs, which the Community Council had agreed to purchase for St Andrews in Bloom. He felt that these could easily come out of the Millennium Fund. He was prepared to look through Community Council archives and if he found items, which came up to the outstanding amount, he wanted the approval by Community Council to accepting that these could count towards expenditure from the Millennium Fund. He felt that this might help to move on from the Millennium Fund. Dr Goudie commented that at the GP meeting it was felt that Mr Fraser might be able to advise on what would be deemed to come within the terms of that fund. It was agreed that Mr Fraser and Mr Pead should liaise on the matter.

Miss Uprichard suggested that the Community Council should look at the various receptions and other events. She had the impression that at the Civic Reception that it was the same people who benefited. Mr Pead replied that this issue had been discussed at the GP meeting. There had been a consensus that the Civic Reception should still go ahead, but that the format should be looked at following the poor turnout at the 2009 reception. Miss Uprichard was concerned that Community Council might be committing itself to running events but not be certain if it would receive the same level of funding from Fife Council. Mr Pead replied that it was necessary to make some plans for budget expenditure based on previous expenditure.

Cllr Sangster wondered if the Community Council had given any thought to the bandstand concerts. Mr Pead replied that this had been discussed at the GP Committee. There was support at the GP meeting for the concerts. Dr Goudie asked if Cllr Sangster was implying that there might be funding coming from Fife Council? Cllr Sangster replied that the Community Council could apply to the Community Grant Scheme and the Common Good Fund, as well as asking businesses for donations. Mr Pead added that there might be funds available from Celebrating Fife 2010. Cllr Sangster added that the sooner funding availability was known then bands could be booked before they were booked elsewhere. Dr Goudie wondered if this might be a job for the Recreation Committee? Mr Roberts agreed to liaise with Mr Pead and Cllr Sangster. Mr Findlay felt that funds for the concerts should come from other sources not the Common Good Fund, as he thought that local people didn't usually attend the concerts in any numbers from his experience. Cllr Sangster replied that the Common Good Fund was for the benefit of the town. He didn't feel that it was appropriate for the money to benefit tourists. Cllr Sangster felt that use of the fund for the concerts could be good in an indirect way by bringing people to the town that would benefit the town financially while they were visiting.

Dr Goudie in summing up commented that a budget, which met the agreement of the Council needed to be set, and one where Community Councillors were prepared to put in the work to make the books balance.

Another GP Meeting to be arranged.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

Nothing more to report – see appendix.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Old Folks Party

Mrs Denyer thanked the members for contributions, and reminded members of the time and venue. She hoped that members would attend the event.

10.2. Friends of Botanic Gardens Subscription

Mr Marks said that he'd received a letter about the Community Council's support of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens with an annual subscription. He asked if members wished to continue to give support? He would confirm the subscription rate and liaise with the treasurer. The meeting agreed to renew the subscription.