

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes –April 2009

For Approval

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0. St Andrews Young Citizen of the Year 2008

The award for the St Andrews Young Citizen took place before the main meeting. Johnathan Elmer and Camilla Tait were presented by Zoe Smith with their awards.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Zoe Smith, Ken Fraser, Marysia Denyer, Catherine Rowe, Ray Pead, Carol Ashworth

Students' Association Representatives

Nominated

Co-Opted

Jude Innes

Fife Councillors

Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston, Dorothy Morrison, Frances Melville

Apologies

Derek Skelhon, Judith Harding, Patrick Marks, Ken Crichton, Ian Goudie, Rob Fett, Dave Finlay, Larry Reed

2. Minutes of April 2009 Meeting

Minutes were discussed but could not be approved, as meeting was not quorate.

4.3.4. An amendment required under this section noted by Cllr Waterston – the date for original local plan being lodged was October 2008 and extended to 26th March 2009, not 26th March 2009 as stated twice.

3. Presentations

3.1. PC Andrew Walls

3.1.1. Noise Problems

PC Walls had followed up on a couple of complaints raised, one from a resident in Abbey Street about a noisy neighbour and another from a resident in Andrew Thom Place about vehicles parking. Both issues according to PC Walls were discussed with the residents and dealt with accordingly.

3.2. Professor Sam Taylor – Transport Issues relating to the New Community Hospital

Professor Taylor started by emphasising that he was not speaking in any official capacity on the subject. The NHS has said has submitted its Travel Plan to Fife Council in fulfilment with planning approval

conditions. This plan attempts to convert hospital and primary care staff to Green travel policies and to lower car dependency where it is practicable. In relation to patients the situation is different, for reasons, which are mostly self-evident. There is an attempt to go as far as possible with supporting and encouraging a move from private to public transport. He cited encouraging walking or cycling as easier choices, but acknowledged that this might seem lie "pie in the sky". He added that there had been very down to earth proposals to reduce the risk to cyclists by looking at safer routes, which could be taken to the hospital and avoiding busy traffic routes such as the Largo Road. He also said that there were also going to be safer approaches to the hospital for pedestrians. A leaflet on how to get to the hospital would be issued and there would be encouragement of staff car sharing.

He acknowledged that these measures would not suit many patients, so there would hopefully eventually be more buses with low load entrances on the hospital route.

Car parking will have 180 spaces, with the only designated places for the disabled. He acknowledged that there would be parking problems until changes in travel habits become more widespread. He hoped that car sharing would take a little of the pressure off car parking, but acknowledged that 60% of health workers live over 5 miles from the hospital. He acknowledged the practical difficulties for many workers in using public transport and admitted that for a variety of reasons there wouldn't be a major shift in transport to work by staff. Patients will therefore face similar problems. Professor Taylor said that while he respected the philosophy behind the Green Transport policies of the NHS and Fife Council, he had warned these authorities that there could be disruption unless there were adequate public transport alternatives in place. He went on to discuss the difficulties with bus routes. He reminded the meeting that choice of bus routes was a commercial decision, given the private nature of bus companies. Neither the NHS nor Fife Council can compel Bus Companies to run services, which aren't commercially viable. A shuttle service between the town and hospital would cost around £100000 per year. There have been discussions with the bus companies on altering bus routes and Professor Taylor expected that there would be changes. Any changes would go out for consultation, giving the Community Council and the public an opportunity to comment. He couldn't give any details of the proposals, but expected that they would depend upon commercial considerations.

Professor Taylor went on to say that if there were continuing issues about the costs of altering services, which affected public access, he had a proposal, which he hoped would be financially viable. He also thought that his solution would alleviate transport problems in the areas east of Largo Road, which have poor transport in the new hospital direction at present. He went on to explain his proposal, reminding the meeting that at present bus services flowed north south along Largo Road. Passengers coming in from some directions would also have to get a second bus to/from their destinations, adding to their bus fare. Professor Taylor likened the present set up to a one-way system, handy if going one way but not the other. East of the Largo Road the buses flow west/east, which was not a lot of use to the large numbers of potential patients living in those housing areas. He concluded that buses services flowed in the wrong direction for patients leaving the hospital in the present timetables.

There were two separate problems affecting hospital access, one being getting back to town from the new site and getting to the new site if you live on the east side of St Andrews. He felt that both problems were amenable to the same solution, namely reversing the route of the 99b bus within St Andrews. The 99c would continue to offer the same service. He suggested that this would mean a service up and down the Largo Road and an east to west service.

He concluded by saying that the NHS Travel Plan depended for its success on parallel moves outside the NHS to relieve pressure on parking space at the new hospital. He also thought that there would be other benefits to local people and the economy by the suggested changes in the bus routes. He hoped that the Community Council would support this idea given the benefits he claimed could arise from it.

Ms Smith suggested that the idea about the bus was a good one, but because of the lack of a quorum a vote couldn't be taken at the meeting.

Ms Rowe asked about the North Street bus problems and whether there might be anything in the pipeline for this route. Professor Taylor suggested that during period of consultation ideas about route suitability could be sent in to Fife Council and the Bus Companies.

Mr Fraser asked about possible Council influences on bus services, which he believed could happen if the Council was subsidising a particular service. Professor Taylor acknowledged that subsidy existed, but not on any of the buses on the hospital route. Cllr Waterston confirmed the lack of subsidy. Professor Taylor had however been told about a possible subsidy for a bus service but this hasn't been officially confirmed.

Mrs Denyer commented upon the volume of traffic and associated parking along Scooniehill Road and was a bit concerned about the effect on the traffic when the new hospital opened.

Mr Pead wondered why there hadn't been a flow plan relating to the movement of people in and out of the hospital. Professor Taylor thought that there would be no problems in that respect.

4. Matters Arising

4.1. World Class Report

Mr Fraser reported that a draft report on the future of World Class had been published and was out for comment before any final official statement to the press. There will be a meeting of those involved, which will include two representatives from the Community Council in May. The meeting will look at the report and decide if it is acceptable in its present form or requiring amendments/alterations. As St Andrews World Class is supposed to cease to exist by this summer, there is a limited timescale in which to make changes. The Community Council will be offered a place in the new organisation.

5. Committee Reports

None because meeting was not quorate.

6. New Business

6.1. Gibson House – Request for Financial Assistance

Cllr Sangster announced that Gibson House would like to make a request for a Grant from the 200 Club for some work. Ms Smith advised she'd ask Mr Reed to leave an application form to Gibson House

6.2. Use of Bandstand

Cllr Sangster asked about the planned use this summer of the bandstand. He'd written away for a Common Good Grant. Ms Smith acknowledged that it was hoped that there would be a new Community Councillor willing to co-ordinate the use of the bandstand for musical events. She mentioned the possibility of allowing musicians to play informally or busk as opposed to having to set anything up. Cllr Sangster said that he could get bands. Ms Smith replied that she'd be happy to assist in putting out chairs. Cllr Sangster agreed to follow up with the requests from bands who've been contacting him. Cllr Sangster asked for the approval of the Community Council to go ahead with the funding application, but added that it had to be backed by some Community Council money. Ms Smith agreed that it could go ahead, but couldn't commit to the Community Council funding request without a quorate meeting to approve the request. Mrs Denyer asked about local bands using the bandstand, citing Madras College as a source of musicians.

6.3. Regeneration Fund

Cllr Sangster said that he'd be asked to put forward some suggestions about town centre regeneration. He'd suggested trying to get the fountain working again. Ms Smith asked if a bid for town centre regeneration had been put in on behalf of St Andrews. Cllr Waterston confirmed that there had been a proposal to have St Andrews included in bids for this fund, but didn't have details about specific projects being considered.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

7.1. Chair

No report

7.2. Treasurer

7.2.1. Treasurer's Report

No report

7.3 Secretary

7.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

8. Any Other Competent Business