

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Minutes – March 2010

### For Approval

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## 1. Attendance

### Community Councillors

Ronnie Murphy, Dave Finlay, Kyffin Roberts, Ken Fraser, Ian Goudie, Penny Uprichard, Derek Skelhon, Andy Primmer, Patrick Marks, Judith Harding, Carol Ashworth, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer

### Students' Association Representative

Holly West, Matthew Guest, Owen Wilton

### Nominated

### Co-Opted

Penny Uprichard

### Fife Councillors

Robin Waterston, Bill Sangster, Dorothea Morrison

### Apologies

Frances Melville, Catherine Rowe, Ken Crichton, Ray Pead, Jude Innes, Fiona Kingston, Izzy Corbin

## 2. Minutes of February 2010 Meeting

The minutes were accepted as correct.

## 3. Presentations

### 4. Fife Councillors

#### 4.1. Frances Melville - absent

#### 4.2. Bill Sangster

##### 4.2.1. St Andrews Common Good Fund – Byre Annual Award

Cllr Sangster reported on the funding given to the Byre Theatre on an annual basis from the Common Good Fund. The theatre received £10314 in five instalments annually.

##### 4.2.2. St Andrews-Loches Alliance

The Alliance is looking for a Community Councillor to sit on the committee, which organises this exchange with Loches. The AGM is to take place soon.

##### 4.2.3. Kinnesburn Flooding

Cllr Sangster commented upon the recent meeting at which representatives of SEPA were in attendance in Cupar, to discuss the concerns of local people about the flooding late last year. There was a concern that

SEPA should be clear about what could happen with the management of the burn, as local people believed that the accumulation of material aggravated the flooding and that some clearance was justified. Cllr Sangster reported that hopefully there would be some progress between Fife Council and SEPA as to action that can be taken within the guidelines approved by SEPA.

#### **4.2.4. Common Good Fund**

Mr Finlay queried the discovery that there were some 297 titles now known of property, land etc known under the Common Good banner. He asked what these were? Cllr Waterston acknowledged that the situation was still very unclear. Councillors had received a report from officials last year, but it was not certain that it was accurate on the extent of Common Good assets. Miss Uprichard commented upon the large capital balance of the Common Good Fund in Northeast Fife, some £367811. The fact that the Hope Park application for funds towards their refurbishment had been refused was mentioned. Cllr Sangster said that he'd suggest to Hope Park to speak to Beth Flynn of Fife Council to see if there were any other funds that could be accessed for the work.

#### **4.2.5. Wheelie Bins**

Mrs Denyer raised the issue of wheelie bins being left out beyond the time they are emptied. She felt that agents for HMOs should be responsible for their uplift and wondered about black bags as an alternative. It was commented by Councillors that it was easier to get businesses to remove their bins timeously than private householders, but that if they received reports they could pass them on to the appropriate officers. Councillors welcomed reports of bins left out for too long as they could then take action.

### **4.3. Robin Waterston**

#### **4.3.1. Consultation on A Boards**

Cllr Waterston mentioned that the consultation on A boards is under way.

#### **4.3.2. Crerar Appeal**

Cllr Waterston mentioned that the Crerar Hotel appeal had been refused by the reporter.

#### **4.3.3. Police Community Meeting**

Cllr Waterston reminded the meeting of a new set up by the police with regard to the new Community Policing policy. The police had had a meeting at Kilrymont last week, as part of a regular consultation with the public at which they had discussed local priorities for the community, these being driver behaviour, youth disorder and one other. There is to be another meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March

#### **4.3.4. Kinnesburn Flooding**

Cllr Waterston commented upon the flooding issue and the recent meeting. There is to be a further meeting between SEPA and Fife Council Transportation. Cllr Waterston emphasised the need to have SEPA's backing for any plans as they could stop anything they believed to breach environmental legislation. Cllrs Morrison and Sangster also commented upon the slow progress, but felt that things were slowly improving. There may be a possibility of removing localised silt and getting banking repaired. Cllr Waterston acknowledged the need to keep pushing Fife Council and SEPA on the matter. Cllr Morrison felt that Bob McLellan of Transportation was trying to work constructively towards a solution.

#### **4.3.5. Local Area Budgets**

Miss Uprichard asked about a seeming difference between Cupar and St Andrews area budgets, with St Andrews receiving £5000 less than Cupar. Cllr Sangster explained that the amounts being quoted were to do with what was left for the financial year. Cllr Waterston also commented on the budget differences explaining the reasons behind the differences.

## **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

### **4.4.1. Crerar Meeting**

Cllr Morrison commented upon the recent decision and the reason for the refusal, which was to do with the landscape setting. There was also discussion about the effectiveness of objections and the importance of the content of objections in influencing the reporter. Miss Uprichard commented that there was a difference in the way that the number of objections could influence an inquiry decision, and she disagreed with the view of the Reporter that numbers weren't important. The Councillors commented on some of the issues about how they had to assess planning applications and be confident of their decisions about refusing on planning grounds.

### **4.4.2. Town/Gown Notice board**

Holly West asked about the possibility of a notice board for town/gown events. She was reminded that there was a notice board, apart from the 2 Community Council Boards. Further discussion followed as to the possibility and need.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Planning Committee Reports**

No comments on reports

### **5.2. Statutory Consultation Period/Objections**

There was some discussion on the issue of receipt of plans and the statutory consultation period following receipt of plans. Mrs Denyer commented upon their attempt to get plans for 171-179 South Street from Chris Smith and still hadn't received them. Miss Uprichard commented upon the problem associated with not having time to study late objections. She felt that the Planning Committee should have 10 days to study the papers. Fife Councillors agreed that it wasn't satisfactory and there should be sufficient time to study objections and respond if necessary. Cllr Waterston thought that it was only good decision making to allow CCs the full period to study material before decisions were made and have a right of response.

### **5.3. Conservation Area Appraisal**

Dr Goudie briefly commented on this matter saying that the Planning Committee were in agreement with Miss Uprichard's work and comments on the appraisal.

### **5.4. Parking Plan Consultation Objections**

Dr Goudie had suggested some further revisions to the Parking Plan objections to be put in by the Community Council. Issues such as the extension of the paid parking area were a major concern, and the knock on effect this would have in the town for residents and commuters. There was a view that the exercise was a revenue raising one by Fife Council. Cllr Waterston wasn't convinced that this was the case.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Arms Convenor – update**

To be taken in camera

### **6.2. Review of the Scheme for Community Councils**

The review was presented as a part of the GP Meeting minutes. The details will be posted on the website.

### **6.3. Trust Reorganisation**

This was also discussed at the GP Meeting. There was some discussion about specific items under the list of Trusts such as the Cantley Clock, which according to Mr Murphy is now in the hands of the Old Course Hotel Ltd in the Old Starters Box. There was also discussion about the Harbour Clock and what needed to be done. It was pointed out that there were funds to be used for its maintenance, yet this hadn't been used in recent repairs. There was a view from the GP Committee supported by the Community Council that funds from several of the old Trusts should be transferred to the Community Council, rather than to Fife Council. It was felt that this would allow for more efficient use of these funds and would be clearly used for the public good. Miss Uprichard proposed that these funds from the Trusts should be absorbed into the CC Funds. There was a proposal, seconded by Mr Paul on this idea. It was agreed that Mr Paul should write a letter on this matter.

**Mr Paul to write to Fife Council detailing the CCs view on the Trust reorganisation and the movement of funds into the Community Council to disburse for the benefit of the Community.**

### **6.6. Reports from Representatives**

#### **6.6.1. RAF Leuchars Community Liaison**

Mr Fraser reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of this body, which meets with Community representatives from various bodies such as local Community Councils. The items included proposals to extend the car park at Leuchars Railway station, which is not going ahead now.

The next Leuchars Air show will see a different exit strategy for the Car parking as well as development of car parks further away with shuttle buses to bring people from those car parks.

### **6.7. Any Other Matters Arising**

#### **6.7.1. Greyfriars Gardens Garden**

The issue relating to the garden at the top of Greyfriars Garden was discussed. Miss Uprichard, Mrs Corbin and Mrs Denyer had attended a meeting with Mr MacGregor from Fife Council on 10<sup>th</sup> February to discuss what could be done about the Garden. Fife Council may have to go for possible legal enforcement to get the garden cleaned up and the netting taken down. Purchasing the garden is not an option due to the price, which might be required. Other strategies to try and resolve the problem are to be considered as the area has historic connections with Greyfriars Abbey. It could also be an additional area of Greenspace for the town.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Recreation Committee**

#### **7.1.1. Bandstand Concerts**

Mr Roberts reported on progress with respect to the Bandstand Concerts. He had approached a number of bands and their average cost for playing was £200. He has started to look at ways of funding, with an application to the Common Good Fund being one source of funds. Another source might be a special fund, which can be accessed by communities to set up musical events during 2010, but the funding may only be awarded if the event can be evidenced as having a particular celebratory theme. To be discussed further at GP Committee.

### **7.2. General Purposes Committee**

Miss Uprichard commented upon item 6 in the GP Meeting report. She was dismayed at the comments about the £800 shortfall and the talk about still doing the same activities. She felt that the activities should be discussed as individual items to determine if they could be afforded and what priority they should be given for use of limited funding. Miss Uprichard also commented upon the fundraising suggestion under No.6 in the report, a coffee morning. She thought that the Community Council should be able to run a Coffee Morning, citing a local organisation and its successful Coffee Morning as an example. Dr Goudie felt that the Community Council didn't have the same support base as St Andrews Chorus to run a Coffee Morning, but it shouldn't stop consideration of running such an event. Dr Goudie acknowledged the need to have a further GP Meeting to look at the financial shortfall of £800 referred to by Mr Pead. He added that

Mr Pead had been thinking that the Community Council should try to improve the events it was running and this would require a bigger budget. Dr Goudie felt that the Council needed to agree on what it wished to attempt, what money it needed and how these ideas would be implemented. He argued that in his view the main purpose of Community Councillors wasn't fundraising, but acknowledged that small-scale fundraising had taken place in the past. It would partly depend upon the willingness of members to undertake any such ventures.

Mr Paul agreed with Miss Uprichard's comments and thought that fund raising ventures could be used as ways to communicate and consult with the public. He gave examples of what could be done, such as having a consultation about the Parking Plan, tied in with an informal event such as a Coffee Morning. A wide range of issues could be given public airing in that way. Mr Paul suggested that having an issue to discuss could attract more people to attend a Coffee Morning. Dr Goudie acknowledged that it was an interesting idea. Holly West agreed with Mr Paul's comments, feeling that any way to raise consciousness of the Community Council was worth trying. Dr Goudie added that it was important that the profile of the Community Council was raised with the likelihood of Community Council elections later in the year. It would be good to have a situation where there was competition to get on the Community Council. Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting that there was a large core support for Coffee Mornings in St Andrews. Mr Fraser reminded the meeting that this was indeed the case as long as the Coffee Morning was in the Supper Room and there was the issue of being able to produce enough to sell.

The situation with St Andrews Trust set up by Mr Crichton was discussed. The issue of the transfer of funds to a separate account was discussed in some detail and whether this had been done correctly. There was concern about the apparent reluctance of Mr Crichton to have the account included within the financial remit of the Community Council. Mr Murphy felt that the situation could be questionable in legal terms. Past Community Councils minutes had indicated the setting up of a separate account, but not a separate organisation to manage the account. There was a general view that the situation required further checking out and that it should be raised at the next General Purposes Meeting.

### **7.3. 200 Club**

200 CLUB DRAW

1<sup>ST</sup> Mrs C Tricker

2<sup>ND</sup> Dr J Mills

3<sup>RD</sup> David Paul

### **7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee**

Mrs Denyer reported on behalf of Mrs Corbin. She reported that the issues around maintenance of the Martyr's Monument are still ongoing. Cllr Sangster asked if the Community Council had a copy of the Five Council Assessment Report on the work required on the Martyr's Monument with all the costings? Mrs Denyer acknowledged that HEW hadn't seen a copy. He added that Sir Menzies Campbell had promised £100 towards the fundraising efforts. Dr Goudie reminded the meeting that the recommendation from HEW that the Community Council take on board the project hadn't been discussed by the full Community Council and wouldn't be discussed until the next meeting. Mrs Denyer read out an email in relation to possible support in the community for the possible project.

Mr Paul asked that if this project was to be set up, that it be done properly. He asked that there should be a timeline or a dissolution clause, partly in case the project didn't achieve its fundraising goal. He was loathe to get the Community Council stuck with a fund inadequate for the purpose and with no other way in which the money could be used, but without a way to close it down and return funds to donors. Cllr Sangster felt that the restoration of the monument was very important and would need to be done within the next eighteen months. Dr Goudie added that the Community Council was very supportive, but needed to be able to undertake such a project properly.

Miss Uprichard said that in a letter replying to Patrick Loughlin when he'd asked for suggestions for local projects, she'd suggested that they should consider the restoration of the Martyr's Monument as a project. She thought that St Andrews Partnership would have more experience collectively in fundraising and it would be good PR for the new body. She added that for any project an organisation should try and raise a third of the required funds first before going public, feeling that it would give the public more confidence in the project.

Cllr Sangster informed the meeting that Cupar Community Council had managed to raise funds to restore the War Memorial. Mrs Denyer added that Mrs Corbin had already written to St Andrews Partnership.

Mrs Ashworth said that the idea had come up at the meetings of the St Andrews Partnership quite often and thought that it might be a good idea to link up with them in some fashion. She added that St Andrews Partnership had calculated that up to £80000, might be the cost and that they were hoping to raise 50% of that from a variety of sources, such as grants, and get the other 50% from commercial sources. Cllr Sangster said that Fife Council's costings had been nearer £60000. Dr Goudie suggested that HEW and St Andrews Partnership liaise on the possible project. He also suggested a possible meeting between the two bodies.

There was also a brief comment on the Japanese Pop Art Culture display. Izzy had been following up following an email from the Japanese gentleman involved in organising the display, which is to be in the Town Library.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Community Web Site**

For information only. Mr Marks spoke briefly, acknowledging that he was uncertain about potential benefits, given that the Community Council has its own website

### **8.2. East Fife Sports Council Awards Ceremony Invite**

For information. Mr Marks explained that it was an invitation to attend and award the Shield sponsored by the Community Council for older athletes. Mr Crichton to attend as before.

### **8.3. Proposed Exhibition on Japanese Pop Culture in St Andrews**

For information. To be left with HEW as Mrs Corbin has contacted the organiser to get more details.

## **9. Reports from Office Bearers**

### **9.1. Chair**

Dr Goudie proposed holding a GP Meeting to discuss a range of issues requiring resolution. He will check out a possible date and venue.

Dr Goudie is also going to reply to Prof. Sam Taylor with respect to his analysis of Local Plan views of the various organisations, namely Green Belt Forum, Community Council and Preservation Trust.

**Dr Goudie to write to Sam Taylor regarding his Local Plan analysis report**

### **9.2. Treasurer**

#### **9.2.1. Treasurer's Report**

See Appendix C in the agenda. Mr Paul raised the issue of £2900 tied up in an ex-Trust Fund with no clear remit as to what the money is for. Mrs Denyer then informed the meeting that Mr Pead had advised Mrs Rowe that it might be possible to give some money from this Fund towards an Exhibition being set up by some St Andrews students. Mr Paul added that when the Fund was wound up there were no criteria as to what the money was for. Dr Goudie commented that there needed to be clarification from the Treasurer, as to the criteria for the use of the money

Mr Finlay then asked about the reason why the Community Council was paying money to St Andrews in Focus. Dr Goudie explained some of the history of the Community Council's half-page, which is being offered at a concessionary rate by the magazine publisher, Mrs Selwyn. Dr Goudie added that the decision to support St Andrews in Focus this way could be reviewed by the Community Council, particularly with the greater financial issues facing the Community Council. Mrs Ashworth informed the meeting that Mrs Selwyn had approached St Andrews Partnership about possibly tasking over her magazine due to financial pressures, but it had declined to take on the magazine.

#### **Treasurers Report Notes – March 2010: Notes emailed to secretary because of Treasurer's absence**

1. A surplus of £75.72p was credited to our account, being the surplus from the Civic Reception budget of £150.00p. Total CC expenses for the Reception came in at £74.28p.

2. A further GP meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb in an attempt to determine our financial strategy and funding for 2010/2011. Unfortunately, no specific strategy resulted and so our shortfall for our next financial year if we wish to support the level of events as in 2009 will be approximately £800.00p.

I would therefore urge the Chair to convene yet another GP meeting with the specific purpose of defining our financial strategy/sources of funding for 2010/2011. If this cannot be achieved, then we have to consider trimming our activities accordingly.

3. 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 in December 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. This trawl continues.

## **9.3 Secretary**

### **9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.**

Mr Marks went through the correspondence. He asked who was now dealing with the Licensing Board applications following Mr Reed's resignation. These are applications for licences, which the Community Council can comment upon, though the chances of success depend upon whether the Police are unhappy with an application as well. Cllr Sangster added that he was on the Licensing Board and said that there was quite a bit of paperwork involved. Mr Marks suggested that this might be a role for HEW to take on board. Mr Finlay reminded the meeting that he'd volunteered to take on the role of monitoring the applications. His offer was accepted.

**Mr Finlay to take on board the Licensing Board applications for comment.**

## **10. Any Other Competent Business**

### **10.1. Student Association Election**

Miss West informed the meeting that this election is to take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. Dr Goudie asked if this meant that there would be new Student Reps from the next meeting? Miss West said that she might be at the April meeting, but that there would be new reps.

### **10.2. Preservation Trust Quiz Night**

Mrs Denyer reported on the outcome of the Quiz Night at which the Community Council had a team consisting of Mrs Denyer, Mrs Rowe, Mrs Corbin and Mr Skellhon

### **10.3. Fundraising**

Mr Murphy asked about fundraising, and whether there was a plan or a sub-committee for the purpose. Dr Goudie replied that the issue was on the agenda for the GP Committee and he'd be happy to receive Mr Murphy's ideas if could send an email with details.

### **10.4. Web Site**

Mr Murphy asked about the CC website. Mr Marks confirmed that there is a contractual arrangement until about the middle of the year on an annual basis. Mr Murphy felt quite strongly about the need for an effective website. Dr Goudie asked what Mr Murphy felt was wrong. Mr Murphy replied that he was comparing the way the CC website appeared, compared to the one run by his firm. Dr Goudie thought that it was about identifying what is wanted and the writing of material/content to fill it. The Community Council website he felt was about providing information in numerous ways and should have good navigation. He didn't see the CC role as selling St Andrews, which was more the remit of other organisations, such as the Merchants Association. He heard a lot of comments of dissatisfaction, but less definition of what might be required. Mr Murphy in replying felt that we needed to have a timeline for the website ongoing development and shouldn't be waiting for things to happen. Dr Goudie didn't think that

the CC was waiting for things to happen and he cited a suggestion, which he'd made to the Planning Committee for a database of Planning Committee submissions. He added that it needed to be an ongoing process of development. In reply to a query from Miss Uprichard, Dr Goudie said that his family had been doing work on the website as a provisional arrangement, and that it was up to the Community Council to express its wishes as to how to proceed.