

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – 28TH APRIL 2012

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 online at <http://www.standrewscc.net/>)

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Patrick Marks, Ian Goudie, Ken Fraser, Ken Crichton, Henry Paul, Marysia Denyer, Penny Uprichard, Kyffin Roberts, Catherine Rowe, Ronnie Murphy, Izzy Corbin, Andy Primmer, Howard Greenwell, Judith Harding, Carol Ashworth.

Students' Association Representatives

Nominated

Lindsey Adam

Co-Opted

Niall Scott

Fife Councillors

Bill Sangster, Robin Waterston, Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville

Apologies

Rebecca Ladley, Robert McLachlan, Meg Platt, Callum Corbin

2. Minutes of 2nd April 2012 Meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record as far as recorded but not complete. The Chair apologised for the incomplete nature of the minutes as he'd taken on the role of recording the last meeting in the absence of the secretary. He promised to finish the minutes as soon as possible.

3. Presentations

No presentations this month

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. Largo Road Water Repair

Cllr Melville reported that finally Scottish Water had owned up that they were responsible for a leak in Largo Road as it was a water main and thus their responsibility to maintain.

4.2. Bill Sangster

4.2.1. Bassaguard Light Industrial Area

Cllr Sangster reported that Fife Council are due to sign a deal with Barnetts to develop 10000 sq ft of the Bassaguard area for small industrial/business units. Miss Uprichard asked about the Bassaguard deal. Cllr Sangster thought that Barnetts had signed a 120 year lease with Fife Council. He explained that Barnetts were also developers and didn't just sell cars. The site would be developed for small industrial and commercial units to be leased out. Mr Crichton expressed concern about one large developer taking over a large chunk of industrial/commercial land and wondered if it wouldn't be better for several smaller firms to work with Fife Council. Cllr Sangster explained that it was more effective for Fife Council to work with one developer who could provide a number of units to lease than dealing with several as there would be one developer then responsible for the management and infrastructure.

4.2.2. Martyrs Monument

4.2.3. Melville Fountain

Cllr Sangster reported on a successful meeting with the Fountain designers. The costs are being determined with both costs to get it working and the annual maintenance costs to be clearly established. Cllr Sangster thought that the annual costs would come out of the Common Good Fund. He thought that 2 maintenance visits a year would cost around £1200. It was hoped that the fountain would be up and running for the main tourist season.

4.2.4. Kinnessburn Work

Cllr Sangster reported that work had started on the shoring up of the banks with oak and metal.

4.2.5. Cockshaugh Park Changing Facilities

The new changing facilities have been erected and are now in use.

4.2.6. Former Railway Line Banking

Mrs Harding asked about the banking on a stretch of the old railway line close to the Ladebraes. Cllr Sangster said he'd emailed Fife Council but one uncertainty was who owned the land in question. Mrs Hardin thought that the old Town Council had taken over ownership before being abolished so thought it should now be Fife Council.

4.2.7. Greyfriars Garden Pavements

Mrs Denyer asked about the pavements in Greyfriars Gardens and whether they had been inspected since road work had been completed. Cllr Sangster said that the problem had been reported and acknowledged that there had been poor completion of the pavement work requiring sorted out.

4.2.8. Former Railway Land by Old Course Hotel

Mr Paul advised Cllr Sangster that the former railway land close to the Old course hotel was Common Good Land.

4.2.9. North Castle Street Pavements

Mrs Rowe asked when there would be repairs done on the pavements in this street? Cllr Sangster said that they would get done eventually but would not be viewed as a priority. He also added that because of the antique nature of the pavements and

guttering Fife Council would have to try and find a way to match any repairs with original materials used.

4.2.10. North Street Car Parking Marking

Mrs Corbin asked if any Councillor could comment on the way the lines had been painted on the street for parking making parking very problematic as well as narrowing the street for passing vehicles. Cllr Sangster replied that there had been a mistake by the Contractor painting the lines but added that this had been corrected very quickly and had now been finished.

4.3. Robin Waterston

4.3.1. West Sands User Group

Cllr Waterston reported on the formation of the West Sands User Group. The group is chaired by Mrs Corbin and is intended to promote communication and co-ordination among the various user groups and individuals.

4.3.2. Botanic Gardens

Cllr Waterston reported, slow but steady progress in relation to the Botanic Gardens. The consultant's draft report has been received recently and is to be studied by the stakeholders. He added that it was a very substantial document, well thought out in his opinion. It will begin to be studied next week by the next meeting. Miss Uprichard asked if a copy of the consultant's report would be made available to the public. Cllr Waterston thought that this might have to be a decision of the stakeholders group.

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. HMO Changes

Cllr Morrison reported briefly on the changes in legislation, which will affect the HMO licensing and come into effect now. Mr Primmer mentioned the fact that the amount of documentation required to renew HMO licences had increased from 5 to 17 documents and this was not possible to do online at the present time. Cllr Morrison read out a recent memo from Fife Council stating that the system for HMO was going to be computerised and this would be monitored for its effectiveness when it became available in a couple of weeks.

4.4.2. Harbour Toilets

Cllr Morrison reported briefly on her attempts to get clarification in relation to the possible extension of the Comfort Break Scheme to the Harbour area. Mr Crichton expressed concern about the closing of toilets and the effect this could have on members of the public. He felt that this was a health and safety issue. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that if toilets were closed it would lead to problems for members of the public. She thought that officials had to recognise the importance of having adequate facilities in a major tourist area. Cllr Melville added that one thing that needed to be sorted out was the need for all management of public toilets to be under one department and not divided as at present. She thought that the maintenance of different toilets could be affected by which part of Fife Council was maintaining them.

Mr Murphy wondered about the need to have the toilets in Church Square and at the Town Hall so close together? Cllr Sangster said that there were 14 public toilet facilities in St Andrews if the comfort break scheme toilets were included. He listed

the various toilets around the town. He added that signs to indicate location of toilets were due to be erected. He encouraged businesses to participate in the Comfort Break Scheme. Miss Uprichard thought that 14 toilet facilities wasn't enough and that some of these were not open at weekends or for very long. Cllr Sangster defended the Comfort Break Scheme.

Cllr Waterston thought that the aim of those elected as Councillors at the upcoming election would be to fight to maintain the current provision. He couldn't foresee additional funding becoming available to extend the Fife Council public toilets in the town.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Knightsbridge Appeal

Knightsbridge have appealed the Council decision about the crescent of flats between Greenside Place and St Nicholas House. This will be subject to an enquiry. Further submissions have been put into the report by local residents and the Planning Committee.

5.2. Certificate of Lawfulness Applications

Mr Greenwell commented that the committee had received a lot of these applications from landlords anxious not to lose their HMO status before the deadline for renewal.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. St Andrews Community Trust

Mr Paul reported that there is to be a funding meeting in the following week and they have 19 applications to consider. The applications are from £400 up to quite meaningful sums for worthy causes, which if all were accepted would use a large part of the fund's current balance. The Fund currently has a balance of nearly £80000.

6.2. Craigtoun Park

Mr Roberts reported on this project. There had been meetings of the core group and had now split into smaller groups to look at various aspects of the project. Applications had been made for funding to see if a feasibility study could be set up. He added that it was important to find ways to increase the footfall into the Park and cited an example for a regular run. He thought that eventually the project would move away from being a sub-committee of the Community Council to a stand alone organisation. Mrs Rowe also asked how people could make donations towards the project? Mr Roberts said that there would be a website up and running soon on which details of how to make donations would be detailed.

6.6. Reports from Representatives

6.6.1. St Andrews in Bloom

The "Bloom Group" have enlisted the help of many local organisations, local schools & independent groups including the "Gardener's Club". A representative has been asked to attend our forthcoming meetings. Cllr Morrison is in close links with the University to see what they can do to promote our town's floral displays for 2012, in forthcoming Local & National competitions. We now have a student named Lucy Ardnt who is attending meetings on behalf of the University's Transition Group.

They have agreed to maintain the garden area in Baker's Lane. Ray Pead, the Treasurer has succeeded in enlisting the support of the B&B Association members to maintain the floral displays from Links Golf, along the length of North Street to the War Memorial. *The War Memorial will be planted & tended by Mr Ken Crichton & his committee. He has also been invited to attend forthcoming meetings.

VOLUNTEERS are STILL needed to assist by removing old plants, dead heading plants,& general maintenance in other areas of the town. IF anyone can offer help, please let the group know by contacting: polonica132@googlemail.com

6.6.2 Green Belt Forum Meeting

Mr Paul that he had attended a meeting of this organisation recently. There had been discussion about the future of the Green Belt Forum given recent decisions in the Local Plan on the shape and location of the Green Belt. Mr Paul reported that there were three options that were being considered and as the Community Council was a founding member of the Green Belt Forum its views were being sought about the future existence of the organisation.

One option would be to wind up the Green Belt Forum and say it had achieved its aim

A second possibility would be to continue as a sub - committee of the Preservation Trust with a remit to monitor developments in the Green Belt. Mr Paul cited some possible threats already on the horizon.

The third option would be to continue as a stand alone organisation.

Mr Paul sought guidance from members of the Community Council on a possible decision. He asked Mrs Corbin and Mrs Denyer who had also attended the meeting their views on the possible response. Mrs Corbin favoured the third option.

Mr Primmer commented that he'd attended meetings of the Green Belt Forum and thought that as the key activists were also heavily involved with the Preservation Trust that the Forum wasn't worth continuing.

Mr Greenwell agreed that there was no sense in having three separate groups and favoured either options one or two.

6.7. Any Other Matters Arising

6.7.1. Jubilee Tea

Mr Paul reported on plans to have a Jubilee Tea on Tuesday 5th June in Lower College Hall. He asked CC members to think about who should be invited and thought that it would be good to get residents who didn't normally get out and might not have been at the Xmas Tea. The main criteria otherwise was that anyone attending had to be alive at the time of the coronation. The tea will be limited to 120. Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that the Tea wasn't a CC event but a Church event with the CC helping out. Mr Paul will be driving some of those attending to the event in the Cosmos minibus.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

Our next meeting will take place in the second week of May, hopefully on Wednesday 9th May. Items for discussion will be the arrangements for the following:

A) Local CC garden competition re: news release, judges, judging dates et al

B) Bandstand concerts

C) Senior Citizens Jubilee Party - Lower College Hall – Monday 4th June 2 – 4pm

* NEWS UPDATE:

The Bloom group joined the Madras College Eco Club on Friday 27th April to plant a “wildflower meadow” in front of the Madras College Music Centre. This was a very successful event, ably supported by teacher, Mr Brendan Fox & several pupils. Mrs Jenny Sibbald (a stalwart of “St Andrews In Bloom”) instigated this initiative. This was a national event run by the RHS during this month. * A photographer from the Courier attended. As the CC representative on “St Andrews In Bloom” I was also present!

Jubilee Celebrations:

Henry’s report outlines this! However, I noted that our involvement with this event, clashes with our proposed CC input at the “Community Day” at Recreation Park, Langlands Road.

7.2. General Purposes

No meeting has been held in the past month

7.3. 200 Club

1st Mr Mundie 2nd Mrs B McKenzie 3rd Mr J Peterson

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

7.4.1. Sea Gull Problem

Mrs Corbin reported on this problem. She said that in Kirkcaldy there were posters up reminding people about not feeding the gulls. In St. Andrews some local residents in the Hope Street area have had a man with a hawk acting to scare away the gulls. She wondered if it was worth contacting the Hope Street residents to see how well they feel their idea is working?

She also felt that the school lunch hour was another problem time when school pupils dropped food and this encouraged gulls and crows. Mrs Corbin wondered if there might be something to be learned from these initiatives? Mr Roberts suggested that this might be a subject which the Health, Education and Welfare Committee could examine.

8. New Business

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

9.1.1. Community Council Vacancies

Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that there are two vacancies, which will need to be filled. He added that it would be good to get some younger members. Mr Roberts also reflected upon the role of Convenor, as he’d not specifically mentioned Mr Crichton in his annual report as he admitted he’d not been aware of what activities in

which Mr Crichton had taken part as Convenor. Mr Crichton in reply mentioned some of the activities in which he had participated, such as the Sports Awards.

9.2. Treasurer

9.2.1. Treasurers Report

Mr Paul reported that the Coffee Morning had raised £325, a good sum for a quiet event. The CC has also received a grant of £600 towards the bandstand Concerts from the small grants award in Fife Council. The Bandstand Concerts were therefore fully funded this year and probably next year. There is £3700 in that account.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

Mr Marks briefly mentioned the correspondence received.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Position of CC Members acting as election agents/candidates in Elections

Mrs Corbin brought to the attention of the meeting that it might not be correct under CC guidance to allow CC members standing for election or acting as Election Agents to remain in any official CC position such as secretary or treasurer etc, with the need for temporary provision until after the election from within the body of the CC. Mr Roberts acknowledged that he wasn't certain whether this was an up to date understanding of what should happen and if it still remained guidance, it should be acknowledged that the CC was in error and learn from that mistake. He reminded the meeting that the CC would have been without its secretary and treasurer during the period of the election had this rule been applied in a literal manner if there had been awareness of it. Mr Roberts felt that it needed further investigation to get a clear idea of how to apply the guidance in the future. Mr Marks suggested that it might be worth bringing up in GP Committee and also suggesting to Fife Council as a possible training issue for the future. He thought that it might be more a matter of good practice rather than a strict legal requirement. Dr Goudie pointed out that the rules could equally be applied during an election period to Fife Councillors attending meetings and they had attended this meeting. Mr Roberts acknowledged that it was a relevant point.

10.2. Golf Museum Consultation Invite

The Golf Museum has invited CC members along to a consultation event on the 8th May at 6pm in relation to plans that they will be submitting for a Café extension.

10.3. STARLINK

Jane Anne Liston has sent an invite for CC members to attend a presentation by Howard Pack of Tata Steel (formerly Corus) Friday 11th May at 14.00 in the Scores Hotel, St Andrews.

10.4. Student Community Council Report

Mr Murphy asked when the CC would be receiving the report by Lisa, the student who had done some research into Community Council activities. Mr Marks thought that we would receive a copy after her assessors had completed marking it as part of her degree.