

# Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

## Provisional Minutes – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015

For Approval

### 1. Attendance

#### Community Councillors

Izzy Corbin, Penny Uprichard, Howard Greenwell, Ken Crichton, Callum McLeod, Harry Stewart, Gordon Shepherd, Patrick Marks, Kyffin Roberts, Iain Munn, Ian Goudie.

#### Students' Association Representatives

Charlotte Andrew

#### Co-Opted

Lindsey Adam

#### Fife Councillors

Dorothea Morrison, Brian Thomson

#### Apologies

Jonathan Bertulis-Fernandes, Patrick Mathewson, Keith McCartney, Zara Evans, Alicia Schultz, Judith Harding, Clare Armstrong, Niall Scott, Frances Melville

### 2. Minutes of Meeting – April 27<sup>th</sup>

The minutes were accepted as a correct record. Dr Shepherd queried about the barriers to producing the minutes more speedily after the meeting. He thought that it might improve communication especially for members unable to attend to know about issues discussed before the next meeting. Mr Marks acknowledged Dr Shepherd's concern and explained that he might be able to produce minutes sooner, but it depended to an extent on his time and other personal commitments, which could slow down the process. Mrs Corbin commented that she was satisfied with the present situation and could understand Mr Marks's difficulties in producing the minutes more speedily.

Not discussed at the meeting but something for members to consider is the possibility of having a minutes secretary paid a small fee or retainer. This does take place in some Community Councils.

### 3. Presentations

#### 3.1. Fife Police

PC Davat Johnstone of Police Scotland who is one of the local Community Police gave a report based on statistics gathered by Police Scotland for the St Andrews area since the last CC meeting. He reported that there had been 13 public nuisance calls, 19 disturbance calls, 29 noise calls, and 20 calls about theft, 6 assault calls, 44 road traffic matters & 2 drugs concerns. In relation to the thefts there had been 5 detections out of 13 reported thefts within the time period from 6<sup>th</sup> June with two named suspects for two of the thefts. In relation to the 6 assaults there had been 6 convictions. Other detections had included some related to road traffic incidents, one drug offence, three reports of drunk and incapable and an incident of reckless conduct when someone had set fire to a bicycle tyre and also stolen a nearby bike.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June a man was detected in the grounds of St Andrews who was apprehended as being suspected of planning to steal from the premises. He also commented on a break in at

the Botanic Gardens in the Glass Class and break-ins and vandalism at Craigtoun Park. In mid June there were three sneak-in thefts in various central locations and a possibly related theft of an outboard motor at the Harbour.

Spray painting is still a significant issue with PC Johnstone acknowledging the need for a breakthrough in catching the culprits. One youth had been detected who had admitted to graffiti at an East Sands location.

The Community Police in the town centre tagged 84 apparently abandoned bicycles on The 19th June. Owners reclaimed 45 of these before the deadline when Environmental Services uplifted remaining bicycles.

PC Johnstone mentioned the plans for the Open Golf, though he wasn't involved in the operation himself but would continue to do his normal policing in the community. He confirmed about the extra Police being brought in to manage the event.

Miss Uprichard asked about the recent incident in Wardlaw Gardens in which numerous police were involved and several suspects were arrested. PC Johnstone acknowledged that he didn't know much and could only confirm that it had been a highly co-ordinated action by a number of Police Forces from around the UK.

Mr Munn asked about the statistics quoted by PC Johnstone and whether this was high or an average figure from month to month? PC Johnstone replied that the figures were about average for St Andrews and he added that some of the calls about incidents could be resolved with no need to progress to a prosecution or penalty.

PC Johnstone in response to a further comment by Mr Munn in relation to social media and incidents said that Police Scotland were keen to use social media more to let the public know what they were doing.

Dr Goudie wondered how the figures quoted compared to other communities. PC Johnstone admitted he'd not made that comparison but could say that in an area of similar population such as Levenmouth the figures could be at least 2-3 times greater.

Mrs Adam commented that the Police Station since its move was not very well signposted and was quite out of the way, especially for visitors. She commented that there was no signage in a main thoroughfare such as Lamond Drive. PC Johnstone agreed to make a note of that and would feed it back to his Inspector. Mr Greenwell thought that a sign on Largo Road would also be appreciated.

Mr Munn asked about the Petheram Bridge area car park where young people with cars gathered at night. PC Johnstone in reply said that the main issue was not in relation to motoring offences but to littering. Similar activity took place at the Fluthers Car Park in Cupar with litter being the main problem. He and a colleague had spoken to the young people and had asked them to keep a lid on any noise, but would check out the situation particularly in relation to littering taking place.

## **4. Fife Councillors**

### **4.1. Frances Melville**

### **4.2. Brian Thomson**

#### **4.2.1. Rubbish Issue**

Cllr Thomson said he'd been going around the town centre in recent weeks taking photos of the situation and felt that the situation was abysmal. The black sacks were a particular problem due to the gulls ripping them and contents spilling out. He has been sending his photos to senior Councillors and officials to try and get some action on the matter. The Council has responded particularly with the Golf Open due. Enforcement officers are going around town from 5.30 am trying identify offenders and in the evening Community Wardens are checking and reporting their finds to Enforcement officers who should take action. Enforcement Officers have also approached around 60 businesses to explain how they should

responsibly manage their waste and there has been a mail drop to all town centre businesses. During the Open week there will be increased uplifts and additional cleansing staff.

Cllr Thomson then commented on a photo posted by Mr Stewart of a large mess of items in Alexander Court. He said that the mess had been the result of contractors emptying the flats and dumping material into the communal bins. Subsequent rummaging by people and seagulls made the mess even worse he added. Cllr Thomson said that the Council whilst it could carry out detailed investigations of illegal dumping did require assistance from the public to report such instances and possible suspects. Cllr Thomson had also spoken to Niall Scott about Alexander Court as a lot of students had been resident in those flats and reported that the University was being very co-operative.

Cllr Thomson acknowledged the need to have long-term measures and not just special measures due to the Open. At the recent ward meeting with officials they had made some suggestions including screening areas for recycling and making a list of top ten areas with problems and trying to find solutions to better long term management. Officials have been asked to come back with a report in September at the next Ward meeting.

Mr Greenwell wondered about having a presentation on the matter in September or October? Cllr Thomson thought this would be a good idea.

Miss Uprichard commented on the weakness of the enforcement procedure despite the vigilance of enforcement officers. She thought that they often could not take action on what appeared to be breaches of local guidelines. Miss Uprichard added that the CC had proposed a zero tolerance of breaches of the guidance and had tried to get this implemented for "A" Boards and other street clutter but had been told there wouldn't be such a policy. She thought that there should be a bye-law such as exists about "A" boards in Dundee. She wondered why officials' hands were tied by the inability of senior management to support stricter enforcement. She thought that it did look good at the time that the eyes of the world would be on St Andrews.

Cllr Thomson reminded Miss Uprichard that he'd been talking about enforcement in relation to waste. Miss Uprichard replied that she'd been talking about enforcement generally. She cited examples of long running breaches such as the Nail Lounge where the enforcement officer has been told that nothing can be done about the sign on the side of the building.

Cllr Thomson in reply said that if anything was illegal or didn't comply with the planning permission he agreed that the Council should pursue it. Cllr Morrison added that she'd heard about the officer being told that nothing effective could be done in that case and cited an example from some years back in relation to failed attempts to deal with the use of inappropriate material on a shop in Market Street.

Mr McLeod felt that local people were getting sick of hearing about the impotence of council officials in being able to carry out enforcement. He felt that it couldn't be described as enforcement if officers were told nothing could be done. He thought that if there was reluctance and resistance by senior officials to implement regulations they should move over and allow in those prepared to enforce the regulations.

Cllr Thomson in reply said that the Councillors didn't instruct officials to do anything but made policy. He said that he didn't have the power to instruct an official to do anything. Mr McLeod replied that Fife Councillors employed all the staff in the Council to implement their policies and the law. Cllr Thomson said that he could not phone up an officer and instruct him to do anything, as it was outwith his remit. However he said that he pursued any enforcement issues, which ended up on his desk. He offered to pursue with officers any such matters concerning Mr McLeod if the latter gave him a list. Mr McLeod said that ultimately the Councillors employed the council officials to carry out policy and regulations and guidelines and the law. He said that Fife voters had elected Councillors to carry out policies on their behalf.

Cllr Morrison wondered if she could go back to officials to tell them about the CC concerns about the lack of enforcement on a number of issues? Mr Greenwell thought that all CCs at

the meeting would agree with that view. There were no objections from the meeting to Mr Greenwell's comments.

Mrs Corbin asked about the Victoria Café signage issue, which had dragged on for a long time and was supposed to be resolved through enforcement of the signage regulations by Fife Council. Cllr Morrison replied that she was aware that the enforcement officer working on that case thought he'd been making headway but the situation was still ongoing.

#### **4.2.2. Carron Place Paving & Weeds**

Residents of Carron Place have complained about the old paving slabs, which are becoming a hazard and also filled with weeds in the cracks. Cllr Thomson has asked the Council to spray the weeds and hopefully look at sorting out the paving.

Mr Marks queried the need to use herbicides in control of weeds in pavements/road edges and the potential danger of these substances if not used correctly. He cited the sudden death of a cotoneaster bush in the front of his house close to the pavement, which appeared to have died quite suddenly after spraying in his street. Cllr Thomson replied that he didn't use weed killer himself but in Carron Place a resident who was speaking on behalf of a number of residents about the weed situation in that street had approached him. He'd spoken to council officers and had been informed that they can no longer pre-spray to stop growth at all because of environmental regulations. In the end there were only two weeds sprayed, as that was all the operative could see at the time of the operation. He added that there was an additional factor in Carron Place with old cracked paving slabs, which in other areas had been replaced by tarmac creating habitats for weeds. Cllr Thomson said that Fife Council had reduced spraying but that he'd also heard from Carron Place residents that a council operative spraying the street earlier in the year had appeared to be doing it very haphazardly.

#### **4.2.3. Gibson Place Road Surface**

Cllr Thomson reported that he was trying to see if he could get anything done about the road surface in this area close to the New Club. Mr Greenwell commented that the road surface in this area was a lot better than the road surface at the bottom of Greenside Place where he lives and which had not made it on to a list of road resurfacing in the present financial year!

#### **4.2.4. Church Square Parking**

Cllr Thomson had been made aware of illegal parking in Church Square/Logies Lane. He had reported this to Council Officers and was awaiting feedback.

#### **4.2.5. Entry Signs to St Andrews**

Cllr Thomson reported he'd been working with Dr Shepherd and Mr Wallard on new entry signs to St. Andrews, but would let Dr Shepherd report on that later in the agenda.

### **4.3. Keith McCartney**

#### **4.3.1. Potholes**

**Potholes:** these were reported for inspection and repair as appropriate at the following locations

Canongate – in centre of road between lighting columns 17 and 18.

James Robb Avenue – by triangular manhole cover south of lighting column 3.

Market Street – at junction with Greyfriars Garden.

Old Guardbridge Road – at entrance to Station Park on west side of Dr Bell's Pavilion.

Strathkinness Low Road – in centre of road at Strathkinness crossroads.

St Andrews/Craigtoun/Pitscottie Road – at entrance to Claremont Farm nearest Claremont crossroads.

Wardlaw Gardens – at junction with Kennedy Gardens

#### **4.3.2. Patching**

Cllr McCartney reported that the road surface at the Kennedy Gardens/Donaldson Gardens junction is part of a patching programme and it is anticipated that the entire area will be re-surfaced within the next few weeks.

#### **4.3.3. Flower Beds**

Cllr McCartney reported that in Argyle Street -the partial collapse of the stone retaining wall on the north (pavement) side of the flower bed at the east side of the entrance to the car park on the south side of Argyle Street was reported and repaired.

Bruce Embankment – weeds are to be removed from the raised flowerbed, which forms the base of the cctv camera column and summer bedding planted.

#### **4.3.4. Lane between Leonard Gardens and Moir Crescent**

Cllr McCartney reported that the lane between Leonard Gardens and Moir Crescent was badly affected by weeds. This was reported and the weeds removed.

#### **4.3.5. Graffiti**

Cllr McCartney said that graffiti was reported for removal from the following locations –

St Mary's Street – word in red paint in large letters on junction box on east side of St Mary's Street.

Boase Avenue – 'tag' in white paint on junction box by lighting column number 8 and on other side of road on grey post office box.

#### **4.3.6. Hepburn Gardens**

Cllr McCartney reported that the sections of metal fencing which blocked the pedestrian entrance to New Park Place during building work and which have been set to the side now the access is open (one between lighting column number 35 and the perimeter wall and other between the other side of the perimeter wall and a tree) have been reported for removal.

#### **4.3.7. Ponding**

Cllr McCartney reported that the persistent issue of ponding on the west side of Drumcarrow Road over a gully just before its junction with Canongate has been reported. A work order has been issued for the gully to be cleaned and jetted.

#### **4.3.8. Street Lighting**

Cllr McCartney reported that the lit sign pole on The Scores requires Scottish Power assistance. This request is on order and work should be completed in six weeks. The damaged columns on South Street are custom made and replacements are on order. The repair works will be programmed on delivery of the new columns from the manufacturer. It is likely to be several weeks before these columns are delivered.

### **4.4. Dorothea Morrison**

#### **4.4.1. Rubbish Issue**

Cllr Morrison said that all four Councillors had been trying to take on the issue of rubbish in the town with Fife Council officials. At a recent Ward meeting they'd had officers along from law enforcement and those for domestic uplifts and commercial uplifts. She thought it had been a helpful meeting. There is to be a special effort to keep on top of the management and uplift of rubbish as the Open approaches. Another recently identified, as a concern related to the owners of let properties not the student tenants who were binning what she viewed as recyclable items such as duvets. She reminded the meeting that Niall Scott had reported the attempts by the University to encourage recycling of items.

She went on to say that the matter was not just one for Fife Council and that the residents had some responsibility as creators of litter, which had to be collected. She talked about a recent

meeting of the St Andrews Partnership at which rubbish had been the main topic. The Partnership had decided to take on the issue and had set up a sub-group with the Councillors invited to be members. She was also aware that the Students Association was also keen to be involved as they recognised the major impact of the student population. She felt that everyone needed to be vigilant and not just depend upon Fife Council to oversee the issue. She thought that every resident could do his or her own bit to manage the problem or issue.

Mr Crichton wondered if it would help if people knew what went in the different bins? He thought that a sticky label on the bins would help new residents particularly students to make the right decisions. Cllr Morrison thought that students in their packs at the beginning of term received information about separating their waste into different bins and when it would be collected. Mr Greenwell thought that stickers had been issued when the four-bin system had been introduced.

Ms Andrew thought that a lot of students did receive cards detailing the use of the bins, but thought as well that information about the location of recycling points for items not recycled in the bins would be useful. She acknowledged that it also depended upon the initiative of the students in taking responsibility for their awareness of their responsibilities in recycling properly.

Cllr Morrison pointed out a problem, which had arisen when the four bins were rolled out in much of the town and had assumed that all the recycling points weren't needed and had taken any such recycling bins away. She added that for students not close to a recycling centre and without access to a car it was more difficult to access the remaining recycling centres. The Councillors have asked Fife Council if this reduction could be reversed with more centres brought back.

Mrs Corbin asked about the solar powered bins currently in use in Anstruther. Cllr Morrison said she recognised the potential benefits in the way the bins operated to compact waste and had planned to bring it up at the recent ward meeting but hadn't had the opportunity. Cllr Riches had indicated that there might be money available for such bins. Mrs Adam thought that the bins might not be of much use in the long term, as the way in which the waste was compacted didn't make separation of waste easy for recycling. Cllr Morrison acknowledging the issues still thought that the bins might help deal with the general litter and waste problems.

Mrs Corbin wondered if she would be correct in saying that material put into bins around the town wouldn't be recycled anyway? Cllr Morrison said that in the centre where residents used black bags for some waste the material going into the bags should only be for landfill and residents should take recyclable material to a recycling centre. She added that people might need in some cases to be educated about the responsible management of their waste. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that items put into the general waste bins dotted around the town did go to landfill.

Mr Marks asked about possible shielding of areas in the town centre with recycling bins to reduce their visual impact. Cllr Morrison acknowledged that possible solutions like this had been discussed at the ward meeting and on other occasions. The ability to do some things would depend upon the Council budget to set up such areas.

Mr Stewart asked whether the proposal to supply gull proof bags in the town centre where residents don't have bins was still going ahead? Cllr Morrison said that they were hopeful of being able to get bags and distribute to those who needed them. If a resident lost or damaged one of these bags they'd have to pay for new ones.

#### **4.4.2. Parking Issues and Public Safety**

Mr Crichton raised a number of points related to parking.

1. He informed the meeting that up to five tourist buses often parked to let out their passengers at the end of North Street opposite the cathedral often blocking the roadway to lane down to the sheltered housing. He thought that the area where they parked should be made non-parking given the way the access to the lane beyond would be blocked both for residents and

emergency services. Cllr Morrison thought that not a lot could be done about stopping buses dropping off passengers by the pavement. Mr Crichton said he'd actually seen several buses parked for a time after dropping off their passengers.

2. At the bus parking by Madras College tourist buses also drop off passengers and this can restrict where town buses can park leading to them parking further out and obstructing traffic and forcing locals to walk further on to the road to get the bus, which he thought could be a bit of a hazard.

3. Parking by taxis at the South Street end of Queens Gardens was also a problem depriving ordinary car users from parking. Cllr Morrison said she'd brought up the issue before to officials but would try to remember to mention it again as she realised the taxis should not be parking in those places. Mr McLeod suggested that an example should be set with an errant taxi driver having his licence withdrawn.

4. Another issue Mr Crichton raised related to the location of bus stops. He thought that in regulations they weren't supposed to be located opposite each other as this could cause traffic problems if two buses stopped at the same time. He thought there were a number of places in the town where bus stops were opposite each other.

#### **4.4.3. Benches in Market Street**

Mrs Corbin wondered about the possibility of benches near the bus stop in Market Street as she'd noticed that a lot of elderly residents had to stand while waiting for a bus? Cllr Morrison didn't there would be any problem getting benches.

## **5. Planning Committee**

### **5.1. Planning Committee Report**

Mr Greenwell announced that following Mr Stewart stepping down from the Planning Committee as a member and as Chair, he had been chairing the meetings on an interim basis. Fortunately the planning scene had been quite quiet with only 14 applications of which 11 were individual planning applications. The committee had objected to four of the applications, one of which was the Nationwide Building Society illuminated fascia sign, which Fife Council informed the committee would be also the subject of a refusal from the officer dealing with the application. Southgait Close replacement windows and doors was another one as the application had been silent on the materials to be used. The committee would have objected if the applicant hadn't used wood, but the applicant confirmed that timber framed windows would be installed.

A third application to which the committee objected was No.62 North Street which Mr Greenwell informed the meeting wanted to make a hole in a wall through to Market Street. The "hole" related to a small building made into a sort of student bed-sit for which the entry and exit would then be through to Market Street and not through the main building. Mr Greenwell added that the objection was not successful and had been approved on the grounds that it was a fire exit, but is apparently now being used regularly by the occupant of the bed-sit. Cllr Morrison thought that conditions had been put on that application so if the conditions were being breached the Council could investigate them. Miss Uprichard confirmed that in her understanding the door was only to be used as a fire exit.

The fourth application to which the committee object was 129 South Street a former Carlton Bakery that is being turned into a burger bar. The committee objected about a number of aspects of the development such as the internally illuminated lighting.

A fifth objection was put in relation to the major proposed development to the south west of Younger Gardens being promoted by a consortium including Mount Melville Estate. Miss Uprichard listed the proposed extent of the development, which includes 350 houses, light commercial development, a community health centre, a pub/restaurant and new distributor road etc. The committee had put in an objection with around 15 points in relation to different

aspects of the planning application in principle. She said that the plan was significantly contrary to the Local Plan of 2012 with some of grounds including lack of a Master Plan, which was supposed to have community engagement, and a lack of a flood risk assessment or traffic assessment.

Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting that the western extension was 116 hectares with Craigtoun North being 17 hectares between a sixth and a seventh of the total western extension. Miss Uprichard commented that if the numbers of houses proposed for Craigtoun North was replicated in the rest of the western extension at the same density there could be significantly more than the proposed number of 1019. In relation to housing density, Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting that the recommended density in the Structure Plan was between 25 - 40 units to a hectare, but Craigtoun North was only about 20 to the hectare. She wondered if the University and its partners in the remainder of the western extension might want to review the number of houses if Craigtoun North went ahead as this would leave them with only 700 plus houses in a much larger area of land.

Mr Greenwell added that although the area was part of the western development, one would expect that a large area would be set-aside as protected open space by the reporter. However he reported that the developers were planning to build an industrial development on the area designated as protected open space above the 50m contours. He felt that the developers were trying to shoe horn as much into the area as possible.

Dr Goudie said that it was very important in any objection submitted to Fife Council to make clear that you were implacably opposed to the whole idea in principle or whether some modification would be acceptable to the community. Dr Goudie thought that there was a case to talk to the developers given a view in the community that development in the Kinness valley had been viewed as more acceptable than development north of the Strathkiness High Road. He was concerned that the objections going in didn't look to suggesting some kind of community support for a modified form of the development. He was particularly concerned about being careful where an application involved affordable housing, although he was aware that the 30% target was weak and that the amount built in practice was usually much lower. However he recognised that the town required affordable housing and in his view the best location was the Kinness Valley.

Miss Uprichard reminded the meeting about a past strategic study in the 1990s, which she felt, had been an excellent piece of work for Fife Council. It had contained three options for development but these were only supported by 1% of those consulted and they were developers. The CC at the time suggested a fourth option of limited development to the southwest, which she felt, would fit in with the current Craigtoun North proposals. She thought that things had changed considerably since the strategic study given the various developments around the town taking place and the 1019 proposed houses for the western development. In relation to affordable housing she thought that the community would be lucky to get the 30% promised given the way the developers at St Leonards had behaved in relation to affordable housing in a development of some 500 units.

Mr Greenwell then related his experiences in relation to land opposite his own house where the St Nicholas development is taking place. The activity of a mechanical digger had been brought to his attention in an area to be developed by Robertson Homes as 16 flats. It was busily removed either a small tree or hedge which he said was contrary to planning permission at the time of the year when birds were breeding. He checked the reporter's conditions for the development and found a clause stating that there could be no removal of hedges/tress between March and the end of August. He sent a note to Lyle Smith the enforcement officer and Chris Smith the lead planning officer. He received a reply from the former the following day to say that he had visited the site and talked to Robertson Homes. The developer had indicated that Chris Smith had given permission for them to remove the hedge/trees so that they could build in the centre of the area a car park. In another email to Mr McLeod, Chris Smith had claimed he had the right to change the reporter's terms and conditions to allow the developer to proceed with the work. He felt that this example showed to him a department out

of control with an officer changing the decision of the reporter from the Scottish Government without recourse to anybody. He was shocked at the attitude of the developers towards both the community and the environment in the pursuit of their developments.

Mrs Corbin thought the action was unlawful and the developers should be held to account for the potential destruction of the wildlife.

Cllr Morrison acknowledged that she thought that the condition in the reporters report about the hedge was a standard condition and that it was clear that vegetation removal should not happen during the breeding season. Cllr Thomson reported that Chris Smith had argued that there were no nesting birds hence his decision. Mr Greenwell queried whether he'd thought about ground nesting birds! Cllr Thomson added that planning officers had delegated authority to make minor non-material changes to recommendations or conditions set out by the reporter.

Mr Greenwell asked whose assessment it was that any condition might be material or non-material? He further asked why someone in Fife Council would have the ability to vary a condition of the Reporter's report without recourse to the Scottish Government and the local people it may affect. He felt that this was one of the major flaws of the current planning system. He added that in his opinion that the power used by Chris Smith should be removed from the Planning Department. He felt that this was Fife Council condoning the bad behaviour of developers.

Cllr Thomson said he wasn't condoning the actions taken but had been trying to explain what was a countrywide situation and would need planning changes at a national level.

Mr McLeod thought that the decision wasn't a minor variation but a reversal of a condition imposed by the Reporter. He felt that a message should go back to those riding roughshod over such matters that local people were sick of this behaviour. Cllr Thomson quoted from Chris Smith's email, which described the decision as relating to minor works and having no effect upon the bird-breeding season so he agreed to allow removal of the hedge. Mr Greenwell commented that in the whole of the Abbey Park site a number of trees had been removed at developer convenience and described the sort of ploys, which could be used to justify removal of a tree. He added that seven trees would be removed by Robertson Homes in the development behind his house. Mrs Corbin thought that the decision shouldn't have been allowed.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### **6.1. Community Council Information Pack**

Mr Greenwell asked members whether they had all received the new Information Pack sent by email to him by Linda Bissett of Fife Council. He added that only 2 printed copies had been sent out to the Chair and Secretary. He said that the email version should be exactly the same as the printed version. He informed members that Fife Council do not include the Code of Conduct document issued by the Scottish Government in the Information Pack.

### **6.2. Reports from Representatives**

No reports

### **6.3. Loches Twinning**

Mr Greenwell reported that he'd circulated to the General Purposes List the Twinning Agreement for comment. He'd had one positive comment and no other responses indicating any dissent about the wording.

Mrs Corbin then commented that she was still thought the decision should have gone to public consultation and there should have been a public meeting for the whole of the town advertised in the Citizen. She was a bit concerned about the legalities of the twinning and the possibility of getting into a legal quagmire on the matter. Dr Goudie thought that most of the document

was uncontroversial but he added that bearing in mind that the CC wanted to avoid seeming to take a political stance he wondered whether some members of the community might object to the statement that it is the parties' aim about supporting wider co-operation in the European Union. He added that this was a sentiment with which he personally agreed but thought there might be some who didn't agree. Mr Greenwell explained that the statement was a piece of standard wording used in agreements by Dominique Robertson with regard to most twinning agreements in Fife.

Mrs Corbin expressed a concern about what would happen should Britain leave the EU. Mr Greenwell thought that such things could be unwound.

Mr Roberts mentioned the plan to have the Twinning arrangement as part of the Civic Reception in November and that he could confirm the availability of Holy Trinity Church in Hunters Aisle for the reception.

Mr Greenwell mentioned the outline discussion, which had gone on between himself, John Matthews and Dominique Robertson and the representatives from Loches. He confirmed that it was proposed to have the English version of the twinning agreement signed at the Civic Reception. A delegation from Loches would attend that event. The Provost of Fife will also attend to sign as witness to the Twinning Agreement. The French version would be signed in Easter 2016 with a delegation invited from the CC in St Andrews to participate in that signing.

Mr Munn queried whether the Loches document had been sent to everyone? Mr Greenwell confirmed that it had only gone out to the GP Committee of which he should be a member as Treasurer. Mr Munn confirmed he'd not seen the document, as he'd not received the email. Mr Greenwell agreed to send out the email with the document to all members.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Recreation Committee**

Dr Shepherd reported on the committee's activities. He had received the two prize cups relating to the Putting Competition revived in recent years by the CC. There were two cups, the Victoria Cup, which he said, commemorated the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and was first played for around 1919. His family donated the Andrews Kirkaldy Cup about 1935. He said that they'd try to have the competition in September when the students arrived back. He reminded the meeting about the rules and the organisation as well as entry fee for the competition of £3.

Dr Shepherd then mentioned the Gardening Competition for which prizes are awarded in September around the 15<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Corbin explained that this was usually judged in late August, though Fife Council usually did their judging in late July. This year planting and the putting out of planters were six weeks behind due to the weather in recent times.

He will look to organising a meeting of the Recreation Committee to finalise the organisation of these events.

Mr Roberts reported about the Bandstand Concert programme. He reported that the first concert would be the coming Sunday at Craigtoun Park this being the Dysart Colliery Band. The Bruce Embankment he'd discovered was out of commission during the period of the Open and leading up to it, hence the move to Craigtoun. There would be no concert at the Bandstand on the 19<sup>th</sup> July due again to the Open, so the next concert would be 26<sup>th</sup> July, the Tullis Russell Mills Band. The location for that concert remained a bit uncertain due to the aftermath of the Open and possible parking issues for band members. In August Madras College he said would be happy to allow bands to play in the front of the school as long as the CC had public liability insurance. This would be used as an alternative if the Bandstand weren't available.

### **7.2. GP Meeting**

No meeting.

### **7.3. 200 Club**

July draw -1<sup>st</sup> Mr Greenwell 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Tero 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs Sanderson

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

No report on this occasion

### **7.5. Rail Sub Committee**

Starlink and committee members are meeting with Mr Cameron Little who was a leading player in getting the rail link back to Alloa. He is coming to give advice about how they succeeded in their campaign.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Bike Racks in Market Street**

Mr Marks told the meeting that following a suggestion by Cllr McCartney he was bringing to the CC meeting a request for an increase in bicycle parking racks in Market Street close to Tesco. Mr Marks explained that his wife had been trying for a while to get Fife Council to recognise the need for more racks for local cyclists. He explained that there was a problem for much of the year when students left bikes parked at the racks for extended periods of time and many of these ended up being abandoned and eventually removed by Fife Council. He said that with the growing interest in cycling for a variety of reasons cyclists deserved better provision and he thought that the use of a parking space to increase the number of racks available might help cyclists like his wife. He was proposing that with CC approval Fife Council might hopefully take the issue more seriously. There was no objection from CC members to asking Fife Councillors to pursue this matter. Cllr Thomson informed the meeting that the issue had been discussed a couple of years ago with officials but for some reason it hadn't progressed but now he had the backing of the CC he'd speak to officials again.

### **8.2. Town Signage**

Dr Shepherd described how he and Cllr Thomson and Mr Wallard had met to discuss the matter. They were proposing that a competition should be run to establish the design of entry signs to St Andrews. He thought it would raise the profile of the CC, increase engagement with the community and present a challenge for all residents and students. They would give a slight steer in relation to what might be wanted in terms of signage but other than that would allow entrants to come up with the designs. A judging panel might be appointed the composition of which was to be agreed. Mr Wallard has approached the Citizen and other press and they support the idea. He was keen to have comments from the CC. Mrs Corbin thought that the group should get in touch with the St Andrews Partnership who had done work on local signage for tourists. Dr Shepherd in response to a question from Mr Roberts acknowledged he'd not talked to the St Andrews Partnership so far but as willing to do so. He did however think that there was a difference in the type of signs they were looking at compared to the finger post signs erected by St Andrews Partnership. However he acknowledged the possible benefits of contact to help get a consistency of design.

Mr Roberts asked Cllr Thomson whether as he thought there would be permission required from Fife Council to erect signage? Cllr Thomson had spoken to an official, Gordon Hughes at Fife Council who had given advice about acceptable design elements and as long as designs conformed with those elements Fife Council would be happy to look at using such a sign. He also confirmed that a source of funding would have to be found but didn't think that would be insurmountable. Cllr Morrison also added that the interpretation signs around the town needed replacing. She suggested that it would be useful to speak to Patrick Loughlin. Mr Greenwell said he'd take an action to bring together Jim McArthur, Patrick Loughlin and Cllr Morrison to discuss the matter.

Mrs Adam liked the competition idea but was concerned about how this would be best judged. She thought that a public vote might be influenced by people voting for those they knew rather than on the basis of the quality of design. She also thought that the committee would have to eventually work with professional designers to get the sign up to an acceptable standard for putting on a signpost. She also pointed out that a winning design would have to be professionally managed to ensure it could be used in a variety of ways from signposts to leaflets. Dr Goudie said that there needed to be very firm guarantees on the need to move forward in a reasonable length of time in areas like funding and an assurance from Fife Council about signage required. He was concerned that Fife Council might say they hadn't any money they could put into the project.

Mr Greenwell asked if members supported the idea of having a competition to provide designs for new signs? Dr Goudie reminded Mr Greenwell about having to establish how voting should take place given Mrs Adam's earlier comments on how this could be problematic if not managed properly. Mr Greenwell then proposed setting up a sub committee to look at setting the ground rules and instructions for the competition taking into account what Mrs Adam had said. He suggested that the committee should have the right to make modifications to any design to make it suitable for road traffic purposes. Dr Shepherd commented on Mrs Adam's thoughts about managing the vote and suggested that perhaps the CC should have the casting vote. Mrs Corbin wondered how entrants would be divided into age groups? Dr Shepherd didn't think that there should be age groups, which he felt would complicate judging and finding the most suitable design. Mrs Corbin didn't think there would be an even playing field to have a child competing against an art student from the University. Mr Crichton said that if there were a winner overall it would have to be accepted as he said that there couldn't be more than one design just to satisfy the idea of different age groups. Mr Roberts noted the growing number of caveats and perhaps tongue in cheek wondered if children got to vote! He supported the broad principle of the competition. Dr Shepherd replied that if the winning entry were from a child he would accept that as much as if the winner was a graphics designer. Whichever design won there would still need to be some work done to make it suitable for a road sign.

Mr Greenwell in drawing the discussion to a close concluded that CC members accepted the idea of a competition with a small sub committee to start working through the issues. He asked members to contact Dr Shepherd if they wanted to be involved in the committee.

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

### **9.1. Chair**

Mr Greenwell reported that he'd attended a meeting of the Community Trust at which half a dozen awards were made.

He had also had a meeting with Jim McArthur, Niall Scott and Graham Wynd to try and develop the idea of the Civic Pride campaign. At present it is focusing on refuse and other issues around the town. They are looking at how they get volunteers to work on identified issues. There was also talk about sending a joint letter into Fife Council about the refuse issue. Cllr Morrison suggested that the letter should be sent to Steve Grimmond and copied to Ken Gourlay the new Head of the relevant directorate dealing with refuse.

### **9.2. Treasurer**

Mr Munn reported that all outstanding bills had been paid. Mr Munn asked about costs for the putting competition. Dr Shepherd replied that the competition would charge an entry fee and some of that would go towards purchasing prizes. Mrs Corbin mentioned possible costs for tea and coffee. Mr Roberts mentioned that green fees would also be paid to the Putting Club.

### **9.3 Secretary**

#### **9.3.1. Correspondence**

Mr Marks said that his report was as per correspondence and he'd be happy to answer any queries about the correspondence.

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

### **10.1. Hanging Baskets/Planters**

Mrs Corbin reported that most of the planters had gone up around town and many of the baskets though not all yet.

### **10.2. Whyte-Melville Fountain in Market Square**

Cllr Thomson announced that the fountain was to be switched on, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Thomson didn't think there would be an official opening but said he'd drop former Cllr Sangster a note, as he'd be heavily involved in the campaign to get the fountain active again.

### **10.4. Honoured Citizen Proposal**

This item was discussed incamera.