

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – 28TH MAY 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, Audrey McAnaw, Penny Uprichard, Kyffin Roberts, Catherine Rowe, Ronnie Murphy, Izzy Corbin, Meg Platt, Andy Primmer, Keith Cordrey, Carol Ashworth, Callum Corbin.

Students' Association Representatives

Patrick O'Hare

Nominated

Lindsey Adam

Co-Opted

Fife Councillors

Keith McCartney, Dorothea Morrison, Frances Melville, Brian Thomson

Apologies

Niall Scott, Howard Greenwell, Carol Ashworth

2. Minutes of 28th April 2012 Meeting

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record with no corrections recorded.

3. Presentations

3.1. Fife Elderly Forum

Two representatives from Fife Elderly Forum presented the work of the Forum to the meeting. It was explained that Fife Elderly Forum was an umbrella organisation comprising of a number of organisations representing the views and needs of older people in Fife. Anyone 60+ can be represented, with different projects/groups representing different age ranges and needs within that remit. A local project is called Local Area Co-ordination for Older People, which is aimed at anyone over 65. The Forum was also described as an organisation, which gave elderly people a voice in relation to services and a chance to influence policy at local and strategic levels.

The new project mentioned came out of the Reshaping Older Care agenda, a Scottish Government initiative in 2011. Fife Council had put in a bid for money to support

Change Fund projects, but it was agreed that the project would be independent of Fife Council, hence the Fife Elderly Forum took it on board. The primary purpose was to look at the existing services for older people in Fife, to try and map them and become a portal for information on the services for older people in Fife. The project also work with individuals and will accept referrals to help best match services available for that individual of any level of need.

Another part of the role is to identify gaps in the existing provision and why that is, so that it can be reported back to Fife Council through the Change Fund.

An example of changes to services was cited with the need to change the current model of day care services following a report on Best Value made by the SWD. The revamped model was described. This comprised a service known as Reablement, a form of short term intervention to assess how much an older person can be helped to get back to as independent a level of living as possible. The next level is Active Aging where physically frail, but mentally alert older people, while the third is the daycare service stage where those who need more support because of mental confusion can be supported. Examples were given of local projects supported and promoted by the Forum. They hoped to be a sort of portal through which elderly people could be helped to make an informed choice of services to meet their needs.

Mr Murphy asked whether an older person might not be eligible for Fife Elderly Forum services if they were already receiving a Fife Council service. He was informed that anyone could be visited as the service went beyond what Social Work offered and could include social/ cultural contacts needing renewed. The Forum tried its best to avoid any duplication and tried not to raise expectations as to what could be provided.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville

4.1.1. Rubbish Problems in Town Centre

Cllr Melville raised the issue of problems with rubbish and its collection/ disposal and she cited issues in Kinnes Place, Howard Place and Hope Street as well as the Bruce Embankment. She had contacted Roddy Mann from the Refuse Collection Service and is awaiting a reply from him. Mrs Rowe mentioned rubbish problems in Market Street with overflowing bins. Mrs Denyer commented on the responsibility in relation to HMOs the responsibility of the landlords in ensuring that tenants when leaving knew about responsible ways of proper rubbish disposal. Mr Murphy wondered if it was possible to have large waste containers strategically placed in town towards the end of the University term where students could take their rubbish and items no longer required ? He thought that this might reduce the concerns of local residents and tourists. Patrick O'Hare commented upon the extra recycling facilities offered to students by the University at the back of the Student Association. He added that there was also other recycling facilities in the site as well as a set up to allow students to bring in items they feel can be reused.

4.2. Brian Thomson

4.2.1. New Fife Council Governance Structure

Cllr Thomson explained the new Fife Council political structure to the meeting. The new Council is a Labour minority administration with support from Independents and the Conservatives. Cllr Thomson thought that the new structure would create

more openness in decision-making and there would be more power given to the Area Committees. There will be an executive committee with 14 members of whom 5 will have portfolios such as Social Work & Health, Finance and Corporate Services etc. Four of the portfolio members will be Labour with one Independent, Brian Poole. There will also be 3 unelected members on the committee as per Local Govt legal requirements from the Churches who will have full voting rights. The Executive Committee will be dealing with key issues but if five Councillors are unhappy with a decision and make representation one of two scrutiny committees will meet to look at their concerns. The scrutiny committee will put its decision to the Executive Committee and if the latter doesn't accept that decision the matter goes to the full Council.

There will also be 7 Policy advisory Groups of mixed membership to develop policies as required in various areas of Council business.

The Area Committees are the other major element in the Council structure and will deal with areas like planning. It was hoped that the power of the Area Committees to make decisions relevant to local needs can be increased.

Mrs Harding asked about the Policy Advisory Groups. Mr Thomson and Mr McCartney explained that policy developments from these groups would go to the Executive Committee. The Chair of a Policy Advisory Group will be a Portfolio Holding member of the Executive Committee.

Mr Fraser wondered to whom the Area Committees reported. Cllr Thomson replied that they would report to the Executive Committee. Mr Fraser also wondered about the Regulatory Committees and was informed that they would report back to the full Council.

4.2.2. Madras College

Mr Primmer reminded Cllr Thomson of the urgent need for Councillors to look at how to progress the redevelopment of Madras.

4.2.3. Business Enterprise & Planning

Miss Uprichard noted the way in which Business Enterprise and Planning were under one committee heading and was concerned that there could be a possible conflict of interest. Cllr Thomson felt that this was the way that many Council departments worked and didn't believe that it would cause a conflict of interest.

4.2.4. Melville Fountain

Mr McLachlan hoped that the new Council wouldn't lose sight of the work being planned to get the fountain functioning again. Mr Thomson acknowledged former Cllr Sangster's hard work to try and get the fountain working again. He said that there were a few technical issues still to be resolved. The basic infrastructure is in place but a pump and wiring etc need to be put in place and the cost for this is estimated at around £15-20000. An Engineering firm has been looking at what is needed and then it's a matter of trying to get the funding in place when it is available. Mr Crichton queried the cost of the Engineering consultants. Cllr Thomson clarified that the firm were also possible contractors for the work so their estimate would be for the work and not just for being consulted. Mr Crichton also queried the need to have external contractors and wondered why Council engineers couldn't do the job. Cllr Thomson replied that in more specialist work it was almost always the case that

external private specialist firms would be used as Council engineers wouldn't necessarily have appropriate expertise.

4.2.5. Strathkiness High Road Resurfacing

Cllr Thomson reported that the road from the Buchanan Gardens junction to the town boundary is to be resurfaced next week.

4.2.6. Broomfaulds Avenue Resurfacing

Cllr Thomson reported that Broomfaulds Avenue is to be resurfaced next February but could be brought forward.

4.2.7. Bogward Road Resurfacing

Cllr Thomson acknowledged the desperate need for resurfacing of the Bogward Road but unfortunately it will not be in this financial year.

4.2.8. Recycling Bins – Market Street

There will be three banks of four recycling bins, with one bank next to Subway and others at strategic locations down Market Street, with a single one next to Greggs. Lindsay Adam, Merchants Rep thought that there should have been consultation before any final decision was taken. Cllr Thomson thought they were of a standard design used countrywide. Mrs Corbin said that the Community Council had been approached about the bins a couple of months ago and the original details had been for bins of a more classical design in metal. She wasn't impressed by the design and colour of the bins now proposed and was concerned about the fact they are made of plastic and thus can be more easily vandalised by setting alight. Cllr Thomson in conclusion commented that he gauged the feeling of the meeting to be against the bins as currently proposed. Mr Roberts also added that he hoped that Cllr Thomson would take the message of disapproval back to Fife Council, though he wasn't certain how much could now be done to replace them.

4.2.9. Bassaguard Industrial Estate

Cllr Thomson reported that Fife Council is still hoping to conclude missives with Barnetts with respect to management of this Industrial Estate. The deal will be subject to a successful planning application in due course

4.2.10. Cycling Network Proposals

Cllr Thomson reported that Phil Clarke, Lead Cycle Officer in Fife Council was working up proposals for increasing the cycle network throughout St Andrews.

4.2.11. Planning Applications Advice Charges

Cllr Thomson was aware that Fife Council was charging £250 for pre-application advice, which he thought was wrong and had raised the matter with the Planning Department.

4.2.12. Madras College

Cllr Thomson reiterated the commitment of the new administration to building a new Madras college as a single site school. There is to be a report to the Executive Committee soon setting out the response to the consultation about Kilrymont and also about the way forward.

4.2.13. Cycle Routes in St Andrews

Dr Goudie mentioned to Cllr Thomson that many of the cycle routes in town were in poor condition. In his reply, Cllr Thomson said that some traffic proposals were

being worked up and these included formally adopting some of the cycle routes and possibly upgrading those adopted.

4.3. Keith McCartney

Nothing to report

4.4. Dorothea Morrison

4.4.1. Obstacles on Pavements

Cllr Morrison has been promised that there will be another trip around town with officials to look at the obstacles such as table, chairs and bins are obstructing the pavements and not abiding by guidelines for space. Miss Uprichard queried the source of the 2 metres designation for adequate pavement space and felt that it was inadequate for pedestrians. Cllr Morrison had suggested to the Head of Transportation that cafes/pubs not keeping to the guidance should not be allowed to put their tables out if they couldn't keep their "A" Boards or bins from also obstructing the pavements. The area outside the Criterion Bar has been a particular and regular problem with no clear sign of resolution. Mrs Denyer wondered whether a clearer boundary for tables to be set out might be a partial answer. She thought that it should be possible to have a form of barrier behind which tables/ chairs could be located and that this might reduce the tendency of tables to spill out further into the pavement.

4.4.2. Litter Bins around town

Cllr Morrison has also had a lot of complaints about litterbins overflowing around town and black bags being put out for lengthy periods allowing gulls to get at them and make a mess. She acknowledged the difficulty in finding a perfect solution, but was investigating the possibility that with shift pattern changes in the Refuse collection dept some of the vulnerable areas could have bags collected in the evening, so that they would not be out for long periods and prey to gulls. She also talked about the need to look at the number of plastic bins as some properties had limited space had to store them because of the increase because of recycling. She added that Fife Council is to identify the areas in Market Street suitable for recycling. Cllr Morrison thought that the two metre decision had come from Fife Council. She acknowledged that there was a need to keep on at local businesses to maintain a reasonable distance for pedestrians.

4.4.3. Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr Morrison reported that she'd had contact from a woman upset because she thought that there wasn't much sign of Jubilee celebrations being prepared, such as arrangements in flower tubs etc. Cllr Morrison had found this quite surprising. Cllr Morrison said that part of the confusion lay in one major event being called a community event without using the word Jubilee. She'd also informed the lady about events of which she was aware taking place over the Jubilee weekend.

4.4.4. Craigtoun Park Fundraising Event

Cllr Morrison reminded the meeting about the fundraising event scheduled for the 17th June at Craigtoun Park

5. Planning Committee

5.1. See Appendix B of Agenda

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Martyrs Monument Update

Mr Roberts reported that the Contractor had been chosen and the money was in place. To be announced in the press soon.

6.2. Craigtoun Park

Mr Roberts reported about the meeting of the Friends of Craigtoun. Over 50 people had attended this initial meeting where office bearers were elected. Mr Roberts has remained as Chair for the time being, partly to keep the link between the Community Council and the new group.

6.3. Botanic Gardens Update

Mr Paul reported that the report by the Consultants had been produced and was sitting with the three stakeholders. A response to the report will eventually emerge but Mr Paul acknowledged that there was little more to report.

6.4. Queen's Jubilee Celebrations Update

Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that the Community Council was not leading on any of the events. There will be a Community Council stall promoting the CC plus other local activities at the event in the St Andrews Utd Football Ground on the Saturday. Volunteers are sought for the stall. Mr Paul also requested help in relation to the Jubilee Tea in the Lower College Hall, particularly in relation to the musical entertainment. This event is being led by St Andrews Churches with support from the CC.

6.5. Olympic Torch Relay

Mr Roberts updated the meeting about this event. He has the required volunteers to help marshall the event.

6.6. St Andrews Community Trust

Mr Paul gave an update on the awards made by the Trust. They had recently made awards to 10 applicants though there had been 19 applications. Some had been rejected and they were being told why by the Trust. Mr Paul said that rejected applications had included requests for funding to pay a salary, which is not something the Trust can do. A new Fife Council representative would also be required as Cllr Waterston is no longer a Councillor.

6.6. Reports from Representatives

6.7. Any Other Matters Arising

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Recreation Committee

Mrs Denyer spoke to her committee report, which had been emailed to members just before the meeting. See report online.

Mr Crichton also briefly explained to the meeting about the status of St Andrews War Memorial Committee and the management of any planting around it. St Andrews in Bloom had tried to assist but responsibility for any management will remain with the actual War Memorial Committee.

Mrs Denyer also announced that the St Andrews CC Garden awards will be the 20th September and there will be a Coffee Morning for the CC on the 6th October.

7.2. General Purposes

No meeting has been held in the past month

7.3. 200 Club

1st 58 Ms Z Smith 2nd 118 Dr J Mills 3rd 114 Prof C Blake

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

7.4.1. Seagull Problems

Mrs Corbin reported that there is to be seagull monitoring throughout the summer to try and see how best to manage the problem and determine whether it is tied into specific events such as lunchtime at Madras College when the pupils are around the town or if there are other determining factors.

8. New Business

8.1. STARLINK

Mr Roberts introduced the topic reminding members about the recent presentation of the consultants report on the possibility of a renewed rail link to St Andrews. Subsequently Ms Liston had contacted Mr Roberts asking if the Community Council could facilitate a consultation perhaps in conjunction with St Andrews Partnership. Her email recognised the need to consult with other major local organisations. The request was taken by Mr Roberts to a Planning Committee meeting, but it was subsequently decided to bring it to the full Community Council as there remain varying opinions about what role the Community Council could or should play in this situation.

Ms Liston explained the stages, which would have to take place following this initial report. There will have to be a record of consultation before the proposal can go to Transport Work Scotland, but that is still she admitted quite far down the line. She acknowledged the need to speak to a number of local organisations including the Community Council to gauge views. She also acknowledged that there would be refinements of any proposals as has already happened following the recent presentation. She thought that the involvement of the Community Council in the process of consulting local opinion lay well with the Community Council's statutory responsibilities.

Cllr Thomson asked why the report had cost so little for such a professional piece of work? Ms Liston replied that it was a special deal with Tata who were using the study as an example to demonstrate to other potential customers the work they could do. Cllr Thomson questioned whether the report was independent. Ms Liston replied that the report had been commissioned by Starlink and she added that Tata Steel were a very reputable company who she thought wouldn't associate themselves with any project which wasn't viable.

Miss Uprichard thought that the project should continue to be supported by the Community Council. She commented upon the enormous pressure on the historic town of increasing traffic, which frequently results in gridlock. She thought that a railway might relieve some of that pressure. Mr Roberts commented that there might be a counter argument to Miss Uprichard's views and he cited the example of Dalgety Bay, which has grown enormously, partly because of the good rail link to Edinburgh. He thought that there was a possibility that a rail link might make the western extension more likely. Mr Roberts continued and came back to the original request that the Community Council should facilitate or participate in the proposed consultation. Mr Roberts also quoted an example of a lack of consultation in the report relating to the possible closure of the junction at the Hungry Horse shop and its replacement with a footbridge and wondered if that had ever been a serious consideration? He felt that such an idea should have been discussed with Strathkiness Community Council at the time of the preparation of the report. Ms Liston replied that there had been no consultation because of the nature of the report. Cllr Thomson thought that all key stakeholders should have been consulted when the report was put together.

Ms Liston acknowledged that there would be difficulties in getting agreement and added that the report did include details about various compensations, which might have to be considered should the railway line go ahead. She reminded the meeting that the report was a concept and that there were now people to talk to about the proposals. She also added that the first priority in the report had been to find an optimal route and to determine whether the line might be viable. She felt that the report demonstrated that the route was possible and economically viable. The stage had now been reached when consultation would begin as required by the Transport and Work Scotland application and this process would allow the proposals to be refined. She felt that it would be extremely useful if the Community Council could support the consultation process.

Mr Roberts reminded Ms Liston that in her original email she had said that the consultation was to reduce the risk of legal challenge. He wondered if it was the Community Council's job to do that?

Cllr Thomson suggested that Ms Liston should publicise her report and the consultation process so that members of the public could send in comments/views. Ms Liston replied that the report is now in the public domain and can be downloaded from the Starlink web site. She wasn't certain about tying the consultation to dates. She has had some feedback already, much of which is positive.

Cllr McCartney and Miss Uprichard suggested that hard copies of the report should be made available in the local library/office. Dr Goudie said that it was essential to speak to and convince local organisations of the merit of the proposals with modifications as appropriate. He thought that the Community Council had demonstrated in recent years that it could work positively with other major local organisations.

Mr Paul suggested that there should be an arms length committee to take the idea forward. The committee would go out to speak with other interested organisations. He suggested co-opting Jane Ann to the committee. He also felt that it was important to put hard copies in the local office and library with funding from the 200 Club or whatever. Ms Liston was agreeable to the idea of the committee and wondered about St Andrews Partnership involvement as well? Mr Primmer said that he'd second Mr Paul's proposal. Mr Fraser suggested putting an advert in the paper about the report and a request for comments on the proposals. Ms Liston didn't think the proposals

were at that stage yet but acknowledged the eventual need. Mr Roberts asked for volunteers for the proposed committee. Mrs Corbin, Dr Goudie, Ms Uprichard and Mr O'Hare put their names forward for the committee. For more information look at the website – www.starlink-campaign.org.uk.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

No report – see comments elsewhere from Chair. Mr Roberts thanked Mr O'Hare for his contributions in the past year as Student president. Mr O'Hare replied that he had enjoyed working with the Community Council and respected the hard work of members in the past year for the community.

9.2. Treasurer

9.2.1. Treasurers Report

Mr Paul informed the meeting that th CC accounts for the past year had been approved by Fife council and he was awaiting the grant of £2400 for the coming year. He added that everything the CC was planning to do was fully funded and there would still be about £3000 as a reserve.

9.3 Secretary

9.3.1. Correspondence – see appendix A.

Mr Marks briefly mentioned the correspondence received.

10. Any Other Competent Business