

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Provisional Minutes – 30th April 2018

0. Members

Mr McLeod welcomed Ms Kimberley Braid, a new student rep who described herself as the town liaison.

1. Attendance

Community Councillors

Callum MacLeod, Ian Goudie, John Jardine, Penny Uprichard, Iain Munn, Greg Newman, Patrick Marks, Jamie McLeod, Penelope Fraser, Alistair Newton, Howard Greenwell, Izzy Corbin, Judith Harding, Neil Cunningham-Dobson

Students' Association Representatives

Morgan Morris

Lewis Wood

Kimberley Braid

Co-Opted

Emma Shay

Lindsey Adam

Fife Councillors

Jane Ann Liston, Brian Thomson, Ann Verner

Apologies – Dita Stanis-Traken, Niall Scott, Dominic Nolan, Gordon Shepherd

2. Minutes of Meeting – 2nd April 2018

Minutes agreed as a correct record. Cllr Thomson pointed out an error in the road name under 4.3.6. When he'd mentioned the planning application for the road at the previous meeting due to be determined at the next NE Fife Planning Committee.

Dr Goudie also pointed out under 5.1.7 an error about the nature of the comment in relation to the Craigtoun North proposed development.

3. Presentations

4. Fife Councillors.

4.1. Jane Ann Liston.

4.1.1. Marriage Registration in St Andrews

Cllr Liston reported that officials had indicated that they could bring back marriage registration to St Andrews but they won't. She reported that officials had come up with various excuses as to why they couldn't continue the service locally. Cllr Liston commented that she would continue to pursue the matter.

4.1.2. Bins – Pipeland Road.

Cllr Liston reported on problems with emptying communal bins in a pend in flats in Pipeland Road. She had reported the problem to Council officials to sort out.

4.1.3. Whyte-Melville Fountain

Cllr Liston that the fountain is to be switched on the 1st May.

4.1.4. Lost Streets of St Andrews

Cllr Liston reported that Mr Stanis-Trachen and herself had been researching the old street names of St Andrews, many of which have become lost to common knowledge and may no longer exist due to development. She gave some examples to the meeting of these old street names. She hoped that the old names could be recognised and signs placed to mark their location as appropriate.

4.1.5. Meeting with Head of Housing, Fife Council

Cllr Liston informed the meeting that she'd had a meeting earlier in the day with the Head of Housing to discuss various housing issues, especially the need for affordable housing.

4.1.6. Traffic Counts

Cllr Liston said that she'd been very interested to see where Fife Council had traffic counters as this gave statistical information about road use. It was no surprise to find that the A91 is the busiest road in North East Fife with a daily average of 13901 vehicles followed by Brownhills Junction with an average of 8074 vehicles daily.

4.1.7. St Andrews - Crail Cycleway Meeting

Cllr Liston said she'd attended this meeting with Cllr Thomson. She felt that the project is still in its early stages and was a bit vague in detail in her view. She added that Fife Council supported the idea but had no funds they could give towards the project and want to see a more robust case for the project. Cllr Liston said she'd be attending the Sustainable Transport Meeting on the 1st May with Councillor colleagues and hoped this would give her some interesting information on sustainable transport issues.

4.1.8. Bus Timetable Discrepancies @ Leuchars Station

Cllr Liston is to have a meeting with a senior official from SESTRANS at Leuchars Station to look at discrepancies in the transport information shown on the electronic boards at the station bus terminal compared to what is shown on the bus times provided by the National Rail information. She will report back to the meeting on this matter.

4.1.9. Bus Ticket Price Discrepancies

Mr Morgan Morris told Cllr Liston about the differences in bus prices he'd recently experienced, with a trip to Anstruther being more expensive than a much longer bus journey to Edinburgh and asked for her thoughts on the reason for the difference in prices. Cllr Liston in reply acknowledged Mr Morris's concern about the expensive Anstruther bus ticket price, but explained that Stagecoach operating the route could charge what they wished as it wasn't a route with a Fife Council subsidy. She added that she could mention this to the SESTRANS representative when she met him but wasn't certain if it would make much difference. Mr Newman commented on a confusing aspect of the bus signage at Leuchars due to the fact that the Stagecoach buses to Dundee operate in a loop and the signs apparently don't clearly reflect the direction of the buses. Cllr Liston said she'd mention it to the SESTRANS representative and would check it out herself.

4.1.10. Fishermen's Storage @ Harbour

Mr Jardine thanked Cllr Liston for her work in getting Fife Council to fix the problems previously mentioned in relation to these storage units.

4.1.11. Parking Meters

Mr Jardine had noticed that a parking meter he'd used appeared to be incorrect with regard to the time of issue by several minutes. He wondered if there might be others and suggested that someone should check the meter times to ensure they were correct? Cllr Liston agreed to get this checked.

4.1.12. Narrow End of Market Street

Mr Jardine reported that the street was in a bad state of repair with lots of cobbles coming up. He felt that the area needs some attention and added that a big part of the problem related to an increase in traffic despite the fact that the area was an access only road. He thought that there was a lot of illegal parking because of the presence of various fast food outlets. He thought that there should be a police presence but Cllr Thomson commented that he'd reported the situation to the police. However once the police were seen to be approaching the delivery drivers would rapidly leave the area making the police job very difficult.

4.1.12. Greyfriars Garden Update

Mr Munn asked for an update in relation to Greyfriars Garden. Cllr Thomson thought that any remaining issues didn't relate to planning but to the Scottish Government and the process they'd set up to facilitate such purchases under the legislation. Mr Greenwell was aware of the history of the project and who is involved. He added that the only obstacle to the sale to the new group set up to organise the purchase was the legal process and the time it might take once all the arguments for and against have been assessed. He was confident it would be sold to the group called Poets Neuk. Mr Newman added that the proposals for the conversion of the garden as detailed in the planning application would be subject to a vote by the nearby homeowners living within the boundaries of the area as specified under the legislation.

4.2. Dominic Nolan

apologies

4.3. Brian Thomson

4.3.1. Petheram Bridge Car Park - Electric Charging Point Fence

Cllr Thomson reported that the electric vehicle charging point fence, which no one wanted in this is to be removed. Apparently it has been vandalised recently.

4.3.2. Road Resurfacing Projects & Potholes

Cllr Thomson reported that several road resurfacing were in the offing. City Road is to begin 26th May, South Street from Church Street to Abbey Street starts 4th June, Pipeland Road north section 11th June, Nelson Street 11th June and A917 up to Brownhills will start fairly soon. Cllr Thomson also reported that the Council had filled 6000 potholes since the beginning of March all over Fife. Additionally Cllr Thomson said that there had been some public criticism of the expenditure on the traffic calming measures in Argyle Street car park. He explained that the money for this came from money allocated to the Council by the Scottish Government specifically for traffic calming not for potholes.

4.3.3. Second Homes Policy

Cllr Thomson noted that there had been some press coverage of Fife Councillors, especially in the East Neuk calling for a second homes policy. For clarification he informed the meeting that Fife council was seeking to introduce a second homes policy and briefly outlined the way this might take place if agreed. However as this is a major change it would not come into place until Fife Plan 2 and that is a number of years away. Mr Wood asked about the Second Homes Policy and Cllr Thomson explained the general principles of the policy.

4.3.4. Cycle Parking

Cllr Thomson reported that two proposals for Market Street had been approved last month and an amended proposal for West Port would come to the next Planning Committee. He had no date for the implementation of the decisions for Market Street but would keep the CC informed.

4.3.5. Commercial Bins

Cllr Thomson reported that discussions were ongoing. He had upped the ante with Cllrs Vettraino and Craik who were responsible for environment and transportation. The next step he said was to get all the professional operators together to try and thrash something out. He was pushing for something similar to the Edinburgh policy. Mr Greenwell wondered about

asking the Fife Council staff involved to visit again to speak to the CC to give an update on the resolution of this problem. Cllr Thomson thought this was a good idea as he felt he'd been struggling to get a proper response from those responsible. He suggested that it might be an idea to await the outcome of the meeting with the bins operators and then ask for officials to come to a meeting.

4.3.6. West Port Uplighters

Cllr Thomson reported that the West Port Uplighters were all working apart from one. He was awaiting an update on this final uplighter.

4.3.7. Pedestrianisation

Cllr Thomson said he'd raised the issue of Pedestrianisation through social media amongst other routes to try and gauge whether there might now be support for the idea. He reported that based on the email response these correspondents were slightly in favour, but those on social media were mostly against the idea. He was looking at the possibility of a feasibility study, which would entail a survey of businesses but emphasised that it was all at an early stage and wasn't being done as a Fife Council piece of work. Dr Goudie wasn't certain that the first thing to do was conduct a survey if it was clear that the traffic system wasn't working. He suggested a possible alternative approach to the issue. Cllr Thomson acknowledged that Fife Council didn't have any money to fund such a study/survey and was hoping to persuade someone to do it on a pro bono basis.

Some discussion also took place about parking, especially in Market Street, started by Mr Jardine. There was a view from a number of members that the current right-angled parking was more difficult and hazardous for drivers both entering and exiting the parking spaces. Miss Uprichard thought it was worth losing a couple of spaces to remove what she thought was a disastrous set up with the right-angled parking. She was supported in her suggestion that Fife Council should rethink the parking. Mr Roberts recollected that when there had been the discussions about Pedestrianisation several years previously the parking layout had been discussed. Fife Council pushed ahead with the right - angled parking, as it would give a couple of extra spaces and thus more income! Mr Roberts added that the main difficulty in accessing the parking at times in his view was the tendency of other road users parking on the north side of the street despite the fact that there were yellow lines. He felt that this abuse had to be addressed by enforcement authorities. Mr Greenwell thought that refuse and delivery vehicles should be banned after 9 am. On a related matter Mr McLeod asked why half of North Street was free parking? Mrs Harding thought that this might have been a concession to residents of the area that had no other place to park. Mr McLeod also asked about disabled car parking spaces no longer regularly used and whether the Council reviewed their use. Cllr Thomson said that there was no review as such and the Council tended to rely on other residents reporting whether a disabled parking space remained a necessity. Mr Greenwell commented that a disabled parking space was only official when it had a sign stating that fact.

4.3.8. Twenty MPH Zone Town Centre

Miss Adams asked the view of the meeting about making the central area a 20 mph zone. Mr Greenwell reminded the meeting that the CC had some years ago proposed that the whole central area should be such a zone. Cllr Thomson voiced his support but reported that officials were against the need to change the speed limit partly on the basis that most vehicles wouldn't be doing more than 20 mph and it would involve extra signage, which they didn't feel would be appropriate for the conservation area.

4.3.9. Lades Braes

Mr Marks asked for an update on the proposed work in the Lade Braes. Cllr Thomson replied that he'd sent an email the previous week asking for an update from Fife Council officials but still had to receive a reply. He reminded the meeting that the Council was supposed to apply for Sustrans funding to add to the budget for improvements in the Lade Braes. He had noted from a Facebook post about survey work and Mr Marks confirmed he'd seen and spoken to surveyors who were clearly collecting information for the work. Cllr Thomson had received advice that the work would be carried out in the summer.

4.3.10. Traffic Light timings

Miss Uprichard commented that she'd noticed timing issues with traffic lights in South Street and the way this was affecting traffic flow. She asked for Cllr Thomson's thoughts on this matter and whether he'd look into it. Cllr Thomson replied that he'd had advice from transportation officers that traffic lights, were the worst thing for holding traffic up and that Zebra Crossing were more flexible. He agreed to further look into the matter.

4.4. Ann Verner

4.4.1. Bus Stop – Bogward Road

Cllr Verner reported that this bus shelter, which had been vandalised, might be repaired in the near future as the application for the work has been forwarded for approval.

4.4.2. Graffiti – Castle Sands

Cllr Verner reported on graffiti on a wall by the Castle Sands and had taken action to get the graffiti cleaned up.

4.4.3. Litter– West Sands

Mr Marks mentioned that he had seen lots of broken glass on the road and pavements at part of the West Sands. He thought that this was a hazard needing urgent Council attention.

5. Planning Committee

5.1. Committee Reports

5.1.1. HMO Policy

Miss Uprichard reported that Dr Goudie had circulated a draft of the response to the HMO Report by CC Planning Committee response. She sought CC approval for the report so that it could be sent to the Fife Council Area Committee, which is to meet early, May. Cllr Liston commented that the report had already been written for the Area Committee with councillors expecting copies the 1st May. Miss Uprichard said she'd still send in the CC response for the Councillors to consider. Mr Lewis Wood outgoing Student Association President informed the meeting that the Student Association disagreed with any continuing restriction on HMOs, believing that it would distort the market outwith the conservation area and therefore wouldn't benefit potential homeowners. He added that students recognised the need for a diversity of residents within the town, but didn't think that continuing with a ban would address the matter. Mr McLeod suggested that the Student Association should put in a response to the official report due to be discussed on 9th May by Councillors if they wanted their voice to be heard clearly.

Mr Greenwell suggested to Mr Wood that it might be helpful in any debate if the Student Association could suggest what they thought were acceptable percentages for HMOs and family homes. Mr Greenwell in his view thought that Mr Wood's claim that the Student Association recognised the need for diversity in the community didn't add up if HMOs were not restricted. He reminded Mr Wood that at times in the winter the town centre was very quiet as 80% of those residing in the centre, mostly students were away. He wondered what might be considered a reasonable balance to help maintain a healthy diverse community. Mr Wood in reply said he had resided in the town for four years and was fully aware of the seasonal nature of the town centre. He still maintained that in his assessment the original moratorium on HMOs in the town centre had not worked hence the increasing pressure on the properties outside the conservation area and the knock on effect on house prices.

Mr Greenwell in reply said that if the HMO moratorium hadn't worked it was because it wasn't a good enough policy. He thought that the second homes policy would have a greater effect. He said that most major cities that have student populations don't allow more than 20% of properties on a street to be an HMO but in the town centre of St Andrews the percentage is much higher. He thought that the dynamic had changed a bit as more two bed roomed flats were being let and these didn't require to be registered as HMOs.

Mr McLeod asked Mr Wood what he meant about a negative impact. Mr Wood in his reply commented on the very high cost of privately rented flats/houses and the often-poor quality of the properties. Landlords know they can let properties, which are sub-standard because of the market demand from students desperate to find private rentals. He commented on a tactic by some landlords unable to get a property registered as an HMO locking off the extra rooms in a property and only letting out those they can rent without a property having to be an HMO. They know they can charge higher rents to students for such centrally based properties. Mr Wood felt that the moratorium had given rise to such situations and hadn't helped students any more than it had helped locals looking for affordable decent quality property to rent.

Mr McLeod said that he'd not heard of that particular tactic being employed by landlords. Mr Greenwell added that property owners were now converting larger properties into smaller units of two bedrooms and cited an ongoing example in town. Mrs Harding who lives in the conservation area confirmed that she'd noted that there had been a lot of applications to convert properties to make up two bedded flat units. She cited the planned conversion of the former police station to 16 two bedded flats as an example. She went on to comment on how the changes were affecting the local population balance stopping young families from being able to live locally with the knock on effect on other local services. There wasn't a balanced housing market for all sectors of the population which was why she felt that this unfairness needed to be addressed and wasn't intended to reflect any negative view of the student population. She thought that St Andrews must be the only University town that was small and had such a large burgeoning student population without very much attempt by the university to make provision for its increasing numbers. She was aware that the university was providing more beds but with the clear intention of the university to increase in size any current building of new accommodation would not resolve the problem in the community.

Mr Marks agreed with Mrs Harding's concerns and addressing Mr Wood he related the experience of a student friend struggling to find affordable accommodation in the town and the poor condition of some of the properties being offered at often extortionate rents. Mr Marks was also concerned that any new build student accommodation should charge prices affordable to students from less affluent backgrounds. He thought that the university needed to look at this issue urgently.

Miss Uprichard asked Mr Wood if he accepted that there was spare accommodation in the university residences? Mr Wood acknowledged that there was some spare accommodation.

Miss Uprichard also asked Mr Wood if he accepted the figure of 10000 for local residents? Mr Wood accepted that this was incorrect.

Ms Shay commented that the university was working hard to try and develop a sustainable housing solution for the town. She added that in the new accommodation being built they were trying to ensure that some of it was affordable for less affluent students. There is also financial support for students who need it. She claimed that St Andrews University was recognised as one of the best universities in the UK for the affordability of accommodation. She claimed that the moratorium had had an effect on the ability of students to have an acceptable place to live and cited some recent examples, which she claimed, were relevant to the argument. She concluded by saying that the university was trying to find a solution, which gave it affordable accommodation for students to allow them to have a safe and positive experience of the town. They were also conscious of the need to ensure that lower to middle income families could afford to come and live in the town. She added that one of the unintended consequences of the moratorium was that these families and the less affluent students were the groups being squeezed out of the market as the moratorium pushed students out of the town centre to areas outside the conservation zone.

Mrs Corbin commented upon the difficulty for young people like her own children in being able to afford to live in St Andrews because of the growth of the university and demand for accommodation which has not grown fast enough to meet these increases.

Mr Wood while sympathetic to these views still thought that the moratorium was not the way to resolve the problems with lack of affordable accommodation.

There was further discussion around the fact that there would continue to be an increase in the number of students to 10000 by 2021 and while the university was building more accommodation this would be mostly taken up by the additional students and wouldn't necessarily alleviate the pressure on private housing. Dr Goudie noted that the proportion of students to residents, which had at one time seen a local population of up to 15000, reduced to 8000 whilst student numbers in the same period of 15 years would rise from 5000 to 10000 more than the local population. He concluded by commenting that it shouldn't be surprising to the University if there wasn't a reaction to this situation from the remaining residents of the town. Dr Goudie commented that if the Northstar report option were taken it would do nothing to help that situation because by removing the moratorium in the central conservation area it would be likely that the number of properties occupied by students would continue to rise. The report was also suggesting a higher threshold for HMOs outwith the conservation area and he felt the report if implemented would only aggravate the problem. He acknowledged that stopping the current trend would be extremely difficult. He was not impressed by the overall quality of the report which he felt underplayed the gravity of the situation and the statistical data presented was poor in his opinion as a statistician. He cited an example of a claim in the report about the student population of a particular road, which Dr Goudie thought was silly and misleading.

If there was to be any common ground with the Students Association Dr Goudie thought it would be on questions such as the pricing of accommodation. He thought that there might also be common ground on the regulatory framework relating to HMOs as this excluded accommodation with less than three persons. He thought that the Scottish Government should be pressed to improve the regulatory framework to cover all students. He added that this would also help from a statistical point of view to be more clearly aware of what was going on in the rented sector. He thought that there were some areas in which the townsfolk and students could work together to try and improve the situation for all the resident population.

Mr McLeod wondered given the very high price of student accommodation offered by the university whether the university should be subsidising the cost of some of its accommodation to encourage students to remain rather than move for financial reasons to the private sector?

Mr Wood in reply acknowledged that university accommodation could be very expensive though he thought he could understand why in some of the newer residences, which would have ensuite facilities. He went on to explain the feelings of students about the way the moratorium was affecting the ability of students to get affordable and good quality accommodation and if the moratorium was extended this would add to the difficulty for students.

Mrs Harding whilst she accepted that Mr Wood had to speak for the student community she felt she was speaking for the other part of the community who perhaps were less articulate or who couldn't afford to live in town and either had to commute to St Andrews or find work elsewhere. She thought that if students were to get work locally after their degree was completed they might more clearly recognise the difficulties in affording accommodation.

Mr Wood acknowledged that there were a lot of students who didn't live in St Andrews because of either cost and /or quality. He still felt that the HMO Moratorium was having an effect on the housing market both on students and anyone seeking to buy in the town.

Mr McLeod asked Miss Uprichard what the corporate response of the CC to the HMO report should be following discussion by the Planning Committee of Dr Goudie's paper? Mr Newman proposed that the meeting should move to a vote. The proposal being that Dr Goudie's paper should represent the views of the CC on the HMO situation to go to Fife Councillors who will be deciding upon it at their next Area meeting. Mr Wood asked that the vote should note that none of the students supported the CC paper on HMOs. Mr Greenwell seconded Mr Newman's motion.

Mr Wood proposed an amendment to include a clear indication of the student opposition to the CC support for the ongoing moratorium. Mr Morris seconded him. This was voted on but only the student representatives voted in favour. The original proposal was then voted on and

the outcome was a clear vote in favour of Dr Goudie's letter unamended in response to the HMO Report with only the students voting against.

5.1.2. St Andrews West

Miss Uprichard reported on the proposal by the CC to send in detailed comments objecting to certain aspects of the St Andrews West. Mr McLeod confirmed that Dr Goudie's paper and an illustration would be submitted to Fife Council Planning. Miss Uprichard was keen to have the words "general comments" taken out of the submission. After further discussion between Miss Uprichard and Mr McLeod on the nature of the submission, Mr McLeod suggested that if Miss Uprichard wished to write an clarify the nature of the documentation sent to Fife Planning to ensure it was clearly identified as an objection not just a comment, she could do so before the deadline. He reminded Miss Uprichard that Dr Goudie's paper was already part of the objection. Dr Goudie supported Miss Uprichard's request that the words "general comments" should be taken out of the submission to Fife Council.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. Town Signage Proposal Update

Mr Greenwell said he'd put together a business plan and was going to get a number of funding applications out before he went on vacation. He was hoping to rise between £11-13000 for the project. Mr Greenwell distributed his thoughts about the signs in the form of mock-ups he'd made. Mr McLeod asked if there was an option on the border colour? Mr Greenwell confirmed that this would be possible. The graphic he'd put together mirrored the colour on existing signs but he said it could be altered. Mr McLeod thought that royal blue would be preferable in his view. Mr Munn commented on the differing views of certain committee members. Mr Greenwell acknowledged that there had been some differences but he thought that the majority of committee members wanted a simple sign with the name of the Royal Burgh and the town crest. Another suggestion by Dr Shepherd but discarded by the whole Community Council had been to have a saltire background to the signs. Mr Munn wondered what would stop any dissenting committee member seeking funding to get signs they liked put up? Mr Greenwell replied that the majority of the committee wouldn't give approval. Mr Roberts was concerned that unless there was consensus within the group the project could be doomed to failure. Mr Roberts suggested that Mr Munn's suggestion to ask a professional designer seemed worth pursuing. Mr McLeod summarised the situation and asked Mr Greenwell what was the next step in the project? Mr Greenwell listed the work needing done to progress the project from applying for funding to speaking to Fife Council Transportation Services who had the authority to approve the proposed signs.

Mr Greenwell also gave an update on the Co-ordination with the Loches Alliance, as requested by Ms Adam. Further, given the emails from Dr Shepherd, Mr Greenwell also reminded the meeting about the defined procedure that must be followed by to review a previous decision of the Community Council.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Recreation Committee

Mr Jardine started by reporting that the committee had decided that Coffee Mornings would start at 10 am. He reported that the recent Coffee morning takings were £71.80 about £3 less than the cost of hiring the Supper Room! He wondered about the future and in his own view he felt that Coffee Mornings were outdated and he couldn't see the purpose of the CC having them. Only the attendance of CC members made it less a financial disaster. He was however willing to listen to suggestions from CC members if they might improve the public response. Mr Morgan Morris suggested that he could try to get student societies to become involved if that might help improve attendance. Mr Jardine acknowledged that they had to look at all avenues if the event was to survive. Mr McLeod asked members to give thought to ways to encourage attendance and to inform Mr Jardine of their ideas. Mr Jardine thought that part of

the problem with the CC Coffee Mornings related to the nature of the organisation compared to other groups in that they had people keen to support them to do fundraising but the CC didn't have the same set up to attract people and wasn't using the event to raise funds.

Mr Jardine announced that the Putting Competition he hoped would be in June. In relation to the Gardening Competition, Mr Jardine said that Mrs Corbin would run that event.

Finally Mr Jardine commented upon the planned project to refurbish and modernise the bandstand. He acknowledged that it was going to be a drawn out project for various reasons. In the short term Mr Roberts is to purchase a speaker system for the bandmaster at the concerts to have the ability to announce the music being played to the public. Mr Roberts reminded the meeting that there were 7 concerts booked in July and August and he'd be happy to hear from members willing to attend and help raise funds at the concerts apart from setting up the chairs etc and supplying coffee, tea and juice for band members at the interval. There are also two additional bands playing at other times coming from Germany and Luxemburg.

7.2. GP Meeting

No meeting

7.3. 200 Club

No draw.

7.4. Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Mrs Corbin commented on the situation with this committee, which has lost most of its active members, and her appeal for new members has only had one CC member respond to date.

Mr McLeod announced plans by Willie Rennie to have a meeting about the plans to shut out of hours support at the Community Hospital, date to be confirmed. Miss Uprichard thought that the CC writes to the NHS Board to express the concern of the CC about this decision. Mr Marks was asked to write this letter. Mr Wood said that the Student Association would totally support such a letter. Mr Marks agreed to write the letter.

7.5. Rail Committee

No report

8. New Business

9. Reports from Office Bearers

9.1. Chair

Mr McLeod gave his report to the meeting. On 3rd April he'd had a meeting with Jerry Beaulier about the beach wheelchairs and the Changing Places Project. He had also attended several Holy Trinity Action Group committees meeting in the past month. He reported that the group was looking at a major clearance of clutter from the church and architectural changes to make the church more useable by other groups or organisations. The group is looking at the long-term viability of the building when it might be transferred to a Trust.

He attended the Pride March on the 7th April and participated in the Kate Kennedy Procession as the character George Buchanan on 14th April. On 17th April he attended the Student Give Back Awards on 19th April where students were honoured for their charitable work.

9.2. Treasurer

No report this meeting

9.3. Membership Secretary

No business

9.4. Secretary

See agenda for emails/letters received - comments welcomed.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1. Student Voter Registration

Mr Wood advised the meeting that the Student Association was promoting voter registration partly to help students feel more at home in the community.

Mr Morris detailed some work being done by himself and colleagues in the area of community relations which will feed into the new academic year and help new students by providing them with information in booklet form on how to settle into the new community into which they have arrived. He also briefly commented upon their plans for involvement with community events around St Andrews Day for which they are in discussion with BID etc.