

Minutes

Monday, 6 January 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Ordinary Meeting to be held in the Supper Room, St Andrews Town Hall

0 MEMBERSHIP

1 SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

1.1 **The following Community Councillors attended:** Chris Hilton, Neil Cunningham Dobson, Eva Groeneveld, Mike Reid, Patrick Marks, Marion Mason, Carol Scambler, Gina Wilson, Judith Harding, Penelope Fraser, Martin Passmore, David Murray, Callum Macleod

1.2 **The following Fife Councillors attended:** Al Clark, Jane Ann Liston, Robin Lawson

1.3 **The following Nominated Members attended:** none

1.4 **The following guests/temporary representatives attended:** Sandy Mitchell, Christine Randall-Klee and Lawrie Watson from St Andrews Links Trust

1.5 **Apologies were received from:** Lesley Caldwell, David Strachan, Gordon Shepherd, Greg Newman, Michael Veitch, John Docherty.

2 POLICE SCOTLAND

2.1 Report from Police Scotland - circulated on 02 10 2025

3 FIFE COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

3.1 Councillor Jane Ann Liston – Councillors attended a presentation within Fife Council on short term lets, and the slides have been shared. Cllr Liston has been pursuing options for a Strathkinness cycle route with Area committee chair, Johnny Tepp. There will be a meeting to discuss progress on this long-awaited proposal. Previously, the onus was always on the landowner to propose a way forward, and nothing was done. Cllr Liston is now pushing the council to consider other options such as Compulsory Purchase of land to make way for a path. At least, clarity on the strategy is needed. Cllr Liston also mentioned a motion was passed at council about the reduced ticket office hours at Leuchars station. The newest street name in St Andrews will be Tom Kidd as that was the only suggestion in the mix. Gina Wilson asked whether Donald McGregor was in the mix, Judith Harding asked about Bill Sangster and Bert Dawson was also mentioned for consideration next time. Some discussion ensued about what length of time needed to pass between the passing of an individual and their suggestion as a street name. For Blue Plaques, 25 years must pass.

3.2 Councillor Ann Verner – not present, report circulated

3.3 Councillor Robin Lawson – Cllr Lawson noted that enforcement was very poor in the town. He also mentioned that there was concern about the length of time it took for the 20mph signage to be installed. Judith Harding asked Cllr Lawson about short term lets regulation. Cllr Clark noted that it was Council officers' view that St Andrews didn't meet the threshold for regulation of short term lets, but suggested a review of the boundary definition could make it apply – perhaps St A and Strathkinness, or even including Tayport. Cllrs are looking into possibilities. Cllr Lawson, not in favour of a short term let control zone, suggested that the housing problem was more complicated, and exacerbated by the HMO restrictions and the lack of affordable housing. He reminded that there will be 40 houses of mid market rent in the St Andrews West development. Judith Harding asked whether Fife Council was enforcing the 30% rule of new developments being affordable. It was noted that this rule didn't apply to housing for students or to the elderly, both of which apply to St Andrews developments.

- 3.4 Councillor Al Clark – Cllr Clark mentioned that the lease of the Visit Scotland building on Market Street was up for renewal (a Fife Council owned building). He asked the community council for its views on whether it should be recommended that the building be used for the delivery of Fife Council services, as this has disappeared from the town. He also proposed that if the building were to be re-let commercially, then perhaps the rent could go into the Common Good Fund, despite Council officers already stating it wasn't possible to add new assets to the Common Good Register. Eva Groeneveld asked whether there was an obvious community need that the Visit Scotland building suited. If Fife Council services should have an in-person presence in St Andrews, is the property on Market Street the best option, and not others (eg Victory Memorial Hall or Town Hall). Are there community groups needing a building in town? Cllr Lawson mentioned that the council offices in Cupar suffer low vacancy rates, so are vulnerable to closure in the years to come. This makes the need for a presence in St Andrews greater. The discussion concluded by agreeing that the community council didn't want Fife Council to dispose of the property, that it wanted to know what the Council's plans were for the building, ask again whether there was any scope to link the building to the Common Good assets, and if there were any plans to return Council service delivery to the town.

4 DRAFT MINUTES

- 4.1 Draft minutes of the ordinary Monthly Meeting held on Monday 9 December 2024 approved, proposed by Martin Passmore, seconded by Neil Cunningham Dobson.

5 MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 Comon Good land and East Bents - Martin Passmore emailed Fife Council Head of Planning, no response received, will pursue. Cllr Clark offered to follow up.
- 5.2 Spar Notice Board – Callum Macleod (deferred to next meeting).
- 5.3 South Street Notice Board – Penelope Fraser still need to get quotes from locksmith to make half the board lockable for exclusive RBSTACC use. Defer to next meeting
- 5.4 Banners & other publicity material for RBSTACC – Penelope Fraser (deferred to next meeting following discussion on communications/website refresh)
- 5.5 Dog Fouling – Eva Groeneveld highlighted the response from Fife Countryside and Coast Trust about dogs on beaches and dog fouling. Sounded complicated to get a dog-free zone as featured in the LPP.
- 5.6 Out of hours survey – Penelope Fraser thanked people for completing and sharing the survey (and for manning the stall at Morrisons), which showed the strength of community feeling.

6 LOCAL PLACE PLAN - Actions

- 6.1 Update on community newsletter now aka The Voice - Chris Hilton set out the proposal that the Voice (an online community magazine) be taken forward independently by Sandy Mitchell. Also that the RBSTACC redesign its own website to make it more fit for purpose for community engagement and more aligned with the vision and themes set out in the LPP. The redesign would allow for more functionality, more interaction with the public on real-time issues in the town. It would also entail a switch to WordPress in order to enable multiple logins to share/lighten the admin burden and more integration with social media channels. On The Voice, Sandy made clear that this would be a project not owned or managed by the RBSTACC, but would be a good way to bring the different parts of the community together (including RBSTACC) in one place, to fulfil the ambition of the LPP to facilitate better communication between stakeholders of the town. Chris Hilton and the working group presented a business proposal outlining a spend of £2-6000 initial costing to revamp the website, followed by an annual cost of £1-2000 per year upkeep. More accurate costings can be worked out, but Chris Hilton requested some help was needed from others, particularly if, as David Murray suggested, this was his area of expertise. A sitemap of the proposed new website was shared. Eva Groeneveld and Neil Cunningham Dobson welcomed the proposal, saying that the RBSTACC needed to improve its community engagement on real-time issues and bring forward new ways to communicate what it does with residents. David Murray and Callum Macleod both set out their opposition. The latter principally for the lack of precision in the costings and the lack of confidence the RBSTACC could generate the content through lack of volunteer contributors, and the latter principally on the basis that the change was not necessary, the current website was already functional as it was.

A vote was held on whether to proceed with a new website using the costings set out in the business proposal as a starting point (proposed by Judith Harding and Chris Hilton, seconded

by Neil Cunningham Dobson. The vote was passed with 2 against. A second vote was held (proposed by Neil Cunningham Dobson, seconded by Carol Sambler) on whether to support Sandy Mitchell to continue his The Voice proposal, which passed.

7 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

7.1 Student Representative Councillors – none present

7.2 University Representative – Lesley Caldwell – report circulated

7.3 Christine Randall-Klee, new community engagement officer and Lawrie Watson, director of engagement at St Andrews Links Trust (SALT) spoke about its new plans for the Trust to engage the local community (also non-golfers in the town). Lawrie explained the explosion in golf participation that the organisation has seen since 2020 and what steps they were taking in terms of future planning. He explained about the Golf Access Group, the difficulty in planning the tee sheets to accommodate visitors, students and locals. Callum Macleod asked about how many resident ticket holders there were (700 – not including students), and noted that this was a very small proportion of the town's population. It was noted that lots of people in the town did not know enough about SALT, the West Sands Ranger Service being one example, where locals did not know this was funded by SALT.

8 FINANCE UPDATE

David Murray highlighted his Treasurer's report previously circulated and presented the ongoing issue of not getting access both this year's and previous year's Fife Council allocation for community councils because we still could not provide sufficient evidence of control the bank account.

Chris Hilton was also belatedly awarded his certificate for the Highest Score for Community Councillors in the 2024 Putting Competition.

The meeting ceased early (21.30) as time ran out. Remaining matters to be taken forward in the next meeting.