



Minutes
of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council
held in the Burgh Chambers, St. Andrews Town Hall
Monday 1 June 2026 at 7.00pm

Members are respectfully reminded of the requirement to declare an interest in accordance with section 9.8 of the Fife Council Community Council Scheme.

Members are also respectfully asked to raise outstanding matters with Fife Councillors in advance of the meeting where possible.

Martin Passmore (Chair) welcomed everyone.

O. Membership and Declarations

A declaration of interest was made by Martin Passmore in respect of the Park Education Trust and the Priory Gardens planning application.

No further declarations were made.

1. Sederunt and apologies

1.1 The following Councillors attended:

Martin Passmore, Alison Stephenson, Neil Cunningham Dobson, Sandy Mitchell, Judith Harding, Callum MacLeod, Marion Mason, Carol Scambler, David Strachan, Annie Wishart, Patrick Marks

1.2 The following Fife Councillors attended:

Cllr Robin Lawson, Cllr Al Clark, Cllr Ann Liston

1.3. The following guests/temporary representatives attended:

David Middleton

1.4. Apologies were received from:

Penelope Fraser, Greg Newman, Mike Reid, izzy Corbin, Fergal Cochrane

2. Draft Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday **11 May 2026** were approved as a correct record.

Proposed: Marion Mason

Seconded: Judith Harding

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Strategic Plan for Parking

An update is awaited from Fife Council about when a parking review will take place in St Andrews.

Action: Fife Councillors to report back with timelines and updates.

3.2 Coat of Arms

Deferred.

3.3 Buildouts

A poor response has been received to previous correspondence that did not address any of our concerns. A further letter highlighting this has been sent. There is an ongoing disagreement within the council about how the pavements and buildouts should be used.

Action: Martin Passmore to follow up.

3.4 Competitions

Concern was expressed regarding lack of coordination and the need for speed.

Actions:

- Sandy Mitchell to seek volunteers.
- Community Engagement Committee to allocate responsibilities and confirm programme.

3.5 Madras College Engagement

Positive engagement noted with help from Cllr Lawson and an opportunity to recruit student members. A visit would be welcome. Annie and Alison volunteered to accompany Martin.

Actions:

- Chair to arrange visit to Madras College with interested Community Councillors.

4. Fife Councillors Business

4.1 Councillor Robin Lawson – report circulated.

He, and subsequent discussion, informed the meeting that;

- Roads and Transport responded re the calculation used to decide against charging businesses for pavement space. They assigned £200 per business per annum against Edinburgh Council who charge £260 per square metre in the historic area. Not discussed.
- Damaged railings at Molly Malones to be made good over a year late and the roundabout at Abbey Street 18 months after initial report
- Proposal to replace the two Fife planning committees with a single Fife-wide committee has been placed before the Finance Scrutiny Committee. Strong concerns expressed regarding
 - Loss of local representation
 - weakened community influence
 - a negative affect on decisions specific to St Andrews
 - a risk to the heritage of St Andrews.

Evidence presented shows that Northeast Fife Planning Committee is more effective in challenging officer recommendation and would be weakened if this joining were to happen

It was agreed that this is detrimental to the local democracy and to oppose the proposal, request proper consultation and raise awareness within the wider community.

David Middleton was invited to speak in support of continuing to have Northeast Fife Planning Committee separate to the rest of Fife.

UPDATE – this proposal was deferred by the Convener and will be referred back to a Working Group.

Actions:

- Chair to write to urgently to the Chief Executive, Ken Gourlay outlining concerns
- Members encouraged to contact councillors and MSP including a request for proper consultation.
- Ward Meeting on 27th May attended by Head of Housing. Discussion about the lack of Affordable Housing in St Andrews. Fife council received £750,000 for 3 properties in Market street and is buying a house in partial replacement.
- Tour of the Botanic Gardens with ideas for development and funding.
- Former Bowling club at Kinburn subject of discussion for Community Asset Transfer
- Still pursuing supply of video conferencing facilities for town hall.

4.2 Councillor Al Clark reported the following:

- Motion put forward to ensure sale of Fife council properties should be assessed for the provision of affordable housing, but withdrawn due to an assertion that the zoning only happens once and isn't an ongoing issue. This should go through a Scrutiny Committee, so will remain on the agenda.
- Concern that the Scotsman Group are operating a short-term let at Kilrymont without the necessary licence. Planners believed one wasn't necessary, but as it is an entire building they agree this may be subject to review.
- Hepburn Gardens has been repaired, but still awaiting a date on Doubledykes Road. BEAR Scotland (an alliance of three organisations who, provide trunk road network management and maintenance solutions to Transport Scotland) suggest a 5-year warranty should be in place, but Fife Council only agree a one-year warranties, which they believe is sufficient.
- East Sand Leisure Centre – rumour that the £6 million allocated is being withdrawn for other Fife projects is untrue
- Craigtoun Park AGM 17th June
- BID breakfast event 9th June regarding next month's ballot
- Community Trust – Requested someone from the Links Trust to come to a Community Council meeting and provide information and reasoning behind the intended changes.

Action: Arrange for members of Links Trust to attend Community Council Meeting.

Subsequent discussion about the problems with traffic using the West Port in the wrong direction, partially due to street closures. Concerns about the danger of this situation and whether it would be possible to have additional signage or reverse the direction of flow temporarily or possibly permanently. Previous surveys concluded no additional signage necessary. Emails welcomed when this is witnessed detailing date, time and type of vehicle. General discussion about the lack of coordination on street closures.

4.3 Councillor Jane Ann Liston – report discussed

- Kilrymont Affordable housing. An officer claimed that it would be difficult to tie in a requirement to provide affordable housing, but that is what we want so it doesn't happen again.

- West Sands cycle racks. Links hoping to put more in and are in discussion with Fife Council.
- City status – would be good if the Community council could send the submission to the First Minister in time for achieving city status before The Open.
- Scottish Borders council have decided to stop funding for lighting of areas that are not Council property. This could have implication for St Andrews Cathedral lighting.
- Scan of original Coat of Arms shown and probably originals in possession of Community Council.
- Kinnessburn flooding report postponed past the deadline, so no funding to protect 128 properties at risk. Have to start again.

Subsequent discussion about the Lammas Market suddenly being asked to pay for the loss of parking spaces. The Lammas Market normally give a donation of £12,000 to the common good fund, but this donation will now have to be used to pay the parking charge. In previous years Fife Council have helped itself to £7,000 from the Northeast Fife parking budget to pay for this. Strong concern that this is in direct conflict with the refusal to charge for loss of spaces on the buildouts.

4.4 Councillor Ann Verner – circulated but no discussion

- Investigating damaged perimeter fence at Tom Morris Drive football ball following concerns from parents.
- Following the increasing problem of abandoned shopping trolleys, an App “Trolley wise” can be installed very simply enabling these trolleys to be collected and not end up in landfill.
- Trying to find a solution to the excess rubbish volumes at the end of University term.

5. Police Scotland

As Police Scotland will now only be issuing a quarterly report due to resource constraints it was asked when this would start. There is a need to explore other communication mechanisms with Police Scotland. Cllr Liston will find out when report will start.

6. Reports from Representatives

6.1 Student Representatives. – no information

6.2 St. Andrews University – Lesley Caldwell – Report circulated.

6.3 BID Representative. - Georgia Heggie. – Report circulated.

6.4 SALT Representative - Christine Randall-Klee - Report circulated.

6.5 Representatives on other Bodies; none

7. Community Trust

Significant tension and lack of clarity regarding:

- Lack of communication from Chair of Community Trust
- Absence of overdue AGM/EGM
- Closure of Trust bank account

- Governance and transparency issues
- Confusion over agreements with Links Trust

Separate ongoing discussions and negotiations with St Andrews Links Trust described as constructive.

Actions:

- Cllr Clark, Neil and Sandy to negotiate a timetable of meetings.
- Cllr Clark to arrange for representatives to attend Community Council meeting as at 4.2 above

8. Social Media and Communication

8.1 Motion passed to “Standardise all communication using official RBStACC email addresses.”

Vote: 7 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

8.2 There is a need for shared responsibility for the website with several administrators, currently Sandy, Neil and Alison.

8.3 Facebook page need access permissions adjusted.

Action: Callum will look into this.

9. Extra Special Meeting

Agreed:

- to hold a meeting prior to July meeting to approve audited accounts.
- To reschedule AGM to June from 2027

10. Business Proposals

The treasurer confirmed that there are sufficient monies available to fund the following business proposals, if agreed:

10.1 Castle Sands Tidal Pool – donation of £1000 in addition to the £350 already paid from revenue at Scottish Evening. Proposed by Marion Mason, seconded by Alison Stephenson.

Approved (8 in favour, 1 abstention)

10.2 Bandstand Concerts – funding of £3,190 for 7 bandstand concerts (3,150) and refreshments (£40) noting an increase in cost from £400 to £450 per concert, but reduction in number of concert from 8 to 7. Proposed by David Strachan, seconded by Marion Mason.

Approved (unanimous). Members are encouraged to support these concerts, hopefully managing to attend at least 2 each.

11. Committee Business

11.1 Planning and Licensing Committee – covered during earlier discussions.

11.2 Community Engagement and Wellbeing Committee – paper circulated at meeting, but discussion deferred due to time constraints and the opportunity to read the report.

11.3 Transport Committee – Transport Convenor not in attendance.

11.4 Common Good Committee

11.4.1 No report

11.4.2 Comments sent for the 2 application considered at the last meeting

11.4.3 the proposed visit to Glenrothes storage facility is supported

Action: Chair will arrange the visit

12. Office bearers' business

12.1 Chair– Nothing to Report

12.2 Secretary – Nothing to Report

12.3 Treasurer. Marion Mason. A clear and concise report circulated.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Hidden Gardens event on 28th June and volunteers requested.

13.2 The environmental project on Gull Waste Management was introduced and the announcement that a £7,000 grant had been secured from NatureScot. Documentation circulated.

Martin Passmore (Chair) thanked everyone for their input and attendance.

14 Next Meeting **on Monday 6th July 2026 at 7.00**

Items for the agenda of the next RBSTACC meeting in July 2026:

- Affordable housing, short term lets and student accommodation
- Community Trust update
- Community Engagement and Wellbeing Committee

Summary of Key Actions:

3.1	Timelines and updates on parking review	Fife Councillors
3.3	Buildout letter follow-up	Martin Passmore
3.4	Programme of competitions and volunteers list	Sandy Mitchell
3.5	Visit to Madras College with other members	Martin Passmore
4.1	Urgent letter re planning committees to Chief Exec	Martin Passmore
4.1	Members encouraged to contact councillors and MSP	All
4.2	Arrange Links Trust members to attend CC meeting	Cllr Al Clark
7	Negotiate a timetable of separate meetings with Links trust	Cllr Clark, Sandy Mitchell, Neil Cunningham Dobson
8.3	Facebook page permissions issues	Callum MacLeod
11.4.3	Arrange visit to Glenrothes storage facility	Martin Passmore