

The Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council



Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall at 7 pm on Monday 7th September 2026

MINUTES

0 Membership

- 0.1 the resignation from the Council of Mr Martin Passmore as of 27th July 2026 was noted – the Convenor will write to Mr Passmore to convey the Council's appreciation of his willingness to serve.
- 0.2 the resignation from the Council of Mr Greg Newman as of 11th August 2026 was noted – the Convenor will write to Mr Newman to convey the Council's appreciation of his willingness to serve.
- 0.3 the automatic termination of the membership of Ms Carol Scambler as of 25th August 2026 was noted – Carol is no longer on the Electoral Register.
- 0.4 the resignation from the Council of Mrs Alison Stephenson as of 31st August 2026 was noted – the Convenor will write to Mrs Stephenson to convey the Council's appreciation of her willingness to serve.
- 0.5 Members noted with concern that 7 of our 20 Council seats are currently vacant.
- 0.6 it was noted that 1 of the 3 Student Representative Council seats is vacant pending the submission of an Acceptance of Office form.
- 0.7 Members agreed to admit Ms Carol Scambler as an Associate Member until the 2027 AGM so that she can continue the work she is doing for the Council on various Working Groups and projects such as the Shoolbraids Playpark project and the LPP.

1 Sederunt

1.1 Present:

Community Councillors Callum MacLeod (in the chair), Isabel Corbin, Marion Mason, Neil Dobson, Sandy Mitchell, Ian Muir, Mike Reid, David Strachan and Annie Wishart

Student Representative Community Councillors Amy Elvins and Robert Moran

Fife Councillors Al Clark and Jane Ann Liston

1.2 Apologies for absence – Community Councillors Penelope Fraser and Judith Harding, Student Representative Community Councillor Lucy Stevenson and Fife Councillor Robin Lawson

1.3 Not present – Community Councillors Fergal Cochrane and Patrick Marks; Fife Councillor Ann Verner

1.4 Declarations of Interest – none was made

2 Police Scotland Business - not in attendance and no Report submitted

3 Congratulatory Motions – the following motions were made and accepted:

3.1 BID in the name of Marion Mason – Appendix 1

3.2 Shoolbraids Playpark Action Group in the name of Neil Dobson – Appendix 2

3.3 City of St Andrews Pipe Band in the name of Marion Mason – Appendix 3

The Convenor will write to these organisations accordingly.

4 Minutes of previous Meetings

4.1 the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 6th July 2026 were approved with one addition to Item 12.

4.2 it was noted that the Ordinary Meeting of Monday 10th August 2026 had been cancelled by the then Acting Chair. Mrs Corbin was asked to give a full explanation of why this had been done, something which Office Bearers and Members had not been consulted on (particularly in relation to the references in her emails to “pending legal advice” and “complaints which had been received”) and did not agree with.

(Further details may be found in the Principal Minutes of the Meeting, available on application to the Convenor.)

4.3 the Draft Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Wednesday 26th August 2026 were approved.

5 Matters Arising

5.1 2026 St Andrew’s Day Civic Reception

Marion Mason updated the Meeting on the proposed arrangements for the 2026 St Andrew’s Day Civic Reception – Sunday 29th November 2026 – Beating Retreat by the City of St Andrews Pipe Band in Church Square at 6.30 pm – Private Reception for invited representatives of town organisations with refreshments, guest speaker and presentation of prizes etc at 7 pm in the H&M Aisle of Holy Trinity Church at 7 pm – the Mayor of Loches & her party will attend – a Working Group was formed consisting of the Council Convenor (who will host the Reception), Marion Mason, Amy Elvins, David Strachan, Annie Wishart, Sandy Mitchell and Neil Dobson.

5.2 Youth Representation on the Council

It was agreed that the Convenor would renew contact with the Rector of Madras College with a view to exploring the possibility of one or two pupils of the school joining the Council as Youth Members (in yearly rotation with St Leonard's School).

5.3 Facebook permissions and Instagram update

Marion Mason reported that permissions for managing and editing our Facebook and Instagram pages had been updated in the light of recent changes; that our Facebook followers had recently passed through the 2.5k mark in number; and that there had been more than 12.5k views of our Putting Competition post alone.

5.4 Banking Services Survey - Penelope Fraser - deferred

6 Fife Councillors' Business

6.1 Councillor Robin Lawson – in his absence, Cllr Lawson's written Report, previously circulated, was noted.

6.2 Councillor Jane Ann Liston

6.2.1 Flyposting and banner displays, both illegal practices, continue to be an ongoing issue eg in St Mary's Place Car Park. Cllr Liston herself had removed several examples of inappropriate displays with her bare hands. Banners which appear on Fife Council property eg in the Morrisons area can be reported to Fife Council Transportation Department.

6.2.2 Rabbit holes are causing a safety problem for participants in sports at Station Park.

6.2.3 Large commercial bins are causing problems for pedestrians at the Bruce Embankment

6.2.4 City status – Cllr Liston is keen to promote this, especially if it can be done before the 2027 Open, but the initiative must come from the Community Council. Fife Council supports the idea in principle. Cllr Liston will circulate documentation relating to the last submission which was made, prior to the Council considering whether the idea should be pursued.

6.3 Councillor Al Clark

6.3.1 Cllr Clark reiterated that displaying banners is not permitted and noted that one establishment had been using copyright material belonging to another organisation without permission.

6.3.2 Council officials will review the not very helpful and confusing renaming by developers of Craigtoun North Business Park as Craigtoun Park.

6.3.3 Drain clearing, light repairs and tree trimming in South Street is scheduled for imminent attention.

6.3.4 BID St Andrews had been successful in securing another 5 year term, with 91 votes in favour and 24 against.

6.3.5 Cllr Clark reported that he was confident that rumours that the Post Office would be closing were not correct, St Andrews being a strategically important branch. Neil

Dobson wondered if long-term the former Bank of Scotland building could be a Post Office/banking hub.

6.3.6 Fife Council was seeing an alarming rise in property issues, with ongoing homelessness and some regrettable instances of domestic violence. The cost of Fife Council buying properties in St Andrews for social housing remains prohibitive.

6.3.7 “Breathing Spaces” are being introduced in Fife eg at Craigtoun Park

6.3.8 Fife Council is being proactive in dealing with some concerning behaviour issues in neighbouring Strathkinness.

6.4 Councillor Ann Verner – in her absence, Cllr Verner’s written Report, previously circulated, was noted.

7 Student Councillors’ Business

7.1 It was noted that the new academic year had begun, with students old and new arriving, many in the company of their parents with a consequent benefit to the area’s economy. Freshers’ Week is in full swing, with events and activities taking place. A Customer Safety Team is in place, with advice being given out about noise, bike lights etc.

7.2 “The Red Gown” has opened and is already proving popular with students, townsfolk, visitors and families.

7.3 Freshers Fayre took place over two days, with 170 societies offering students a wide choice of opportunities for participation.

8 Communications from Other Bodies

8.1 University of St Andrews - Lesley Caldwell’s Report was noted.

9 Reports from Community Council Representatives on Other Bodies

9.1 St Andrews-Loches Alliance Committee – it was agreed that Mike Reid would represent the Community Council on this Committee – the Convenor will inform its Chair Mrs Joyce Duncan

9.2 St Andrews Community Trust – Annie Wishart reported that she is awaiting contact from the Chair of the Trust.

10 St Andrews Community Trust

10.1 Community Council Nominated Member Report – the Convenor reported that he had still not had further communication from Mr David Murray, nor had the long-overdue AGM been called. He will write to Mr Murray summarising his disappointment and longer-term concerns.

11 Business Proposals

11.1 IT provision – Sandy Mitchell & Neil Dobson – discussion was deferred until a report with more background information was ready.

12 Applications to the Common Good Fund

12.1 St Andrews Harbour Trust – it was agreed to support the Application in principle, up to the amount of the requested £13.4k.

13 Committee Business

Planning & Licensing

13.1 The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 13th June 2026 were noted.

13.2 Convenor's Report – Mrs Judith Harding – previously circulated and noted.

13.3 South Street buildouts – concern was expressed at a number of points during the Meeting that consultation on and information about the most recent developments in relation to the buildouts was inadequate or confusing. The plan favoured by Transportation rather than that of Planning now seems to be the one being taken forward. Work is phased to begin on 12th October 2026. Members had many unanswered questions and observations eg the 2m rule should be observed; the distinction between buildouts and simple outside seating areas is important; will existing premises have to reapply for permissions previously granted; how will it all be managed etc? Cllr Clark reminded Members that actual Planning Permission itself had been granted some time ago and consultation, whether or not it was considered adequate, had taken place. Cllr Clark invited Members to submit any questions or points to him.

13.4 Links Crossing – after discussion, and on the motion of David Strachan, it was firmly and unanimously agreed that the Community Council resolutely opposes any change to the current position in relation to Granny Clark's Wynd as it crosses the 18th and 1st fairways of the Old Course and that the status quo as it affects access should be maintained.

Community Engagement & Wellbeing

13.3 It was noted that the Committee had still not met; the Council Convenor will bring forward a proposal for reshaping the Committee to a future Council Meeting.

13.5 Report on the 2026 Bandstand Concerts – deferred

Transport

13.5 It was noted that the Committee had not met and so no Minutes existed.

13.6 Convenor's Report – Mr Fergal Cochrane - deferred

St Andrews Common Good

13.7 It was noted that the Committee had not met and so no Minutes existed.

13.8 The Council Convenor will call a Meeting of the Committee in due course.

14 Office Bearers' Business

Council Convenor

14.1 Remembrance Sunday – 8th November 2026 – the Convenor described for new Members our role on the day and said he would arrange a walkthrough in Holy Trinity Church in advance.

14.2 It was agreed that the January 2027 Ordinary Meeting would take place on Monday 11th.

14.3 It was agreed that the May 2027 Ordinary Meeting would take place on Monday 3rd in a venue other than the Town Hall.

14.4 Members agreed to Mr MacLeod's request that he be known as Convenor or, when clarity was required, Council Convenor as a gender neutral term.

Council Vice-Convenor – not present

Secretary & Treasurer

14.5 The Treasurer Marion Mason gave a combined Report for August 2026 and September 2026 – we hold £9k in our main account, the lowest figure for a long time. The Treasurer will liaise with David Strachan about the Bandstand Account. Our IT provider had had to be changed at very short notice resulting in a charge of around £500.

14.6 Asset List – this is under review and an annual visual check of all our physical assets will be put in place.

14.7 Bank Account Signatories – a revision and update has taken place – our current signatories are the Convenor, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer (Annie Wishart), Penelope Fraser & Patrick Marks.

14.8 Annual Grant from Fife Council – our Application is now in.

15 Any Other Competent Business

15.1 – Draft Constitution, Standing Orders & Policies – Neil Dobson will circulate these for comment.

15.2 – The List of Committee Members and Representatives on Outside Bodies which the Convenor had circulated was noted, with a request to intimate any errors, amendments or additions.

16 Time & Date of next Ordinary Meeting - 7 pm on Monday 5th October 2026

Appendix 1 – Congratulatory Motion – BID – that the Council note with appreciation the successful renewal ballot securing a third five-year term (2026 – 2031) for BID St Andrews, acknowledging the organisation's ongoing work in Clean & Green services, town centre events, marketing, business support and public realm improvements, and offer its formal congratulations.

Appendix 2 – Congratulatory Motion – Shoolbraids Park Project – that the Council congratulate the Shoolbraids Park Project Committee on the strong early progress of the project, including productive discussions with Fife Council's Parks Department, extensive community engagement and the establishment of office bearers to lead the next phase of development and fundraising in line with the Community Action Plan.

Appendix 3 – Congratulatory Motion – City of St Andrews Pipe Band – that the Council formally record its congratulations to the City of St Andrews Pipe Band on recently achieving 2nd place in Grade 4A and being named Champion of Champions for piping and drumming at the World Pipe Band Championships at Glasgow Green, continuing a hugely successful season with further results including Dollar 1st, British 3rd, Lochore 1st, European 1st and Scottish 1st.