



## FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in Room RB3, Town Hall, at 7pm

### **Members Present**

Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Forbes Watson (FMW) Vice Chair, Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Sandy Crawford (SC), Peter McCall (PMcC), Phil Martin (PM), Liz Martin (LM), Eileen Munro (EM), Frank Ward (FW), Judith Hood (JH).

### **In Attendance**

Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, PC Duncan MacPheat (PCDM), PC Ashleigh Allison (PCAA), Derek McCabe (DMcC), Martin Dowey (MD), Siobhian Brown (SB),

### **Public**

Kirsty Darwent (KD), Frances Brown (FB), Alan Mackay (AM), Angela McNay (AMcN), Angi Pinkerton (AP), Andrew Crawford (AC).

### **Welcome**

Norman welcomed all to the last meeting before the summer recess. He noted that recently retired councillor, Bill Grant, has been elected MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock. NM offered congratulations to Bill and wished him every success in his new role. NM also welcomed the new councillors and members of the public.

### 1. **Apologies**

Dympna Gardiner

### 2. **Introduction of New Councillors**

Siobhian Brown (SNP), Derek McCabe (Cons.) and Martin Dowey (Cons.) introduced themselves. PMcC enquired about the fourth new councillor. MD advised that Lee Lyons will attend the September meeting.

### 3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

May minutes reviewed and accepted.

### 4. **Matters Arising**

The yellow lines that were painted on the County Building steps were swiftly removed. PM confirmed that the planning request for three houses in Auchendoon Crescent has gone to appeal. NM advised that the reporter plans to visit the site on his own. NM and PM will monitor this during the summer recess.

### 5. **Police Business**

Crime Statistics for May 2017, with comparable figures for May 2016:

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>May 2017</b>	<b>May 2016</b>
Housebreaking	3	4
Theft of motor vehicle	4	4
Drug offences	6	9
Assaults	13	17
Breach of peace/Abusive behaviour	13	19
Drink/ disqualified driving	1	0

PCDM presented the following report:

- The overall picture in respect of reported crime is a positive one. Drugs offences, assaults and breaches of the peace have all reduced slightly on the same period last year. The detection rate remains high with regard to these crime types.
- Housebreakings in the Ayr West ward have reduced slightly for the same period last year. Vehicle crime has remained the same with four reported this past month. Residents should remain vigilant during the lighter summer months, as we have seen sheds broken into with gardening equipment being targeted. The detection rates for these crimes remain quite low and anyone seen acting suspiciously should be reported to police immediately.
- Drink driving increased slightly and officers will continue high visibility patrols for road traffic crimes.
- A request was made at some of the Community Council meetings for crime comparison with North and East Ayrshire for specific crime levels, but it is very difficult to find similar ward or localities to meaningfully compare. In general, crime levels are lower in South Ayrshire than elsewhere.

In an emergency, always dial 999.

For non-urgent crime, you can contact your local police office by telephoning 101.

FMW asked if it was correct that there had been house break-ins in Arrol Drive area. PCs DM & AA had no detail on the house breaking crimes, but if correct, they would report back and keep an extra eye on that area. AM asked whether there were any convictions in the town for use of mobile phone while driving, as he frequently witnesses this activity. The PCs were not aware of any in the last few months. DMcC enquired whether there are community police officers dedicated to the town area. PCDM advised there are specific officers allocated to the High Street, possibly four at the moment, and potentially increasing with the new locality response team in October. LM enquired about a recent incident of vandalism at Belleisle. The PCs did not have details, but NM advised there were some broken windows. OS noted that security lighting has now been installed to enhance the security cameras. AM enquired about issues of anti-social behaviour on the beach. PCDM said that Ayr Safe Shore Watch kicks in at this time of year, to monitor weather forecasts and social media to see if large groups are expected, officers are then allocated accordingly. AM spoke of large mobs with alcohol that seem to be attracted to the harbour area by Churchill Tower in good weather. PCDM advised calling 999 to report all such activity. MD asked the police about the policy for travellers, with specific regard to the mess they leave behind. He would like to see prosecutions. PCDM advised that information on travellers is passed to the sergeant who forwards it to the councillors. You cannot prosecute for litter unless the offence is actually witnessed. CC spoke of historic issues with travellers in Cromwell Road car park. Barriers were installed to deter them from there and other major areas, such as Greenan car park. They tend to appear sporadically in Blackburn Road car park. Group discussion noted that they are currently in Doonholm Road. Legislation offers some protection for the travellers to settle for set periods of time. PCDM will feedback concerns and request additional monitoring.

## 6. **Public Business**

Angi Pinkerton introduced herself as the new Community Builder for Wallacetown.

Alan Mackay spoke about the decline of the area along South Harbour Street and round towards the Horizon Hotel, where about 600 people live in the flats. He requested that the Council should make some investment in the area, to clean it up, especially with regard to where sand collects and blocks paths, preventing prams and wheelchairs to pass. MD said he would speak to the relevant departments. KD suggested setting up a residents association. PMcC enquired about the maram grass that is growing at the north end of the beach. The grass may help to prevent the blowing of sand, but it is spreading further along the beach and is collecting a lot of litter, which the tractors can't pick up. The councillors undertook to determine what the policy is regarding the grass. MH asked about the policy regarding the seaweed zones with regard to the insects that live in it. NM suggested an ecology report is required.

Andrew Crawford requested that the councillors clarify the parking charge for public car parks in the town. The machines used to provide a 24-hour ticket, but now when a 24-hour ticket is purchased, it is issued with an end time of midnight rather than a full 24 hours from time of purchase. This is misleading and is annoying for visitors to the town. DMcC will contact Ayrshire Roads Alliance on this matter.

## 7. **Ayr Town Centre Renaissance and Belleisle Park**

Demolition continues along the riverside development. SB advised that there is no update available, but the first board meeting will be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June. NM and all members look forward to hearing an update from the new councillors, hopefully in September.

RE: Belleisle, OS distributed brochures and reported on a meeting she attended today with Tom Foster, the secretary of Ayrshire Golf Trust, proposing the creation of a Golf Performance Academy at Belleisle

Park. MD advised that the councillors were also briefed on the proposal. DMcC understands the proposal has come from a feasibility study, 'Sustainability of golf in South Ayrshire.' There will be a full consultation process. A brief discussion was held raising possible issues of safety, finance, environment and impact on other amenities in the location, particular the football pitches on the old racecourse. NM advised that a public consultation is to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30-8pm at Belleisle Clubhouse, and he urged all to attend. FMW suggested the proposal be discussed fully in September to formulate a stance for FSWCC. All agreed.

8. **Councillors' Business and Matters Arising**

SB, DMcC and MD each gave a brief summary of their first month in office. All agreed it has been a whirlwind of training with lots to learn regarding legalities and logistics. They have been determining who will sit on various panels and committees, whilst already dealing with lots of issues raised by constituents. Committees don't sit over the summer recess, however the councillors will be available over the summer and should be well bedded in by September's meeting, which the fourth councillor will also attend. KD suggested that it may not always be the best use of time for three councillors from one party to attend every CC meeting, however it would be useful for CC members to know their individual portfolios. MD and DMcC said that they will provide that information for the next meeting.

9. **Planning Control**

PM advised there are no new planning requests to note.

OS commented on a poorly positioned advertisement board at the crossroads of Seafield Road and Racecourse Road. PM was aware of this and has spoken to the shop owners to suggest it be moved. PM attended a meeting of LAST (Low green and Ayr Seafront Trust). The lease for the putting green will not be reissued, and LAST are endeavouring to get the area back into good condition. DM suggested this is an opportunity to look at improving the whole area, to encourage visitors to the seafront.

10. **Reports**

FMW reported on the meeting of the Friends of Seafield House, held on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Unfortunately the developer did not attend the meeting. There has been no planning application yet, but there is a proposal for 10 apartments for the house, plus 15 houses with huge gardens. Some residents from Arrol Drive raised concerns about the condition of the boundary wall. FMW will write to the council requesting clarification of who is liable for repairs to it.

MH reported that 500 listeners have attended the organ recitals already this season; this year's programme includes international organists. Season tickets are now available for the 31<sup>st</sup> season of Ayr Concert Series. NM praised MH for arranging the organ recitals and the concert series; Michael's hard work and organisational skills are to be commended.

11. **Correspondence**

Nil

12. **Financial Report**

MH advised the account is currently £165 in the red, awaiting the new allowance for this period. He also advised that the recent bid for funds for the organ recitals was successful. Ayr South and Coylton Locality Planning Group awarded £1000 to the event after an imaginative 3-minute pitch, which included 1.5 mins of organ playing.

13. **AOCB**

NM invited Angela McNay to introduce herself, and she gave a comprehensive talk on her background and her plans for 'Unity Grill,' Ayr's first social restaurant. Unity Grill will operate as a business, but with 100% of profits directed towards countering food poverty and social isolation. Those who can't afford to pay can opt to volunteer. She pitched for funding from the Ayr South and Coylton Locality Planning Group and was awarded £4600. Other money has come from government funding, crowd funding and the bank. NM thanked AMcN for the wonderful job she is doing, and wished her great success.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm**  
Room RB3 Ayr Town Hall