



## FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Room RB3, Ayr Town Hall, at 7pm.

### **Members Present**

Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Forbes Watson (FW) Vice Chair, Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Sandy Crawford (SC), Phil Martin (PM), Liz Martin (LM), Judith Hood (JH). Dympna Gardiner (DG), Eileen Munro (EM).

### **In Attendance**

Cllr. Bill Grant (WG), Cllr. Allan Dorans (AD), Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, PC Connor, PC McGeechan, Catherine Hunter (Ayr Advertiser).

### **Public**

Chic Brodie, Siobhan Brown, David Connolly, Andy Donnell.

### 1. **Apologies**

Peter McColl (PM), Frank Ward (FW), Yolanda McCall (YM), Cllr Kirsty Darwent (KW).

### **Welcome**

Three prospective candidates for election to serve on South Ayrshire Council spoke of their motivation and aspirations:

### 2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

February minutes accepted.

### **Changes to Previous Minutes**

None.

### 3. **Matters Arising**

None.

### 4. **Public Business**

None

### 5. **Police Business**

See attached detailed CC Report for Ayr West.

CC raised an issue from a local resident – Garden items stolen in Fort area.

OS raised neighbour complaints about a boat parked for more than 3 months in Racecourse View – police will take a look.

EM raised traffic issue in Doonfoot Road – parking on both sides is causing obstruction to traffic – there is a bus stop, children alighting from parked cars.

6. **Ayr Town Centre Renaissance, Riverside Development Site and Belleisle**

AD advised the Regulatory Panel met on the 21<sup>st</sup> February and approved planning permission for demolition to proceed. Boarding has been put up and a 'soft strip' of buildings commenced. Asbestos is present and special contractors are dealing with this. Demolition is proceeding and artefacts will be displayed if anything is found from archaeological digs on site.

Former Clydesdale Bank Winton Building will be a three phase construction starting with first and second floor offices, and may be open with ground floor market for Christmas.

AD said that Ayr THI ends 31<sup>st</sup> March, having spent £3M. It had restored three of four buildings in New Bridge Street and dispersed funds to 14 smaller projects, including a grant to Dansarena for roof repairs. It is engaged in planning a heritage trail which is to be launched at the end of the month taking in public art and seven talking benches – one for each century with sounds and local accents from people talking about those days. Funding came from the Coastal Communities Fund. Tamfest is expanding this year.

Belleisle update – no change to last month's report except the new deer have arrived. Fencing has been reinforced and vet visits are regular. Sundial quotes are being sought. Community Payback Team have been pruning brambles in Belleisle.

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

WG reported on changes to town centre shopping because of internet, whilst hotels tend to locate at edge of town, so models changing and realigning not declining, Ayr has the best Racecourse north of Carlisle, Scottish Airshow and other events to be proud of to attract locals and visitors.

WG reported on school openings and visits within South Ayrshire – Ayr Academy will open in August. Ayr Port Authority may invest in the dry dock boat 'Watchful' which is in need of repair.

The Hub cycle base has opened at Ayr Railway Station. A New shop and a new Deli have opened at the top of town. Due to retirement Lyall's the Jewellers is closing after a long association with Newmarket Street. The Taxi rank at Smith Street has been temporarily moved for 6 months due to congestion and the new location has been welcomed.

Concern was raised about idling taxis causing pollution – there is a taxi by-law that allows taxis to idle as they are a mobile place of business and engine is allowed to run for heating reasons (passengers and driver). Complaints of congestion caused by cars parking on pavements at the Citadel is being addressed.

New retro signage is being installed around town centre and tourist areas.

Ayr Gaiety was receiving £100,000 from Council, which was £50,000 lower than in the previous 5 years, Council urging the theatre to become more self sustaining. Council had decreased its grant to the Scottish Airshow from £200,000 to £120,000, but these grants were for one year only, and a new Council could have different priorities. Ayr Flower Show has unfortunately been disbanded. The Septembayr Festival was folding as it had run its course.

The Cycle track at Holmston Road has been reinstated, and the Greenan Cycle Path has now been completed and praised.

Discussion about litter picking in Citadel area – adequately covered by bins.

NM reported that Robin Ghosh gave an interesting talk at the Kyle and Carrick Civic Society AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> March in Loudoun Hall about his vision for Ayr Station Hotel. Discussion took place which included the rail side which is in disrepair because of damage to stone caused by water ingress and *Buddleja* shrubs growing. Network Rail and SAC have been involved in instigating repairs to roof and building work. NM suggested that Network Rail should review the way they are dealing with the issue in order to make the repair work more feasible. CC stated that offer of litter pick and graffiti removal had been rejected by Network Rail. Concern was raised that the station could be closed if masonry started falling. It was proposed that the Community Council would write to Network Rail. Vegetation on the Railway Bridge across the river was a further concern.

WG said that he had been offered a 6' 10" Bluthner grand piano dating from 1900, which is available to a good home in a public location.

8. **Planning Control**

PM reported demolition applications in Kyle Street and in Fort Street, also application for three houses in Auchendoon Crescent which FSWCC has already objected to.

9. **Reports**

None.

10. **Financial Report**

Treasurer reported that after paying administrative costs for the year, there was sufficient to donate modest sums to three local charities. The three chosen: Salvation Army, The Ayr Ark and Belleisle Conservatory Ltd. Balance £55 after allocating money for Independent Examiner's 'audit'.

11. **Correspondence**

OS advised that two posters had been received for publicising regarding the forthcoming South Ayrshire Council election.

Scottish Ambulance Service launch Registration to Resuscitation and have asked FSWCC to identify community places that Public Access Defibrillators are held. Ayr Town Hall ( Council Chamber ante room ) is the location. A photograph is on our website and registration for the Day of Action on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March is complete.

12. **AOCB**

Following last month's Wallacetown report, PM said there were improvements happening in the area with a litter pick in George Street. Home external wall insulation projects are in progress and are welcomed.

NM has been appointed to represent FSWCC on the Energy Agency Board.

MH reported that application to ScotRail Cultural and Arts Fund towards organ concerts had been unsuccessful as, 'on this occasion, other applications demonstrated a greater fit with the fund priorities'. It was planned to commence the ninth series of Monday lunchtime 12 noon organ concerts on Monday 3 April to 27 November, admission £3. The April Concerts will be held at St Columba and Holy Trinity Churches (see separate notices) Organists from Belgium, Germany, Italy, England and Scotland have agreed to play in Ayr Town Hall.

MH reported support from South Ayrshire Sustainability Partnership for the FSWCC suggestion of locating an interpretation panel to assist in identifying birds seen from Ayr Esplanade. Other locations throughout the local authority area were under consideration, together with funding sources and support from other groups. WG said that there is a helpful illustrated sign at Longhill Point, Greenan Car Park.

MH reminded the meeting that the 92<sup>nd</sup> Ayrshire Music Festival was taking place this week and next. And that the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra will be playing in Ayr Town Hall on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March with Sir James McMillan CBE conducting,

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm**  
Room RB3 Ayr Town Hall