



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 14 November 2018 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings at 7.00pm.

Present Sandy Crawford,(SC) Dympna Gardiner, (DG), Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Elizabeth Martin,(LM) Phil Martin,(PM) Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Angi Pinkerton (AP), David Petrie (DP), Robert Singer (RS), Denise Somerville (DS), Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Forbes Watson (FW) Vice Chair.

In Attendance Mark Baker (MB), Chris Campbell (CC), PC Geraldine Cannell (PCGC), PC Liz Hunter (PCLH), Cllr Lee Lyons (LL), Pippa Smith (Ayrshire Post), Reg Stewart (Public).

1 Apologies Cllr Siobhian Brown, Cllr Martin Dowey, Cllr Derek McCabe, Eileen Munro, Frank Ward, Judith Hood.

Welcome The Chairman welcomed two visitors: Mark Baker, Service Lead Performance and Planning with Community Council and Locality Planning Liaison; and Lianne Hackett, Ayr Deserves Better. The Chairman said with regret that Peter McCall and Yolanda McCall had resigned on health grounds and would be invited to attend the Seasonal Dinner on Tuesday 8 January 2019 as our guests in appreciation of all they had contributed to the work of the Community Council over the years. It is confirmed that Denise Thomson is the Co-opted Member for Wallacetown Sub ward.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of 10 October 2018 approved after incorporating two amendments as follows: page 1 - Cllr Brown apologies; page 2 para 5 – second sentence to be replaced by ‘At least 12 councillors were known to oppose any change of use of Ayr Common Good Fund land at the Old Racecourse.’

3 Police Business Crime in Ayr West October 2018 & 2017 figures for comparison:

| Crime Type | Offences October 2018 | Offences October 2017 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Housebreaking | 5 | 8 |
| Theft MV | 2 | 2 |
| Drugs Offences | 8 | 5 |
| Assaults | 15 | 11 |
| Breach of the Peace | 15 | 10 |
| Drunk/Disqualified Driving | 0 | 0 |

Housebreakings have decreased significantly on the same period last year. Car crime was static during this period. Residents are reminded to be highly vigilant regarding home security and leaving items visible in their cars and ensuring central locking systems are engaged correctly.

Assaults and Breach of the Peace figures were up on the previous year. Anyone seen acting suspiciously should be reported to the Police immediately. Drink Driving detection remained static as officers continue to hold both covert and high visibility patrols for road traffic crimes.

Ward Priorities

1. Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour
2. Road Safety
3. Drug Dealing and Drug Misuse
4. Housebreaking and Dishonesty

In an emergency, dial 999.

For non-urgent crime, dial 101.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ayrshirepolice

Email: AyrWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

4 Matters Arising

FreshAyr Robert Singer, whilst expressing disappointment over negotiations with SAC, gave members an optimistic update on progress towards opening premises at 3 Cathcart Street and temporary space at 18-20 Sandgate as he had negotiated a favourable letting agreement. He also hoped to be able to use 14 Sandgate as a pay-time café studio. Within 2 – 3 weeks he was planning a public meeting at Café Nova to ascertain the needs of artists. Business Gateway had been helpful. The underground car park project had stalled meantime, likely as a result of lack of communication between departments.

Mark Baker introduced himself as newly appointed Service Lead Performance and Planning with Community Council and Locality Planning Liaison. He was keen to visit all 28 community councils and 6 locality planning groups to get a feel for community priorities and concerns. He was aiming to update the blue SAC Community Council Handbook and put it out for consultation in the New Year, e.g. lower voting age to 16. He offered some guidance on the publication of Minutes as, whilst they could be shared internally, he said they require to be approved before release to the public. The Chairman outlined the appropriate procedure to be followed by us would be via ‘virtual reality’ internal approval as next meeting approval nowadays was unrealistic.

5 Ayr Deserves Better Lianne Hackett of Ayr Deserves Better apologised that her colleague Patrick Lorimer was delayed in Glasgow. She outlined the background to the independent group Ayr Deserves Better, which developed from the considerable opposition to the SAC Planning Application for council offices of an inappropriate design on the Riverside Site at Ayr High Street. A first meeting had been held by invitation after the core had met with SAC Leader Douglas Campbell. The first meeting passed a Motion that supported action to conserve the iconic Ayr Station Hotel and positive development of Ayr Town Centre. There was to be an SAC consultation in Ayr Town Hall on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 November, though no advertisement had yet been seen. The Chairman hoped that it would be a call for community engagement rather than a consultation exercise.

Belleisle House Hotel The Chairman said that SAC had agreed to buy back Belleisle House Hotel.

Proposed Ayr Golf Academy The Chairman called for support for Friends of Belleisle objection to development of a proposed Ayr Golf Academy encroaching on The Old Racecourse, site of eight junior tournament football pitches which are regularly used. In their online consultation, 82% lodged opposition and 18% voted in favour. Alloway and Doonfoot Community Council meeting the previous week had confirmed its opposition to the proposal for two new holes on the Old Racecourse football playing fields, as has Fort Seafield and Wallacetoun Community Council. The Chairman said that it would require the permission of the Sheriff Court. Mark Baker thought that as it was proposed to remain in leisure use that it would not need to be referred to the Sheriff however this view was challenged from the Chair. The meeting was informed that Cllr Connelly, who is Chairman of the Ayrshire Golf Trust, was behind the proposal and keen for it to go ahead. The

meeting thought he really would need to declare his interest and not take part in any planning determination. It had been more than regrettable that the brief did not specify that the importance of the Old Racecourse playing fields be acknowledged by not encroaching on such a sensitive site. Perhaps the proposed Golf Driving Range proposal at Heathfield could be considered as a collaboration. The business plan was eagerly awaited to examine its sustainability as public money was involved. LM asked what was the public benefit and would Ayr Common Good Fund benefit?

RS reminded the meeting that the site of the former Newtonhead School was to be retained for education purposes.

The Chairman reported that former MSP Chic Brodie was trying to broker a new Malasian buyer's proposal for the Ayr Station Hotel to continue a hotel use. It was good to note that the line to Maybole, Girvan and Stranraer was now reopened.

6 Councillor's Business Cllr Lyons brought to notice Adverse Childhood Experiences. As a carer, he was aware that the police are changing their approach to children and he recommended an invitation be extended to an appropriate officer to address a future meeting. This was agreed. He was asked when the Former Clydesdale Bank building was to be opened. He said that it had now been identified as a possible venue for Council offices. There was to be a ground level market. He thought there was no live application at the Kyle Centre.

7 Planning Control Consideration of relocating swimming from the Citadel to Arran Mall was awaited with interest. The hope was expressed that the listed gatepost and railings removed from the former Ayr Academy were in safe storage for re-instatement.

8 Reports There was none.

9 Correspondence There was none.

10 Financial Report £440 available for administration.

11 Public Business There was none.

12 AOCB It was time to consider the annual Best Dressed Christmas Window in Ayr Town Centre. The Chairman said he would be in touch with Ayr & Prestwick Lions Club, the Rotary Club of Ayr and Ayr Guildry as well as arranging for the trophies.

Procurement CC brought to attention that there were a few local businesses that were willing to offer support in kind to local community councils, e.g. notice boards; litter pickers and sacks; bulbs, plants and equipment, etc.

Saturday 1 December – Sale of Christmas goods and raffle arranged for Belleisle Conservatory Ltd by students from Belmont Academy as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 December – Wildwood Festival, Rozelle Park.

Over 1,600 people have attended the weekly organ concerts in Ayr Town Hall so far, with two more concerts to come.

Christmas with the BBC SSO concert conducted by Gavin Sutherland with Clare Teal, jazz vocalist, on Thursday 20 December 94% sold. *New Year Gala Concert* by the SCO on Friday 4 January 42% sold. Tickets available from Ayr Gaiety Box Office, Tel: 01292 288 235.

12 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 12 December 2018 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings, 7.00pm.