

## **FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at 7.00pm at Room RB3 Town Hall, Ayr.

### **Members Present**

Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Forbes Watson (FMW) Vice Chair, Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Eileen Munro (EM), Sandy Crawford (SC), Frank Ward (FW), Dympna Gardiner (DG), Judith Paterson (JP), David Petrie (DP), Robert Singer (RS).

**In Attendance** PC Geraldine Cannell (PCGC), PC Jamie Cree (PCJC), Cllr. Martin Dowey (MD), Cllr. Derek McCabe (DM), Kenny Dalrymple, SAC (KD) and John Morrison, SAC (JM). Angi Pinkerton (AP)

**Public** Chic Brodie (CB), Paul Mansbacher (PM).

**Minutes Secretary** Eileen Munro.

**Welcome** Norman McLean, Chair, welcomed all to the meeting.

**1. Apologies** Peter McCall, Yolanda McCall, Phil Martin, Liz Martin & Chris Campbell.

**2. Minutes of last Meeting** September Minutes were reviewed and accepted. Proposer: MH, Seconder: FMW.

**3. Matters Arising** None.

**4. Police Business:** see police report "Policing in Ayrshire" October 2018 for CC Ayr West.

The new Locality Policing Plan has been rolled out. The Police are open to becoming more involved with Community Councils by working together. This month's report has been broken down to give more detail on crime. EM asked if in future housebreaking could be divided into private and commercial sections. All crimes except for Motor Vehicles were down on the same period in 2017. MD suggested that crimes spiked during large events such as Ayr Gold Cup and The Air Show. Following a report in the Ayrshire Post PCJC was asked if sexual assaults and rape crimes were on the increase but he considered that the historical reporting of such crimes by celebrities has encouraged more women to report such offences. Locally females were said to be reluctant to use underpasses but PCJC reported that the camera systems in the underpasses and the town centre have been upgraded making these area safer.

RS asked if Wallacetown is a dumping ground for prisoners who had been released and if there was any support in place for them. MD said that initiatives should be led from the Scottish Govt. down. Currently there is support from the Salvation Army, Churches and organisations such as "Care & Share". FWM reminded the meeting that following Mark

Wason's Neighbourhood Watch communication a sub-committee of FS&W was suggested at the September meeting. MH commented that Ayr West crime figures were modest compared to other Ayrshire area.

**5. Public Business** An informative talk by KD (SAC Service Manager) aided by JM on the new uplift arrangements. An analysis was carried out by SAC 2015-2016. The reason for change is that biodegradable waste will no longer be accepted in landfill sites. SAC is one of 26 councils to sign up to the Charter (Zero Waste). The additional bins required by households to further recycle waste which can then be processed and sold have already been put into operation in some parts of S Ayrshire and will be in all areas by March 2019. New commercial bins will have locks to combat vandalism. The only funding available to SAC is the £2.4 million grant to implement the scheme to fund bins etc. Any bespoke problems regarding bin storage, size will be discussed by a visit. MH asked how education on recycling types would be given. Information regarding the usage of each bin will be distributed to all users.

#### **6. Ayr Town Centre, Belleisle Hotel and Station Hotel.**

FMW has had no response from SAC regarding his letter in the Ayrshire Post expressing concern at the proposed winding down of Ayr Town Centre Renaissance and the vacant site at the foot of the High Street. MD reported there was a meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October when the administration took the decision to go a different route, disbanding ATCR as they think they can do things quicker. This may lead to liabilities such as Capital Gains Tax etc. NM considered the disbandment to be a pity as four of the best brains are now gone and quoted the document "Our people our Place". The meeting was in agreement that the loss of an independent body was not in the interest of Ayr and that the Council seem to be guilty of discarding the ATCR regarding the High Street site as the Council plan to build Council Offices had been rejected.

MD reported that buying Belleisle Hotel had been discussed by SAC but this cannot be discussed. Another meeting with the owner and SAC has been scheduled. In reply to the comment that there is too much secrecy he agreed that we should have open democracy.

The proposed Golf Academy at Belleisle plans neither have the backing of Friends of Belleisle nor FSWCCC. The 12 Conservative Councillors will not support any change of use of Common Good Ground. Proposals will go to Council's next meeting. The Heathfield project with Driving Range, Shop etc has been put on hold by the Applicants until the Golf Academy's future is decided.

The Station Hotel is much improved by the removal of vegetation. NM reported that the stonemason found the stonework to be sound when renovating the front. It is understood that the cost of the scaffolding is to be taken up by Scottish Government. All agencies are under pressure to have the station up and running and it will reopen when the building is considered safe. Meantime it was suggested and agreed that the project should be imaged on the scaffolding screen.

CB has had three meetings with the new owner who is a successful businessman with diverse companies. He is very keen to reopen the Station Hotel and is not considering any other use of the building.

RS reported that he had a meeting with the Council when he gave the same presentation of the Wallacetown Project as he had given to this Community Council. He was asked for a Business Plan which he considered premature. FreshAyr now has 2 connecting buildings (one on the corner of the Sandgate and Cathcart Street and the other in Cathcart Street) which will be operational as a bakery producing bread by January. A canvassing day is to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with a “walk round Wallacetown” to promote interest in the area. It was noted that PM has already done this.

**7. Councillors Business** Disabled parking spaces on Ayr Front and in Blackburn Car Park will be monitored as they are being blatantly abused. SAC are considering a maximum stay of 6 hours. There has also been total disregard of signs “no overnight stay” by camper vans. The number of these vehicles has increased dramatically and while tourists are to be encouraged to come to Ayr, long stays with unsightly signs of living are not to be tolerated on the seafront. A suggestion that camper vans use the Cromwell Road car park but it was pointed out that the entrance is not suitable for large vehicles.

As Racecourse Road and Doonfoot Road are regularly congested by parked vehicles yellow lining on one side of the road should be considered.

**8. Planning Control** Nothing of note

**9. Reports** MH reported that The Organ Concerts have had 1,250 listeners this year and the high level of performances have been much appreciated.

OS There will be a wine-tasting evening at Majestic Wines in aid of Belleisle Conservatory on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**10. Correspondence.** A letter re scam mail had been received by OS.

**11. Financial Report** MH - £495 is available.

**12. AOCB** NM led discussion on the C.C’s Xmas social evening suggesting we do not hold it on the December monthly meeting date as previously but select another time. It was agreed to hold it on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at the Waterfront Restaurant, Ayr.

**Date of Next Meeting** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.00 pm.