

FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 12th September, 2018 at 7.00pm at Room RB3 Town Hall, Ayr.

Members Present

Forbes Watson FMW Chair, Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Sandy Crawford (SC), Frank Ward (FW), Eileen Munro (EM), Phil Martin (PM), Dympna Gardiner (DG), Judith Hood (JH), David Petrie (DP), Denise Thomson (DT)

In Attendance Chris Campbell(CC)Link Officer, PC Geraldine Cannell, PC Jamie Cree, Cllr. Siobhian Brown (SB), Cllr. Martin Dowey (MD), Cllr. Lee Lyons (LL).Angie Pinkerton(AP)

Public Lianne Hackett (LH)

Minutes Secretary Eileen Munro.

Welcome In the absence of Norman Forbes , Vice Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1.Apologies Norman McLean, Peter McCall, Yolanda McCall and Liz Martin.

2.Minutes of last Meeting June Minutes were reviewed and accepted. Proposer: JH,

Seconder: MH

3.Matters Arising

LH reported that the June Meeting between the Friends of Seafield and the Developer did not take place but was due shortly. FW congratulated the Council on their quick response to the problem of Travellers camping on Low Green south of Blackburn Car Park by erecting wooden bollards.

4. Police Business: see police report - to be pasted

PC JC reported that House breaking which includes commercial has increased from 6 to 15 & that Assaults had increased from 24 to 37. A new locality policing policy which should provide a more fluid response to crime with 3 Officers and 2 Sergeants Allocated to South Ayr and 3 Officers and 3 to North Ayr.

PC JC wanted to know if we would like the monthly report to contain other information. The response was to give more statistics on anti-social behaviour i.e. Does this occur when pubs and clubs close? Is the use of Heroin and Crack Cocaine more prevalent? PM suggested that a specific drug might be a problem but this had not been detected. SB asked for thefts to be broken down into districts. PM asked about the patrolling of North Ayr & Wallacetown. This is done regularly with the aid of Radio Shop Link and strategically placed CCTV.

After a discussion re Mark Wason's (Police) recent communication promoting Neighbourhood Watch FMW agreed to look at creating a sub-committee comprising PM, DT, JH & DP.

Following a complaint of speeding on Seafield Drive SB asked if speed humps might be a resolution. FMW said he would contact NMCL on the matter as he resides on this road. JH reported double parking at Eglinton Terrace causing possible danger to residents.

5. Public Business None.

6. Ayr Town Centre, Belleisle Hotel and Station Hotel Updates

SB reported that the Council has brought Ayr Renaissance into the Council and is in the process of disbanding it. FMW very disappointed in this and said there should have been consultation. The consensus agreed Ayr Renaissance should remain as a non council arm of Ayr Town Centre's development. Despite this decision SB said it was the Council's policy to engage more with retailers and the public. PM said Ayr Renaissance had a good plan, they held public consultations and that we need a public sounding board. When questioned over the vacant site at the foot of the High Street SB said there had to be a change to the Master Plan since the Council Office block had been rejected. DG suggested creating a public park. FMW mentioned that an interim landscaping as was proposed 10 years ago to improve the entrance to Ayr be considered. SC suggested having a design competition for the site. MH enquired if the archaeological dig could be opened up.

A notice has been served on the Malaysian owner of the Hotel with no response. A structural report is due out and will be circulated to MSPs and MP. FMW suggested Council compulsory purchase. This could be very costly to restore and Historic Scotland would not allow any demolition. It was noted that Scotrail & Network Rail possibly own 15% of the building.

The closure of Ayr station due to the dangerous state of the Hotel has been widely broadcast and is causing hardship to travellers and the economy of the town. Currently no trains are running south to Stranraer but it is suggested that the Townhead Siding Depot (behind Morrisons), which has platforms, could be a viable option. Northwards it was suggested to have "Park & Ride" at Prestwick but insufficient parking there made Prestwick Airport a better option although negotiations with Scottish Government, who own the Airport, over parking would have to be entered into. CC suggested 3 coaches are required at each station. A task force – Network Rail, Scotrail and Historic Scotland aim to reopen by mid-October. The Council website regarding train information was praised.

Belleisle Hotel shows no progression. The new Visitor Centre is well under way. Richard Gordon, our golf professional had his shop broken into and a sizeable amount of stock stolen. Before opening he requested internal grills but the Council refused. It was recommended that they reconsider. There has been no sign of toilets being built adjacent to the Conservatory and Children's playground. The Councillors were asked to progress action on this amenity. There is a very varied programme of popular events in the Conservatory.

7. Councillors Business SEPA have been testing the quality of water between Cromwell Road and the pier. This area requires to be re-designated to allow beach cleaning.

Following complaints the Council are canvassing resident around Wellington School as parking has become an issue.

8. Planning Control

PM reported the Citadel is coming to the end of its life and a new pool may be housed in a complex, including cinemas, at Arran Mall. There is no report on the progress of Ayr Academy. PM was asked if there was still a planning enforcement officer for signage. Affirmative reply but name to be confirmed.

Auchendoon Crescent development of 3 houses has stopped temporarily as a new application for extra windows has to be approved. More details for Robert Singer's project at Wallacetown are awaited and Robert will give a report to the next meeting.

9. Reports

MH The Organ Concerts have had 1100 listeners since the start of 2018.

JH reported a very successful Open Day in June at St John's Tower which was followed up by a short part televised in August.

10. Correspondence. None

11. Financial Report MH - £800 has been received out of which £250 has been spent leaving £550 for administration.

12. AOCB The Public Meeting to save Ayr Station Hotel was attended by 200-300 people. The Chair will forward a letter to the Ayrshire Post re Renaissance and High Street Area.

13. Date of Next Meeting: 10th October 2018 at 7.00pm.