



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2016 in Girvan Room, County Buildings at 7.00pm.

Present Sandy Crawford, Pat Ferguson, Michael Hitchon, Judith Hood, Phil Martin, Peter McCall, Norman McLean (Chair), Scott McIntosh, Olena Stewart, Forbes Watson.

In Attendance Chris Campbell, Cllr Kirsty Darwent, Sarah Hilley (Ayrshire Post).

Apologies Margaret Anderson, Cllr Allan Dorans, Dympna Gardiner, Cllr Bill Grant, Herborg Hansen.

Minutes of Previous Meeting In clarification it was confirmed that Sainsburys plan to build at Corton and Waitrose near Dobbies.

Matters Arising There was none.

Public Business There was none.

Community Council Elections Notifications were to be sent by e-mail and mailed out w/c Monday 25 January. Closing date for receipt of applications is 25 February 2016.

Police Business There was none.

Ayr Town Centre Renaissance Cllr Darwent reported that three new members had been appointed to the Board of Ayr Renaissance Ltd: Peter Gordon, Ian Smith and Jeremy Wyatt. A board meeting was planned for later in January.

Conversations had been taking place with architects about master planning and meetings had taken place with some interested parties about Riverside Block.

Ayr Academy £25M move to Craigie Park had been signed off with developers Keir.

Ayr Grammar Primary School potential move to Ayr Academy had been mooted and architects' impressions prepared. Listed buildings would be retained, including the significant Art Department designed by James A Morris FRSA, FRIBA. Grammar and Nursery would be incorporated.

CC Members expressed interest in community use, but expressed concern over security and parking issues.

Councillors' Business Alloway 1759 w/e was planned to take place again.

Heathfield development was to be considered.

New guidance was being prepared in the new Local Development Plan.

Financial savings were to come from local authority services. £5-10M cuts may be painful for staff and for community. Moray was proposing to increase the local community charge but Scottish Government would exercise a claw back.

COSLA had expressed concerns but the Scottish Government imposed decisions. No legal challenge was likely to succeed. Budgets have to be agreed and implemented from 1 April 2016.

Sandy asked why signs are now in Gaelic? Answer: Scottish Government policy.

On behalf of many local citizens, Norman expressed concern at the sudden council decision to stop allowing smoking in public, e.g. where there are pavement cafes, as it has already resulted in reduced business. Scrutiny Panel has asked Leadership Panel to consider again. Some thought that a legal challenge might be successful. It was explained that the ban applies to pavement cafes where food is served on council owned land (e.g. street cafes) but not on private land (e.g. Wetherspoons forecourt patio). Anyone could smoke outside a building as food was not being served there, thus there were many anomalies. There has been no public consultation.

Planning Control There was an application for a four house development in Auchendoon Crescent to complete part of Cunning Park development. This is considered as a “windfall” development and is within the Council Policies. Norman had written to comment on potential drainage problems.

An application for the stable block at Seafield House was yet to be come. All was quiet on Seafield House Econstruct.

Reports There was none.

Correspondence There was none.

Financial Report £480 available for administration.

Any Other Competent Business Forbes commended the Forehill Website as a model for FSWCC to adopt and it was agreed to take up his offer of initial site establishment. Monthly cost would be £15 and Emails for chairman and secretary would cost £5 per month. The site could carry a photograph of the iconic Tower of St John’s. The Chairman could draft an Introduction.

Pat asked if there was a completion date for the Belleisle Golf Clubhouse, and whether the catering franchise had been agreed?

Olena reported that Belleisle Conservatory Ltd was holding Open Days 16/17 January 2.00-4.00pm with talks each day at 2.30pm about Phase 2.

Phil reported on the Health & Social Care meeting ‘Identifying Needs’ held recently for a Local Planning Workshop. Participatory Budgeting was needing ideas and a 2 hour seminar was scheduled for 28 January, (£30,000 allocated for South Ayrshire area).

Scott was aware that East Ayrshire Council had a ‘Vibrant Communities’ initiative.

Forbes asked why Cafe Society was currently closed – lack of trained baristas.

Chris explained Safe Ayr now had Street Pastors Friday-Saturday-Sunday evenings and they had already been declared a success. Kyle Centre has an information point stewarded by various local groups.

South Harbour Street survey had identified a need for improved street lighting.

Kirsty said that a paper on refugees was to go to Leadership Panel. She reported that some Afghanistan families were good translators. There was budget help to Council for refugees. It was Government policy to help relocation of refugees.

Friends of Belleisle was seeking more supporters as was Friends of Belleisle Conservatory.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 10 February 2016, Girvan Room, County Buildings, 7.00pm.