



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 13 November 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings at 7.00pm.

Present Sandy Crawford (SC), Allan Dorans (AD), Dympna Gardiner (DG), Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Ian Henderson (IH), Alison Logan (AL), Norman McLean (NM) Chair, David Petrie (DP), Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary.

In Attendance Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, PC Geraldine Cannell (PCGC), PC Marion Dunlop (PCMD).

Public Janet Drummond (JD), Andrew Russell (AR), Reg Stewart, Reg Tait (RT).

1 Apologies Cllr Siobhian Brown (SB), Murray Buchanan (MB), Anthea Clarke (AC), Cllr Martin Dowey (MD), Cllr Lee Lyons (LL), Phil Martin (PM), Cllr Derek McCabe (DM), Catriona McNichol (CM), Elizabeth Morrison (EM), Denise Somerville (DS), Forbes Watson (FW) Vice Chair.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting Agreed, proposed by AD and seconded by SC.

3 Matters Arising

Commendably, Cllr SB had sent a lengthy written report covering many matters:

Cllr Siobhian Brown – November report

Police Report

Please bring up continued concern with speeding in 20mph zone of Dalblair Road and it would be appreciated if police could monitor.

Belleisle

After the fire the immediate focus was to deal with the emergency safety works. Legal wrote after instruction to confirm to the owner, @SIPP that, in principle, the Council wishes to continue with the proposed purchase at the agreed valuation for the property. The Council has incurred costs of approximately £120,000 in carrying out the emergency safety works at the site following the fire, and a Debtor's account has been raised for this. The owner had indicated that they had no sums to fund these works. These costs were necessarily and reasonably incurred by the Council for public safety following the fire at the building, and legal understand from the owner that these costs have been submitted to the owner's insurers as part of the overall insurance claim. The Council also has a duty to protect the public purse, and in the circumstances, have therefore intimated to @SIPP that, to move this matter forward, that

the price for the sale to the Council is the net balance of the valuation less the costs incurred. The Council awaits a response from their solicitors agreeing this and the next steps for progressing the purchase transaction. If a response is not received by next week then the Council will raise an action to recover these sums from the owner and consider the further steps required to allow the transaction to purchase the hotel to be completed

South Harbour area

Chris Campbell has had meeting with some residents to look at ways to improve the area and has submitted a report.. This looks at asking community safety to get involved with projects to improve the area. Graffiti a continual problem and as it is reported, a team goes down to remove.

Council Leader and Depute Council Leader walked round the area with resident's association members to discuss issues of concern. Further meetings are to be arranged.

Fort Residents association keen to explore potential bus routes into South Harbour. A meeting with Stagecoach and residents is planned for early next year.

Blackfriars Walk

I asked for the railing and barrier to be inspected in the area. It is apparent that they have eroded considerably so safety barriers have been put in place. New railings are on order and work will be done in January.

I have asked Asset Manager to replace railings along riverside walk. The cost of this will be considerable and I have asked for it to be put on the work programme.

Wallacetown

Ongoing housing issues which are being addressed. Ongoing graffiti being removed as reported. Also have had concerns regarding new LED lighting been put in place.

Council Leader has met with Newton Primary Head Teacher and Parent Council to discuss issues affecting Wallacetown community. Council's approach to place making was outlined and dates and venues for wider debate with the community were agreed.

Station Hotel

Awaiting feedback from Network Rail and Scottish Government in light of recent structural survey. Network Rail who own percentage of the Station Hotel have indicated that they may wish to relocate Ayr Train Station. Will keep you updated with further progress

Ayr Academy Update

Work is progressing well on site. Structural alterations and new partitions are progressing inside the existing building, while roofing, stone repairs and window replacement progress externally. Demolition of the link block is nearly complete, with the existing stone façade retained. Concrete slabs and retaining walls are complete for the new archive building and new steelwork has commenced. Additional pick-up/drop-off bays have now been formed on South Harbour Street. Completion of the project is still on target for summer 2020.

Registration centre (currently High Street level at Town Hall) for Births, Deaths and Marriages will move to the new Archive Centre. This will free up the bottom of the Town Hall for other future projects which could include historical museum.

Open Space, Riverside Site

I have personally received a lot of drawn designs and ideas from the public for the block which I have forwarded to our special project team to be included in the consultation.

The Council has been working with the Architects (ASL) and Artists (Waveparticle) to consult with the public to find out what people would like to see and do in the space. This kicked off with the open air cinema during the "Day of the Deid" celebrations on 27 October 2019.

Another workshop was arranged for this evening 2019 at the Grain Exchange This is an informal, drop-in event where we are looking to gain an insight into local perception of the Riverside Site and fundamentally establish what the local community would like to see on the site. I shall be able to report more on this next month.

We are also planning another event on 29 January 2020 to share emerging design proposals with the public and to provide an opportunity for comment/feedback.

Go Festival

Positive feedback regarding the event. Alloway and Doonfoot Community Council have been in touch and indicated they are keen to be involved with the event next year and be part of the organisation. I have met with Doug McLean who is keen to get Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown involved too.

A tentative meeting has been arranged for 3pm on Monday 16th December. Please let me know if FSWT Community council would like to attend and I will happily book a room at County Building for meeting if easier.

Ayr through the Ages - Ayr History tour - App - Work in Progress

We already have an app in place. As indicated previously a community working group has been set up which includes members of the public who have a keen interest in Ayr's local history including Ken Nairn and Richard Devine from Remembering Auld Ayr.

The launch of this app has been delayed to spring 2020 as the team want to add extras such as running commentary on the app.

We have a further meeting on Monday 18th November and I will be able to update progress next month.

SAC Budget 2020

With a decade of hard hitting cuts of around £80m to our revenue budget, we are usually in a position by early December to know the extent of what we need to cut for our budget next March so we can work towards balancing a budget.

The UK Government has not yet passed a budget and now with a general election this will be delayed significantly further. Once a UK budget is passed, Holyrood will be able to do their budget and advise local authorities their revenue budget. This delay, as you can imagine, is a prime concern at the moment for the Council.

4 Police Business Crime in Ayr West Oct 2019 and Oct 2018 Offences Data:

Crime Type	Sept 2019	Sept 2018	Oct 2019	Oct 2018 (reported 2018)
Housebreaking	9		8	5
Theft MV	2		0	2
Drugs Offences	29		13	12 (8)
Assaults	22		18	17 (15)
Breach of the Peace	-		14	17 (15)
Drunk/Disqualified Driving	0		2	0

The report provides Ayr South October 2019 and 2018 crime figures for comparison purposes. Housebreakings in the Ayr South Ward have increased by 3 compared with the same period last year. Car crime has decreased by 2 in Ayr South during this period. Residents should be highly vigilant regarding home security and leaving items visible in their cars and ensuring central locking systems are engaged correctly. Anyone seen acting suspiciously should be reported to police immediately.

Chief Inspector Brian Anderson is continuing to visit the community councils.

It was reportedly quieter along the Esplanade lately. There was a repeat request for monitoring the 20mph limit in Dalblair Road.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour with youths damaging property were brought to attention. In Possil Park, door bells were rung for a lark, with accomplice lying in the road to lure householders outside.

Ward Priorities

1. Reduce incidents of Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour
2. Reduce the harm to our communities by tackling Alcohol and Drug Misuse
3. Protect people at risk of harm
4. Improve Road Safety
5. Reduce Acquisitive Crime

In an emergency, dial 999.

For non-urgent crime, dial 101.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ayrshirepolice

Twitter - @AyrshireSPolice

Email: AyrWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

5 Public Business There was none.

6 Ayr Town Centre: Report of Meeting with SAC officials and Ward Councillors regarding High Flats and Wallacetoun Housing concerns; Riverside Block; proposed Ayrshire Golf Academy

A walkabout in the Wallacetoun Area was thought to have been planned for 5 November but it was a meeting to which the councillors were late and, as folk had gone home, the meeting did not take place. It is to be rescheduled for the New Year.

High Flats: Cllr Ian Davies had been on a site visit to see and understand the problems. Two residents updated the Community Council on recent meetings with Council Officers who had been less than helpful. Issuing of a list of FQAs was a positive suggestion from the residents. The AGM of the High Flats Tenants' Association was being delayed to January. Tenants were referred to the office at 2-6 The Cross, Prestwick! "It's a shambles", said one.

Attention was brought to Ayr Housing Aid with an office at 7 York Street, funded by but independent of the local authority.

Riverside Block

There had been a successful Community Consultation by Austin-Smith-Lord in the Grain Exchange earlier that afternoon with ideas to consider and priorities on which to comment.

Ayr Golf Academy

The Business Plan does not stand credibility. There are over 2,000 objections so far. T Davies Brock has had published recently an article on Common Good Land in the Scottish Law Journal.

There is already a Golf Academy at Roodlea. A suggestion was made that a nine-hole course at Dalmilling would be great for elderly golf enthusiasts who struggled to complete 18 and many players who could ill afford the time for a full game, and the Golf Academy could be located there to encourage young players and provide a boost to North Ayr.

Members were concerned that Common Good Land at Victory Park, Girvan was also subject of a land grab for 3G all weather pitches for use by a limited section of the public.

7 Councillors' Business SB had submitted a report, above.

8 Planning Control Nothing reported.

9 Reports Nothing reported.

10 Correspondence There had been emails forwarded by OS on: Public Processions; Early Learning and Child Care Out of School Care Consultation, closes 6 December; Various, Ayrshire Golf Trust; T Davies Brock article on Common Good Land; Victory Park, Girvan; Endorsement request from Belleisle Conservatory Limited; Present Voices Future Lives Exhibition on Housing; Community Council Review Phase 2, ends 18 December; The Ageless & Active Assembly 27 November; Belleisle Park update; Marching On Exhibition at McKechnie Institute; Advice and Training for CCs: New Planning (Scotland) Act 2019; Ayr Arts Guild Calendar of Events; Dale Platform reopening at Citadel; SAC Live November Edition; BCL Events; Riverside Block Consultation.

11 Financial Report £430 available for administration.

12 AOCB Organ concerts well supported so far: over 1,800 listeners. Two concerts to come.

Next orchestral concert is by the BBC SSO on Friday 22 November. There is sponsorship to pay for tickets for children and adults from disadvantaged areas. Contact olenastewart@btinternet.com for further details.

It was agreed to go ahead with the Christmas Window Display competition.

The FSWCC Christmas Meal for members and associated supporters would be scheduled for a date in January.

12 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 11 November 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings, 7.00pm.