

Fort, Seafield & Wallacetown Community Council
Minutes 8th December 2021
Room RB3 Town Hall Buildings, Ayr

1. Apologies Libby Cummings, Gordon Kelly, Katherine McNab, Denise Sommerville, Trina McNicol, Siobhian Brown, Martin Dowey, Derek McCabe, Lee Lyons, Jason Peter, Jamie Lyall (police)

Present Norman McLean, Forbes Watson, Olena Stewart, Alison Logan, Michael Hitchon, Phil Martin, Eric Armstrong, Alan Roseweir, Ian Henderson, Sandy Crawford, David Petrie, David Porte (Link Officer), T. Davies Brock (public)

Norman McLean advised that Dympna Gardiner had resigned on 6 December 2021 leaving Gordon Kelly to apply. SAC Community Council Elections Planning Timetable 2022 has been circulated by the Secretary. Letters to all CC's will be sent out this month.

2 & 3. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising – Lee Lyons requested the following changes

“As I recall, FW had said he was once told there are 40 police for the whole of Ayrshire, my response was that I don't know the number but I know it fluctuates so if it was 40 then, it might not be that now.

I highlighted that due to COP 26 the police were very stretched that week rather than a sweeping statement that the “police are overstretched beyond capacity “ in general.

I stated that most other community councils run on a councillor rota so that typically only one councillor will turn up to any community council meeting and that FSWCC was unique because 3 or 4 of us will usually attend. I didn't at all mean it to be taken that other community councils get zero councillor attendance.

And finally, someone else stated the watchful was “unsafe” and should be fenced off. I said I didn't think it requires fencing off as it has no public access onto it.” The Christmas shop window competition co-ordinated by FSWCC for ten years involves also the Rotary Club of Ayr, Ayr & Prestwick Lions Club, and Ayr Guildry founded 1325 and was won by Olgas Alterations in Newmarket Street with the runner up being Stonefield Estate Agents in Beresford terrace.

FW reported that the funding round guidelines were not appropriate for the CA.

4. Police Business – None.

Norman introduced David Porte – Link Officer taking over from Chris Campbell. David is also Link Officer for Newton and Heathfield CC and a Wallacetown Co-ordinator. David explained Claire Walker (police) requested attendance at our meetings.

5. Illustrated Talk by Carla MacEwan, CEO of Ayrshire Hospice, Ayr.

Carla introduced herself and her background to Ayr. The Ayrshire Hospice began in 1983 operating in 1987 and 1989 at the Racecourse Road site. Funding is independent with 50% from NHS and 50% from Ayrshire people. In 2018 Help Improvement Scotland looked at over 60 sites and agreed a new Hospice on site strengthening the in-patient unit. Building the Future slide show set out the proposals and Carla explained planning permission has

approved the proposal with 75% work across Ayrshire. Concept Design Gargowan no 35 and no 37 Racecourse Road - Day Services and Support Services link up for easy movement. Important changes invites community engaging, transparent, café, education – up to 75 people can meet, yoga, ballet community groups, linking buildings - link corridor (glass). Stable block - contemplation space. Parking moving. Reception, café, staff space, contemplation space, education, library, shop, courtyard, glass corridor, garden access. Day service lounge, every bedroom direct access to garden, more homely, space in individual bedrooms for family to stay over and family room will also remain. Costs £13m with half raised and other £6.5m to raise by 22 Feb 2022. Campaign 21 Feb.

Ayrshire Hospice will relocate to East Ayrshire Hospital and the Ailsa Hospital site. Ayrshire Hospice is there for everyone in the Ayrshire community for pain management and good death it is about living as much as dying.

October 2023 move back in – 18 months of renovations and new build. McLaughlin and Harvey are preferred bidders – local labour, local supply.

Renewables – living roof, water recycling process, heat reflecting glass, double insulation and other options – solar panels, parking and green travel plan.

There will be 12 beds and extra opportunities for step down beds 12 clinical plus 2 already there. 6 palliative care across Ayrshire in local settings across Ayrshire. Redesigning buildings and strengthening communities. Norman McLean thanked Carla for an informative talk on the project and assured her of our support.

Alan Roseweir gave an update on Energy Working Group – University of Strathclyde, one of only 28 projects. Bid process in draft. Next meeting 15/12. Gemma Love, CARES. Core objective – education links Ian Menzies – teaching, support material. Denise Sommerville has engaged with SAC and community group in Wallacetown.

Presentation Net Zero target for SAC by 2030. Data required and develop programmes for pupils. Feasibility study for Wallacetown on Fuel Poverty and then roll out to the FSWCC area. Houses insulation to Wallacetown in general needs urgent addressing. Owner occupiers need to comply otherwise they should be taken over by the SAC. This should be the basis of tackling fuel poverty. Housing Service Lead must be brought into the group. Ayrshire Growth Deal. Education, Community Involvement – good standard of living and reduction of Fuel bills.

Violence reduction unit attended Community Voice meeting last week, however violence continues to be reported by concerned residents.

6. Councillors Report – None

7. Planning

Phil Martin advised planning application w/e 3rd Dec Leisure Centre – 2 applications, re. creation of Proposed Leisure in town centre. A 3.5k Objections Petition was dismissed by SAC.

A discussion took place on Girvan 3G Pitch, Common Good Land and Darlington Church sold for £1 with no reference to Sheriff deemed necessary (apparently it was considered as an investment property.)

CC Rule Book is being re-written by SAC – Councillors appear not to be required to attend our meetings as mandatory.

Clarity on Common Good Fund requires to be raised at next months meeting and what are the plans for the Citadel?

T. Davies Brock(public) was invited to speak. He referred to Scottish Law Gazette 2019 – Common Good article. CGL is owned in Trust for the people. The Darlington Church decision should have been taken by the Ayr Councillors, as Trustees of the Common Good Fund in Ayr but this did not happen.

Forum for CCs to get together – David Porte advised that Tracy Whiteford is looking into it. Linea Construction have been seen at the Riverside Block in High Street. An archaeological dig has to take place. Michael Hitchon has written to CEO of SAC, and has received no reply to date. He will write again. Phil Martin quoted the Malaga example of exploiting archaeological remains with glass walkways showing remains underneath streets.

The granting of planning consent to 6 Springvale Road in a conservation area raises a serious precedent in over-development in Conservation Areas. The application is inappropriate to this area and neighbours at the Regulatory Panel site meeting were stunned as it was approved.

8. Venue for January Social Evening

The Waterfront on 18th or 20th January – Norman will arrange.

Post meeting it was decided by the majority of CC members that it be postponed to a later date due to Covid restrictions.

9. Reports and Correspondence

Olena Stewart circulates appropriate emails and information as received for CCs to action.

10. Financial Report

Michael Hitchon advised that £322 is available for Administration. He will check if a donation of £50 can be made to a charity now and not have to wait until end year.

11. AOCB

Forbes Watson asked about Fort Residents Association. Eric Armstrong said FRA held a Special General Meeting to wind up the Association and was held on 30/11/2021 with 12 non committee members attending. Resolution was to dissolve and return monies to SAC but there are no accounts or audit and therefore the resolution did not take place. The Chair resigned and there is now a Bank signatories issue. In order to dissolve, a further Special General Meeting would need to be called.

Alison Logan asked about a Community Bank – not for profit. Alison will get details.

12. Date of Next Meeting

12 January 2022 at 7pm