



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.00 pm
At Grammar School, Fort Street, Ayr

Attendance:

CC Members: Denise Sommerville (DS – Chair); Carol Fisher (CF – Secretary); Michael Hitchon (MH – Treasurer); David Connelly (DC); Jim McKay (JM); Eric Armstrong (EA); Rachel Borland (RB); Alan Roseweir (AR); Robert Singer (RS); Forbes Watson (FW – Licensing)

SAC Councillors: George Weir (GW)

SAC Link Officer: Jill Tomlinson (JT)

Police: Not present

Minute Secretary: Vivienne McCulloch (VM)

Public: Gavin Kennedy (GK); Michael Clark (MC)

Apologies: Cllr Martin Dowey; Cllr Bob Shields; Andy Seville, Kenny McLeod; Gordon Kelly and David Porte

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th March 2024

The Minutes agreed by all. Proposed by FW and seconded by AR.

3. Matters Arising

DS – Complaint regarding Kenny Macleod (KM) and Code of Conduct; CF read out email received that evening. DS – KM counter charging complaint against him.

Detailed and in depth discussion took place regarding action that should be taken

DS – The full committee require to be at the special meeting. Propose to hold on 8th May. Will write to KM to invite to attend at 7pm and place tbc. Town hall not available.

GW – Advise KM that no decision has been made. FW – If KM cannot attend the special meeting, we need to advise that a decision will be made.

Vote was taken on this action; agreed by all with exception of JM who objected due to the CC not being decisive enough in decision making

DS – Lorne Arcade – it is not a public right of way; JM – Gavin Holloway gave the news that it is not a public right of way and our CC are vindicated in that we are not supporting the application as it is not a right of way; however someone in the Council has. DC – Concerns raised from the Access Panel about access at night, this item is on their agenda.

JM – Will write a letter to SAC about this; proposed by JM and seconded by FW; agreed by DS.

JM – Gordon Kelly did write to Planning about this, JM to get email thread. FW will overlook the letter to be drafted by JM.

DS – Am I right in saying that SAC changed the statement from that FS&W CC from a support to an objection?

JM – Should a letter be written to the Ayrshire Post to say what SAC have done in this regard? DS – I also have a West FM contact, keen to know about why we objected to the 24 hr arcade, gambling arcade. ***DS – Vote taken; unanimous to action***

DS - Short Term Lets; Read out the Craig Iles email, this was sent to the Committee;
Appendix 1

AR – That email was a lengthy reply and not pertaining to what we were asking.

Completely the opposite of what Glasgow are doing. AR – Having an impact on the CC; he is saying that it is nothing to do with the CC's.

MH – CC did not declare all short term lets to be condemned. We objected to STLs where there is as communal entry. AR – Read out an email about this.

DS – Should we put this as a proposal to the Council?

MH – Invite this Planning Officer to come to a CC meeting?

DS – Craig Iles be given date in June to come along to CC meeting – ***CF to action***

FW - Common Good Fund; There is not great knowledge of this in Ayr. Suggestion would be to meet up with DS and Martin Dowey; to show him what happens in the Borders Council. We are proposing that SAC adopt such a policy, had this up to 15 years ago. Contact SAC, work together as a partnership, and understand that there is a Common Good forum down in the Borders which operates very successfully. Write to SAC CC's about this. I will send out a link for this information to the committee.

AR – I will support your proposal to follow this model as a partnership with SAC and to meet with Martin Dowey.

FW proposed to meet with Martin Dowey to adopt Borders Council model for Common Good partnership working; AR proposed and seconded by DS.

4. Public Business

Gavin Kennedy (GK), of Wallacetown Arts Festival; gave a flyer for Wallacetown Community Arts Festival 15th-20th April – free entry. Encouraging all to come along to this event.

Family fun day with AUFC and groups and schools involved too. We welcome the support we are doing to make changes in Wallacetown and the decrease in calls to the Police.

Laying the foundations for progressing over this over the years. The aim is looking towards a larger fund and something we can cement into the community, such as lottery grants. We need long term commitment in Wallacetown. Got funding awards for our podcasts. Making plans to get ready for the next year as soon as we finish this year. FW – What is happening with the underpass Music Event? GK - Work with Police to make sure that there is still public access. The hub will be open in addition to this event. We are looking to promote positivity.

Michael Clark, gave an update on the ARA parking; ARA to present their report to the Councillors. No further on. A number of residents expressed interest in attending the meeting of when this is to be discussed.

JM – Could GW advise if people are allowed in meeting?

GW – If it goes to Cabinet, then the public are not allowed in.

DS – Have a meeting with Martin Dowey next week and quite happy to ask this question and if it is viable.

5. SAC Elected Member - GW

Meetings took place on the budget and the proposed annual charge for brown bins; possibly cost of this has been set too high.

The remaining high flat at Riverside is to be demolished and this is dependent on the removal of the mast.

Discussions on spending in the Ayr West Ward with the next meeting on 16th April and not able to advise the CC what money has been spent on in Ayr West.

The Common Good fund is an ongoing issue. Gave the spreadsheets to an Accountant, in terms of financial perspective its fine. We need to understand what is more involved before they get to the financial details.

A lot of people are concerned about the redevelopment of the golf courses, SAC has allocated £5 million for this. Some issues with Planning have been noted.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – No Report submitted
- b. Treasurer – Nothing further to add
- c. Planning –
Planning Applications lodged for the old Grammer School bought by Café 51.

Tree preservation order in Bellevue Road, the former Ellisland Hotel.
21 Wellington Square offices have been turned into seven petite suites.

Planning was granted for two 24 hour gambling premises in Ayr. Complaint from lady at 248a High Street whose flat is above one of the gambling premises; Craig Iles said he will look into this complaint.

- d. Licensing – One application from Priya, on the Sandgate, for a drinks licence; no objections from anyone.
Orange Parade taking place on 29th August 2024; objection by DC due to the divisiveness of these marches
STLs – As discussed earlier in the Minutes

7. AOCB, with prior agreement from the Chair

DS – Heard from Dundonald CC, Scott Allan, that Barr CC have been suspended for the second time; will send the committee the email about this.

DS to send this out for members to make a judgement on it.

All agreed to allow the Chair send out this information to see if we need to support Barr CC. FW – Want it to be noted that it is not in the FS&W area and therefore not anything to do with the FS&W CC.

DS – Racecourse View and the wall being repaired. JM – Bad workmanship with regard to this. Bad choice of contractor and incorrect materials used. AR & FW – It would need an expert to make a judgement of this.

FW – Need to get a stone mason to look at this and this would cost.

DS – David Peatrie is a stone mason; could he pass a judgement on this or is this a conflict of interest?

RB – Is the wall owed by SAC? DS – It is owed by Common Good.

AR – Could we commission the Common Good fund to obtain David Peatrie to investigate the wall? Or someone to look at the wall with an expert eye.

FW – Are Historic Scotland involved with this wall? AR – Will find out if Historic Scotland are involved – to action

AR – Met at a sub-group to meet with Audrey Gatt of SAC for place planning. She wants to get a bigger footfall of information of what people want from their community. Posters were drafted for Seafield and Fort, they are in draft form still. There is also a questionnaire to be filled in. Audrey has also done this for Ayr North. Points of location to obtain these questionnaires; to have at CB's, medical practices, Council offices. The more responses received will help to build a place plan for Ayr West.

MH – Leaflet drops would be an idea.

CF – Can approach Seafield Stores see if they would give out these leaflets?

AR – First draft at this stage only; we need to agree on locations as well. Audrey will take control of producing the leaflets.

AR – It was better to aim this at villages as opposed to just saying Ayr West? As in Fort and Seafield say.

GK – Speaking to Audrey earlier this morning; to do this for Wallacetown and hear back what people are saying. Channel ideas to the betterment of the likes of Wallacetown.

JT – We have rolled this out before and we have to be accountable to what is being said back on the questionnaires.

JM – I would urge any Community Councillor to do this door to door.

AR – We focussed on the villages and put through the doors, we need people to do this; possibly 10,000 leaflets.

AR – Can I ask GK, is there any third party youth organisations that would or could leaflet drop for us? GK – There are organisations and great community benefit to involve youth volunteers.

AR – Look at Scout organisations. MH – There is a scout group at St Columba.

DS – Community Pay Back – can we ask them? JT – The contact for this would be Dean Barlas.

AR – If we can maintain these as points of contact.

AR – Agree that we contact these groups – to action

JM – When the new Hospice opens, parking will be an issue, downsizing from 20 to 12 beds; visitors, coffee shop. Only 54 parking spaces. 170 permanent staff.

DS – Can we revisit this next month? JM – I am asking for Councillor support from Seafield Councillors. DS – Can you help with this GW? GW agreed.

DS - Pavilion Festival; CF - Sent an update – taking place 4th/5th of May; traffic management was detailed in an email sent to Gordon Kelly. Biggest issue is around parking and the movement of traffic around the event and Low Green. If anyone has any comments about this, please pass this back to me and I will send to Matt Lamb.

Festival of Flight – Last year a lot of outside businesses were there. This time they are going to try and ensure that are going to do this differently.

DS – We can address this again at the next meeting.

AR – We need to be seen to support local businesses and sending out the wrong message that we are bringing in third parties.

DS – Any questions anyone has for our meeting with Martin Dowey at 11 am on Tuesday 16th April; please send me anything you want me to ask.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

To be held on Wednesday, 8th May 2024, 7.00 – 9.00 pm
At Memorial Hall, Grammar School, Fort Street, Ayr.

FINAL