



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 in Room RB3, Town Hall, at 7pm

Members Present

Forbes Watson (FMW) Vice Chair, Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Sandy Crawford (SC), Phil Martin (PM), Eileen Munro (EM), Peter McCall (PMcC), Frank Ward (FW), Robert Singer (RS),

In Attendance

PC Gavin Dalgleish (PCGD), PC Steven Jardine (PCSJ), Cllr. Derek McCabe (DMcC), Cllr. Lee Lyons (LL)

Public

David Petrie (DP), Angi Pinkerton (AP) AHEAD Community Builder, Frances Brown (FB), David Connelly (DC), Tom Warren (TW) Collective Architecture
Minutes Secretary: Yolanda McCall

Welcome

Forbes welcomed all to the meeting and introduced David Petrie who will be a member for Wallacetown from 1st April.

1. **Apologies**

Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, Cllr. Martin Dowey (MD), Cllr. Siobhian Brown (SB), Liz Martin (LM), Judith Hood (JH), Dympna Gardiner (DG)

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

February minutes reviewed and accepted. Proposer: MH; Seconder: SC

3. **Matters Arising**

FMW reported over 300 objections to the proposed plan for the Riverside block. The council are expected to take note of such a strong view from the community. With regard to whether the council can seek planning permission for this development without having a pre-meeting, an architect advised FMW that the pre-meeting was held when the outline plans were originally made and there is no requirement to have another one.

4. **Police Business**

Incidents and Crimes of note compared with same period last year:

Crime Type	Offences February 2018	Offences February 2017
Housebreaking	10	5
Theft of motor vehicle	4	0
Drug offences	7	9
Assaults	15	16
Breach of peace/Abusive behaviour	18	18
Drink/ disqualified driving	0	3

PCGD presented the following report:

- From the Ayr West perspective breaches of the peace have remained the same whilst drugs offences and assaults have both reduced slightly on the same period last year, but the detection rate remains high with regard to these crime types. The numbers are low in your beat areas.
- Housebreakings in the Ayr West ward have increased significantly on the same period last year, doubling from 5 to 10. Car crime has also increased significantly. Residents should be highly vigilant regarding home security and leaving items visible in their cars and ensuring central locking systems are engaged correctly. The detections rates for these crimes remain quite low and anyone seen acting suspiciously should be reported to police immediately.
- Drink driving has decreased however our officers are continuing to have high visibility patrols for road traffic crimes, with an action plan running over the coming weeks to improve road safety.

FMW asked about the increase in house breaking and motor vehicle thefts. PCGD advised that these crimes are difficult to detect, witnesses are needed, but often a sharp increase can be caused by someone having been recently released from prison and returning to old habits. The statistics include garages and sheds. He will request specific details for next month. FMW also enquired about an assault at John Street underpass. PCGD confirmed that an older couple were attacked, and two youths were arrested, cautioned and referred to the Procurator Fiscal. Social Services are also involved. LL referred to last month's discussion about special constables. There were 101 in Ayrshire in 2013, now there are 38. It was not known if there are any plans for recruitment. FMW asked if the police have engaged with the travellers who have returned to Seafield. PCGD advised that they can only deal with specific crimes; the vehicles have been checked and are in order. FMW asked members of the public if they were still experiencing speeding problems in Dalblair Road. FB & DC confirmed 'yes', and PCGD noted the issue to be raised again, and he advised that traffic police are likely to have a speeding campaign in this area following the recent death on the A77.

5. **Presentation: Fresh Ayr by Robert Singer and Tom Warren (Collective Architecture)**

RS and TW spoke of the work and plans of the Fresh Ayr project which was set up as a voluntary organisation by three arts professionals in October 2016. They aim to bring communities together by bridging social divides through socially engaged arts practises. They hope to create real job opportunities and creatively develop spaces that will generate cash to alleviate social isolation and poverty. After a feasibility study, Fresh Ayr members are focusing on an underground car park area in Content Street, Wallacetown, as a site where people can "make, show and interact." They have been working with children at Newton Primary School and hope to win buy-in from immediate residents by engaging with the kids. After a short Q&A session, FMW summed up that members and councillors are enthusiastic at the prospect of improving an area of deprivation. The project would have the full support of the CC, and LL offered to meet and discuss possibilities further with RS.

6. **Ayr Town Centre and Belleisle Estate**

BuyMSH, the Malcolm Sargent House charity group, have announced plans to open a new house at Whiteleys Farm near Alloway. They are closely monitoring the progress of the buyback of Belleisle Hotel for their long term plans.

7. **Councillors' Business and Matters Arising**

SB was unable to attend, but sent this update:

Report by Councillor Siobhian Brown - 14th March 2018

Budget

The Administration budget was passed on 1st March.

After full consultation with public prior to budget, one thing that was evident was people wanted improvements on our roads. We decided to take a further £3m from our capital investment budget to put more money into improving our roads in the next financial year.

Full details of budget can be found on SAC website.

Riverside Block

As we are all aware, a planning application for an office development has been submitted which will now be considered in May. Many comments on the design have been submitted on the Council's website and this is leading to a review of the river and public open space elevations. One of the things being organised is a display presenting a visual display of the proposed Council office, the vacant Affleck's site, a master plan for Burns Statue Square (including the access to the top of the town), the relationship between the soon to be built Archive Centre/the Town Hall/the retained building on the riverside plot of land and the Carnegie. The display is to update residents on options being considered to regenerate Ayr Town Centre. Details will follow shortly.

Making Schools the Heart of the Community

One of our commitments as an Administration was to make the schools in South Ayrshire the "Heart of the Community". A pilot scheme took place in Ayr Academy and Newton Primary bringing our people and services together in one place, making it easy for people to get information, advice and support.

South Ayrshire Council together with NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Sth Ayrshire Health and Social Care, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue and local charities to establish drop in centres offering advice on a wide variety of issues such as Benefits support, employability and skills, housing support, mental health support and social work support. The event was very successful and we are now looking at how we can implement it throughout South Ayrshire.

Fullarton Street Bus Station Crossing

I have asked Ayrshire Roads Alliance to do a feasibility study and look at options regarding improving safety on Fullarton Street.

Watchful Boat & South Harbour

I met last month with Trustees of Ring Net Heritage Trust who are keen to assist with restoring the boat. In his initial survey of the boat the hull was still in good condition and they have a few ideas on what we should do. I am meeting the director and curator at the Maritime Museum in Irvine in April who are interested in our plans. After this meeting, I will set up a focus group meeting with interested parties to keep them updated on our options to improve the area and progress on boat.

Community Litter Clean Up

I organised a community Litter pick last Saturday. I asked for people to give up 1 hour of their time on a Saturday once a month. Delighted 25 people turned up and 35 bags of rubbish were collected within 1 hour. It has to be noted that the majority of the litter collected was on private property – such as car parks (behind Kyle Centre) flat gardens in Smith Street and Mill Street.

Next Community Litter Pick will be on Saturday 21st April at 10am outside Unity Grill. Greggs will be providing treats afterwards for all those involved. Everybody welcome and all help appreciated.

There was no update from SB on Ayr Renaissance. RS said that the budget shows £150,000 for this year, but nothing beyond that for Ayr Renaissance. LL suggested that the grants will have expired and the team may be brought into the council as employees at that point.

DMcC spoke of exasperation at the return of the travellers whose generator noise, waste and general behaviours are disrespectful to the community and the environment. All the councillors are trying to find an efficient method to evict them. The land belongs to the council, but the travellers are under protected status and the police can do nothing. Several members contributed to a discussion with LL and DMcC with suggestions for addressing the issue. Bollards and gates are thought to be prohibitively expensive; there is a large area to protect and it would possibly just move the problem to another local site. The CC could write to Scottish Government and MEPs to urge re-consideration of the protections offered to travellers, as the rights of others affected by the travellers' behaviours should also be considered. The travellers often seek work in the area - eg: tarmac driveways, repairing roofs – local residents are fuelling the problem if they provide employment. Perhaps Trading Standards could issue flyers to residents encouraging them to only use approved traders. PMcC sought clarity on timescales for eviction. DMcC advised there are legal costs and it takes at least 2 weeks for a request to be processed through the courts. Travellers have to leave within 48 hours of an eviction notice being served. Could this process be streamlined? [post meeting update: the travellers left at 10pm on 15th March, and the council were arranging for uplift of waste]

8. **Planning Control**

PM reported that there was nothing of concern for Ayr West ward, with no update on the Station Hotel, Seafield House or the Golf Academy.

Concerned with the number of pot holes in Ayrshire roads, PM submitted a Freedom of Information Request for income and expenditure:

Financial year 2016 to 2017,

1. Total revenue from parking charges	£734,634
2. Total revenue from parking tickets (fines)	£197,752
3. Total council expend on road maintenance	£4,681,397
4. Total spent on pot-hole repairs	£1,005,293

EM observed that repairs do not appear to be sealed properly, they do not last long. LL suggested inviting ARA to speak at a CC meeting. FMW will make request to Kevin Braidwood.

9. **Reports**

EM advised that the Tam O'Shanter Inn proposal, discussed at last month's meeting, will go before the licensing board.

MH reported on the Ayr South and Coylton Locality public participatory budgeting event last month, 'The Organist Entertains' (which recommences in April) was one of 6 groups who unfortunately received no

funding. MH will reapply for the next public participatory budgeting event at Belmont Academy on Saturday 24th March, 10am-2pm, and he will also apply for funding for 'Doors Open Day'.

10. **Public Business**

FB offered ideas which could be adopted in Wallacetown: Incredible Edible, a network for growing plants on public land; also the stair designs at Kilmarnock Rail Station. DC said he would like to be able to contribute to discussions while they are ongoing rather than have to wait for 'public business.' FMW explained that it is a council meeting where councillors and community council members discuss issues. Members of the public are welcome to observe the full meeting and can raise issues under 'public business.' RS suggested that non-members can form small groups to discuss issues and bring them to the attention of the CC. SC spoke in support of DC's request. FMW requested that members remain at the end of the meeting to privately discuss the procedural nature of this issue.

11. **Correspondence**

OS advised that the two new representatives for Wallacetown, David Petrie and Patrick Gibbon, will be effective from 1st April. Next month's meeting will include the AGM and the Office Bearers' form will be completed.

The Co-Op Local Community Fund is open for applications until 8th April, with £12,000 available for this area. Last year Belleisle received £1700. For more details, visit: <http://coop.co.uk/causes>

12. **Financial Report**

MH advised £197.49 is available for administration. Some funds are required to pay the Independent Examiner, leaving £150 available to allocate to three chosen charities. After a short discussion, it was determined that The Ark, Belleisle Conservatory and The Salvation Army should benefit this year.

13. **AOCB**

EM raised a concern about Ayr Brewing Company. The area at Miller Road is frequently covered in kegs and bags and she queried the legality and H&S aspects for a residential area. FMW and DMcC advised that the establishment has been there for several years, they must have permission. However if there is excessive product spilling onto a thoroughfare, it would be a matter for the Licensing Standards Officer, Catrina Andrew. LL offered to speak to her about it.

DMcC asked whether MH received the CC funding he had previously queried. MH has received the first tranche, but believed it to be short thus making funds very tight. DMcC will check with Gus Collins.

There will be a consultation in Ayr North on the afternoon of Monday 19th seeking ideas for the open space. The event has been poorly communicated, however AP is attending and will represent the CC and report back.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 11th April at 7.00pm

Room RB3 Ayr Town Hall