



## FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Room RB3, Ayr Town Hall, at 7pm

### **Members Present**

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

### **In Attendance**

Cllr. Lee Lyons (LL), Cllr. Martin Dowey (MD), Cllr. Derek McCabe (DM), Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, PC Allison (PCA), PC Clark (PCC)

### **Public**

Angi Pinkerton (AP) AHEAD Community Builder  
Minutes Secretary: Yolanda McCall (YMcC)

### **Welcome**

NM welcomed all to the first meeting of 2018.

#### 1. **Apologies**

Cllr. Siobhian Brown (SB), Dympna Gardiner (DG).

#### 2. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

December meeting was not quorate, but the notes of the meeting were reviewed.

#### 3. **Matters Arising and New Members**

FMW confirmed he had written regarding the use of Seafield Tennis Courts by Ayr Lawn Tennis Club, supported with conditions - availability for public use and assurance that the area will not be built upon.

#### 4. **Police Business**

PCA provided Ayr West's December 2016 & 2017 crime figures for comparison purposes:

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>Offences December 2017</b>	<b>Offences December 2016</b>
Housebreaking	4	2
Theft of motor vehicle	6	4
Drugs offences	9	9
Assaults	14	13
Breach of peace	16	19
Drink/ disqualified driving	2	1

PCA presented the following report:

- From the Ayr West perspective breaches of the peace offences have decreased on the same period last year, whilst drugs offences have remained the same. Assault offences have increased very slightly, but the detection rate remains high with regard to these crime types.

- Housebreakings and vehicle crime in the Ayr West ward have both increased on the same period last year. Residents should remain vigilant regarding home security and leaving items visible in their cars and ensuring central locking systems are engaged correctly. The detection rates for these crimes remain quite low and anyone seen acting suspiciously should be reported to police immediately.
- Drink driving has slightly increased by one; however our officers are continuing to have high visibility patrols for road traffic crimes. The festive road safety campaign was centring on drink driving, speeding and use of mobile phones whilst driving.

NM queried the detection rates for house breaking. PCA said she would check and report back. PCC advised that even a shed break-in is fed into the statistics as a house break in. JH enquired about the number of recent road traffic accidents. PCA agreed that there had been a few in the Ayr and Prestwick areas, possibly due to weather conditions. SC asked what the current penalty is for using a mobile phone while driving. PMcC advised £200 and 6 points.

## 5. **Ayr Town Centre Renaissance and Belleisle**

MD reported as an observer for Ayr Renaissance Board. Planning permission application for the new council building was submitted before Christmas, and he believes that the archaeological survey is proceeding, with plans for building to commence in the autumn. The council are keen to move ahead with changes for Burns House and the top of the town. NM enquired about the Winton Building, the scaffolding is still up. MD said work seems to have stopped, the council don't know why.

FMW stated that Steven Brown has continued interest in shops in Newmarket Street, three in total. MH noted that work is progressing at Unity Grill. MD believes there were some issues with asbestos, but it is now ready for the kitchen to be installed. MH advised that the Civic Society has been consulted over latest proposals for the cinema complex in the Kyle Centre, a pre-planning application from the developers.

There was some discussion regarding the closure of Tourist Information, 20<sup>th</sup> January, part of a rationalisation of stores all over Scotland. Footfall is down, most tourism research is carried out online nowadays. It is hoped that some information boards will be provided, or eventually the new Archive could provide tourist information. South Ayrshire Life, in Newmarket Street, provides information for local activities and seeks to enhance skills in the town. RS would like to provide a presentation of Fresh Ayr's work and ongoing plans at a future meeting.

NM reported that proposals for the private initiative golf academy at Belleisle have not progressed any further, however Councillor Connelly has said he will work with NM to avoid any change of use for the old race course grounds. MD advised that the council support a golf academy, but not if it infringes the old race course, and they have suggested Dalmilling golf course as an alternative site.

OS advised that vandalism has been reported at Belleisle, a litter bin fire and breakages of windows and fencing. The owner of Belleisle House, Mr Campbell is aware. There are lots of positives in the park, but the ongoing situation with the house continues to be a major issue. OS requested members to add their concerns to the visitors' survey and take a look at the proposals for seating and picnic tables. Fundraising continues for the conservatory; the facebook page details upcoming events. NM advised that the contract for development of the stable block is about to be issued. EM and NM discussed parking issues. It is hoped that lottery funded new signage will assist with parking when building works are completed.

## 6. **Councillors' Business and Matters Arising**

Councillors' time is currently consumed by budget setting considerations. There is a large deficit to overcome. DM and MD spoke at length in opposition to the plans of the local authority administration. They believe there are unnecessary cuts proposed to vital services such as provision of school crossing patrols and public toilets. They urged those present and the general community to look at the proposals detailed at [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/budget-proposals-for-public-consultation.aspx](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/budget-proposals-for-public-consultation.aspx) and email councillors with their views. The consultation period ends on 31<sup>st</sup> January. MD stressed his frustration that there is very little time for consultation as the budget must be in place by 31<sup>st</sup> March. LM expressed disappointment that there was no representation for the administration present at this meeting or the previous meeting as it would be useful to hear their view.

DM advised that there is now a ban on the use of Chinese Lanterns. LM enquired about the plethora of disposable plastics in canteens at schools and at the university. What is the policy? MD noted it is the same at the County Buildings. He will enquire and report back. MH will raise it at the sustainability panel. FMW has observed repeated flooding at the crossing of Racecourse Road and Racecourse View. The councillors are aware and it has been reported. MD advised that the Scottish Secretary, David Mundell, will be visiting the county buildings on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, meeting with the 3 chief executives, Ayrshire business leaders and MD, who will speak to him about the Ayrshire Growth Deal, Prestwick airport and spaceport. He is hoping for some clarity and is also seeking investment for the A77.

7. **Planning Control**

PM looked at the last submissions, released on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and there was nothing of note for FSWCC. He intends to check if the infill site in Auchendoon Crescent has been sold. With reference to the budget discussions, he suggested all should take a look online at the second Local Development Plan (LDP2). Proposals can be viewed for the economic development plan of roads, houses, buildings, land etc., for the period 2019-2029. PM noted that there is already an excess to the required land set aside for house building although there are no obvious sites within our area. Many additional documents worth reading are also available on the site, eg. flood risk management plan. Comments can be input until 31<sup>st</sup> January at [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/planning/local-development-plans/main-issues-report.aspx](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/planning/local-development-plans/main-issues-report.aspx)

8. **Reports**

EM spoke about the FSWCC annual town centre shop window display competition, judged on 11<sup>th</sup> December – a joint venture with Ayr & Prestwick Lions Club, Ayr Guildry and the Rotary Club of Ayr – Provost Helen Moonie presented awards to winners Ayrshire Hospice Shop in Kyle Street, runner up Steven Brown, and highly commended Jools, both in Newmarket Street. The competition has traditionally been a surprise visit, but it is thought that the event should be advertised next year to encourage greater participation.

MH reported a full house for the BBC Christmas concert and 70% for the New Year concert. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February sees the launch of a new album by SCO Wind Soloists at Ayr Town Hall, 7.30pm. The hall will be set out in cabaret style, with seats at round tables in the stalls area, and the musicians will provide a talk prior to the concert.

9. **Correspondence**

OS distributed the Ayr Arts Guild calendar of events and other leaflets.

Ayr and South Coylton Locality Decision Day III is on Saturday 17 February 2018, with grants of up to £1000 available. Closing date for applications is Friday 2nd February 2018 at 5pm.

10. **Financial Report**

MH advised £307.49 is available for administration.

11. **Public Business**

Nil

12. **AOCB**

Nil

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.00pm**

Room RB3 Ayr Town Hall

Social event, The Newmarket, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm.