



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2017 in Room RB3, 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), Phil Martin (PM), Liz Martin (LM), Eileen Munro (EM), Frank Ward (FW), Dymrna Gardiner (DG), Judith Paterson/Hood (JH).

In Attendance

Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, PC Duncan MacPheat (PCMCP), PC Ashleigh Allison.

Public

Kirsty Darwent (KD), David Connelly (DC), Frances Brown (FB)

Welcome

Norman welcomed all to the last meeting before the elections for the new Community Council, and he introduced the visiting members of the public. He expressed disappointment for the non-election of previous South Ayrshire Council member, Allan Dorans, who was a solid and faithful supporter of the community council. The CC is non-political and is appreciative of all the hard work carried out by the council members, particularly the regular CC attendees like Allan, as well as Bill Grant and Kirsty Darwent who have both retired from their roles.

1. **Apologies**

Sandy Crawford

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

April minutes accepted.

3. **Matters Arising**

Planning proposals for Auchendoon Crescent and Cunning Park are on-going issues and raised further discussion. Full details are included at item 7, Planning Control. FMW noted that the Juney Shoo banners have now been removed. NM has been informed that the court authorities will rectify the yellow lines painted on the County Building steps.

4. **Police Business**

Crime Statistics for April 2017, with comparable figures for April 2016:

Crime Type	April 2017	April 2016
Housebreaking	7	8
Theft of motor vehicle	3	2
Drug offences	13	6
Assaults	24	26
Breach of peace/Abusive behaviour	11	18
Drink/ disqualified driving	0	2

PC MacPheat presented the following report:

- Drugs offences have seen a significant increase, but assaults and breaches of the peace have reduced slightly on the same period last year. However, the detection rate remains high with regard to these crime types.
- Housebreakings in the Ayr West ward have reduced slightly for the same period last year. Vehicle crime has increased with three reported this past month, residents should remain vigilant during the lighter spring months as we have seen sheds broken into with gardening equipment being targeted. The detection rates for these crimes remain quite low and anyone seen acting suspiciously should be reported to the police immediately.
- Drink driving and disqualified driving has reduced which is positive with no one caught offending in April this year.
- Local police ran a high visibility antisocial behaviour campaign throughout March and April 2017 in an attempt to tackle neighbourhood issues. The results for the whole of South Ayrshire are available from the police.

In an emergency, always dial 999.

For non-urgent crime, you can contact your local police office by telephoning 101.

JH recounted an incident reported to the police by her daughter on Sunday 7th May. She took a photo of a man who was walking up St. Leonards Road and appeared to be testing the doors of cars. She phoned it in, but there has been no follow-up. PMacP will pass details to the Inspector. PM requested crime figures for North or East Ayrshire to be made available, to compare with South Ayrshire figures, for the next report. PM also advised that when making recent house calls, he noticed that lots of storm doors were left open with keys in the inside doors. PMacP confirmed this is dangerous, yet many people do it. PM suggested the police should put a reminder in the Ayrshire Post to discourage this bad habit.

NM, EM, LM and PM discussed nuisance parking issues, double parking causing disruption in Racecourse Road, particularly bad during activities at the old racecourse, and also in Bowman Road. PMacP advised that this is a matter for parking attendants to monitor. The police can only get involved if there is a genuine obstruction, eg: if a car is blocking a driveway, then they can remove the vehicle. FMW has received complaints about an ex-army truck along the shorefront that appears to be suspicious. NM advised that to prevent long term parking, a "no 24 hour parking" regulation would be required, but it is probably not a big problem at the moment.

JH reported a neighbour's concerns regarding a house being raided at the top end of Eglinton Terrace. PMacP confirmed that there was a police raid and there were some arrests made, but he cannot comment any further. DG added that if this is the property with an entrance onto Montgomerie Terrace, she has noticed various comings and goings previously, but there has been less activity recently.

5. **Public Business**

DC raised the issue of speeding in Dalblair Road, which was discussed at April's meeting, and which NM subsequently reported to the police. PMacP said that emails went out about this, and it is monitored if tasked, but it depends whether there are other calls and other tasks needing to be dealt with. DC remarked that there is only one 20mph sign. CC suggested it is a case for Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

6. **Ayr Town Centre Renaissance, Riverside Consultation and Belleisle**

Demolition has commenced along the riverside development. NM and all members look forward to hearing an update from the new councillors when available.

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

No councillors present.

8. **Planning Control**

NM provided an update on the CC's successful objection to the planning request for three houses in Auchendoon Crescent. PM has been notified that the applicants have appealed, so it will probably be some time in the summer before there is any resolution. NM and PM will monitor the progression of this during the summer recess.

Nigel Martin's proposal for a children's holiday care facility at Cunning Park was previously examined at April's meeting. The Ayrshire Post and West Sound approached Norman for the CC's views and he confirmed the CC's position of supporting the local development plan for Cunning Park to be an open space and wildlife site. Several CC members have had contact with Nigel Martin about his plans, and the topic was fully discussed again. There are questions over whether Mr Martin has actually shown there is a demand for this sort of home, after the demise of Malcolm Sergeant House. Families may prefer support for different types of respite care closer to amenities. If there is a need for this sort of facility, there are other sites that could be developed. However it appears that Mr Martin is not open to looking at alternative sites, preferring to seek public support to push his idea through. The CC concluded to maintain

their position of opposing any development at Cunning Park. Planning Officers would be going against their own policy if they were to allow it. NM will contact Nigel Martin to advise him of the CC's views, and NM and PM will continue to monitor the preliminary planning talks. FMW advised there is to be a presentation about the future of Seafield House to be given at Ellisland on Monday 15th May at 5.30pm.

9. **AGM & Chairman's Report on year 2016-17**

NM referred to his annual report, which had already been circulated, and it was approved with a minor correction.

Election of Office Bearers

CC directed proceedings for the standing down of existing office bearers and election/re-election of posts for the next year.

Office		Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Norman McLean	Phil Martin	Forbes Watson
Vice Chair	Forbes M Watson	Michael Hitchon	Norman McLean
Secretary	Olena Stewart	Judith Hood	Eileen Munro
Treasurer	Michael Hitchon	Peter McCall	Olena Stewart
Planning	Phil Martin	Forbes Wason	Frank Ward
Licensing	Liz Martin	Phil Martin	Judith Hood

FMW wanted to give recognition for the chair's tremendous hard work and officially thanked NM.

10. **Reports**

OS has emailed out all reports received. She also gave an update of more functions to raise funds for Belleisle, which requires £40,000 per year to run it. Upcoming events include: 14th and 19th May, 6-8pm, opportunities for people to find out more about volunteering at the conservatory; a charity walk on 21st May; an open garden evening at Doonholm House on 25th May, 6-8pm, tickets for £5 each.

There were 100s of people at the Burnsfest music festival at Rozelle on 6th May. OS advised that it was a brilliant event, which was council funded.

MH and PMcC reported on the excellent alternative event at St. John's Tower on the same day, with stone masons, battle re-enactments and lots of family activities. This was a one-off event hosted by Scotland's Urban Past.

11. **Correspondence**

The Administration Grant for Community Councils was completed.

12. **Financial Report**

MH advised the account is currently £65 in the red, awaiting new income. He also presented the year-end accounts.

13. **AOCB**

FMW expressed his disappointment at the scandalous news stories that are frequently headlined on the front page of the Ayrshire Post. It sends the wrong signal to people coming into the area. LM recently raised this issue with one of the journalists and was told that there are an equal number of people who buy the paper because of the type of stories they highlight. All CC members would prefer to see the 'good news' stories highlighted.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 14th June at 7.00pm

Room RB3 Ayr Town Hall