



## FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 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, Sandy Crawford (SC), Phil Martin (PM), Liz Martin (LM), Eileen Munro (EM), Judith Hood (JH), Dymrna Gardiner (DG), Robert Singer (RS)

### **In Attendance**

Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, PC Allan Robertson (PCAR), Cllr. Siobhian Brown (SB), Cllr. Derek McCabe (DMcC), Cllr. Lee Lyons (LL)

### **Public**

Angi Pinkerton (AP) AHEAD, Sarah Hilley (SH) Ayrshire Post, Tom Crozier (TC)  
Minutes Secretary: Yolanda McCall

### **Welcome**

Norman welcomed all to the meeting.

### 1. **Apologies**

Peter McCall (PMcC), Martin Dowe (MD), Frank Ward (FW)

### 2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

January minutes reviewed and accepted. Proposer: MH; Seconder: JH

### 3. **Matters Arising**

Nil

### 4. **Police Business**

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

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>Offences January 2018</b>	<b>Offences January 2017</b>
Housebreaking	9	3
Theft of motor vehicle	2	2
Drug offences	13	9
Assaults	10	14
Breach of peace/Abusive behaviour	15	11
Drink/ disqualified driving	2	3

PCAR presented the following report:

- From the Ayr West perspective breaches of the peace and drugs offences have both increased on the same period last year, assaults have decreased but the detection rate remains high with regard to these crime types.
- Housebreakings in the Ayr West ward have increased significantly on the same period last year. Car crime has remained static. Residents should remain 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 slightly decreased by 1 however our officers are continuing to have high visibility patrols for road traffic crimes.

PCAR invited CC members to suggest their priority areas for the Community Policing Team. DMcC, JH, PM and FMW all spoke in favour of a greater physical presence of police in the High Street and Wallacetown. PCAR advised that shift numbers are currently quite low, so it is difficult to react to calls if the team are all out on the street. An increase in the number of special constables was suggested, but PCAR explained that rules and regulations require special constables to be accompanied by an officer. However, he advised that a new CP model is coming in April. He hopes it will allow for more walking and interaction with the public. PM and MH spoke of road traffic concerns, specifically stretches of the A77 and, more locally, the dangerous corner of Sandgate and Fullerton Street by the bus station. PCAR will feedback members' suggestions and raise a request for a safety crossing.

5. **Ayr Town Centre and Belleisle Estate: Planning Application for proposed new Council Offices, Riverside Development**

NM read the following statement and also an email provided by architect Patrick Lorimer:

**Ayr Riverside Block**

This is the most important development to come before the Planning Authority in this decade and will be there to be seen for many years to come. It requires a superior building which gives great civic pride to the community. It has to be a building of exceptionally high design quality that excites the senses, and brings dignity to our town centre.

We are most fortunate to have Ayr Renaissance obtain the services of arguably the finest civic design architects in Britain – Niall McLaughlin and Charles Jencks – to create a Masterplan for this iconic site. Their Masterplan fired up excitement - that here we have a solution which recognises the past and the future. The Masterplan was arrived at after much public consultation and subsequent adjustment .

This Masterplan obtained outline planning consent and was handed to South Ayrshire Council (SAC), as clients to build the Council Offices within the site, and to have their designers formulate a solution within the Masterplan parameters. This has not happened.

The concept submitted is unimaginative, unexciting, oversized and deviates from the open space areas and as such does not comply with the original concept. I wish to refer you to the consultation within the Planning website by Architecture & Design Scotland, who were invited by SAC at the outset to advise on the proposal. The comments of A & D Scotland are withering in their criticism and condemnation of the present proposals. In other words, back to the drawing board. The design bears no relationship to the surrounding environs, particularly the Town Hall Spire, recognised nationally as one of the finest in Britain, and the Auld Brig dating back many centuries and immortalised by Robert Burns.

Architectural design is not subjective, as was noted by a recent planning panel, but it should be, in this case, soundly based on the size, scale and features of the building, its site and its environs, blending in as a high quality interpretation.

Further criticism of the design can be left to others more conversant with the details of the proposal, such as Architecture & Design Scotland. The Planning Authority would need to fully recognise that the client, being linked to the same Authority, be afforded no preferential treatment when considering this Application within the context of the Masterplan consent document and how it is interpreted by SAC.

This is a decision for all time and must be taken honestly in the interest of the citizens of Ayr, now and for all time.

J Norman McLean  
Chairman  
Fort Seafield & Wallacetown Community Council  
AYR

**From:** Pat Lorimer [mailto:[pat.lorimer@gmail.com](mailto:pat.lorimer@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2018 14:13  
**To:** Pat Lorimer; Caroline Lorimer  
**Subject:** New South Ayrshire Council Offices

As you are probably aware South Ayrshire Council intend to move out of their Burns house office into a new custom built block of offices erected on the cleared site at the bottom of the High street [the old Woolworths site]

**This is arguably the most important new building in the historic heart of Ayr since the Town Hall was erected.**

The Council have now applied for planning consent for the building and the link below gives details of the proposals

I personally have no objections to the principal and siting of the proposals. However, I have considerable reservations on the appearance of the building.

I appreciate that aesthetics are always subjective but I find the elevations and massing bland, repetitive, insensitive, out of scale and completely out of keeping with the surrounding buildings within the conservation area. In particular the size, scale and proportions of the windows, lack of a proper and robust roof line and lack of relationship to the adjoining buildings [both listed and otherwise]

The proposals are now open for public consultation and if you feel in any way the same, I would be grateful if you could make representations to SAC planners via the attached link.

Needless to say I would be happy for you to pass these details on to anyone else who you think might wish to comment.

For the avoidance of doubt I too will be making representations.

Pat Lorimer FRIAS

<http://publicaccesssouth-ayrshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=P3EUMEBDHJR00>

SB said that she appreciates the feedback, the first design was an artist's impression and the master plan has changed because the general public like coming over the bridge and seeing the town hall and open space. SB, NM, MH, FMW, RS and JH discussed the proposal further and queried the view of Ayr Renaissance. No members spoke in favour of the new design. FMW proposed that NM's statement had the support of FSWCC for submission as a formal objection to the planning application. This was seconded by PM.

SB advised that the Clydesdale Bank development has a new completion date of May. Development of Burns Statue Square is out to tender for consultants, with a view to the demolition of Burns House. Mike Newell is overseeing this project.

NM advised he had attended a photo shoot for the start of the Visitors' Centre at Belleisle. The work is contracted to Ashleigh Construction with a completion date of November. NM also met with Fiona Ross to request toilet facilities close to the play park. The council have appointed a surveyor to assess the value of the hotel with a view to possibly buying it back.

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

LL advised they are finishing work on the alternate budget, and he reported on his recent trip to meet with members of the Northern Ireland Assembly, where improvements to the A77 from Cairnryan were discussed. Plans for the proposed Golf Academy have been approved by the leadership panel, but will be called-in for review tomorrow as the plan shows two new holes infringing the old racecourse. SB, NM and LL discussed this further. NM had submitted an alternate plan showing how the academy could be contained within the existing boundaries of Belleisle and Seafield courses. It is hoped that three proposals will go to consultation.

SB advised that the budget consultation finished on Monday. 2800 responses provided lots of feedback. The initial £17 million has reduced to £7 million due extra funding from the Scottish government. Dolphin House will not close, it may open all year round. SB continues to encourage residents of South Harbour area to meet and discuss issues. Meanwhile Community Asset are fixing the canopy, re-painting rails, changing surfaces to deter skate-boarders. Community payback will clean up the area around the boat. The original boat owners are keen to restore the boat and move it to Irvine's maritime museum. A new action group is being set up to engage with the community in Wallacetown. Led by Cllr. Laura Brennan-Whitefield, SB, AP and RS, they hope to tackle housing issues, anti-social behaviour and look at ways to improve the area, eg: plant flowers, brighten the underpasses. The CC needs to consider border changes to the Ayr West Ward that affect St Leonard's area. NM will contact Alloway and Doonfoot to discuss the new boundary.

MH enquired whether Ayr Renaissance is looking at the fate of the Station Hotel, the largest and most at risk listed building in the town. SB confirmed yes.

7. **Planning Control**

The main issue is the planning application for the riverside block, already discussed at item 4. PM spoke of a few other items: a former snooker hall in Union Arcade set to become a coffee roastery; alterations to flats in Wellington Square and Mews Lane; and an industrial unit looking to become a catering and bakery business in Green Street (ref: 18/001/01/APP).

CC reported members of the public having received letters outlining the development of a beer garden at the Tam O'Shanter. Residents have some concerns, particularly about the hours of operation. PM advised that no formal planning proposal been submitted; however NM and LM believe this being dealt with through Licensing.

8. **Reports**

NM reported attending a Licensing Policy Consultation Event, a workshop looking at various issues, including: possible overprovision of licensed premises in the area; children and young persons' access to licensed premises; events which should be permitted extended hours; conditions for occasional licenses where children may be present; and noise from licensed premises. A more detailed formal consultation will begin in late spring.

MH reported a successful concert with 172 attendees at the weekend, with the launch of a new Beethoven CD. A BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra concert recorded at Ayr Town Hall in October was broadcast on the radio this week. Next concert, 10<sup>th</sup> March, The Orchestra of Scottish Opera playing all Russian music with a highly praised conductor.

MH is planning the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Organist Entertains series with organists coming from Italy, New Zealand, Germany and Scotland to play Ayr's quality instrument. A new piece of music is being written for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These lunchtime concerts target social isolation of the elderly, providing one hour of music therapy each week. MH is seeking funding to subsidise the series from the next Ayr South & Coynton Locality participatory budgeting event, where he will also seek funding for Doors Open Day.

9. **Public Business**

Nil

10. **Correspondence**

OS advised that the FSWCC bi-election form shows three vacancies in Wallacetown. She has a nomination form for co-opted member RS, and a poster to advertise locally for the two other spaces.

11. **Financial Report**

MH advised £252.49 is available for administration.

12. **AOCB**

RS offered to provide a presentation of the work and plans of Fresh Ayr at the next meeting, with Tom Warren from Collective Architecture. AP suggested a presentation by the newly set up Ayrshire Women's Hub for a subsequent meeting.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm**  
Room RB3 Ayr Town Hall