

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council Minutes
9th March 2022, 7pm
Room RB3 Town Hall Buildings, Ayr

Attendees: Norman McLean, Olena Stewart, Michael Hitchon, Forbes Watson, Gordon Kelly, Denise Somerville, Alison Logan, Sandy Crawford, Trina McNicol, David Porte (link officer) Nick Larkin (public) Martin Dowie (councillor) Lee Lyons (councillor)

Apologies: Katherine McNab, Alan Roseweir, Eric Armstrong, David Petrie, Derek McCabe (councillor)

Minutes of last meeting & Matters Update: Iain McKie's report on airbnb legislation was submitted to 'Lands Tribunal'

Election update: Fort - 6 applied for 5 places, Seafield - 5 applied for 7 places, Wallacetown - 3 applied for 3 places. Appointments announced 3rdApril.

Police Business: No report received from police; have said unaware CC conducting face to face meetings. **LL** to follow up. Serious undermanning in the force, one traffic car per shift for whole of Ayrshire **FW** highlighted problem of speeding in Doonfoot Road. Near accident when car travelling at speed narrowly missed two deer. No traffic calming has been put in place. Will write to Police again.

Participation requests: Enquiry by SG: NMCL submitted report on high flats to Peter Lomas maintaining council contravened regulations. Awaits word of meeting.

Nine people remain in eight flats however conditions have deteriorated. No demolition will take place during this administration. Suggestion has been made to SAC that empty flats are used to house Ukrainian refugees. Will write to Peter Henderson on behalf of (unanimous) Community Council members.

MD says council has discounted flats being used for this purpose. Confirms demolition team occupied at Mainholm.

Queen's Jubilee Celebration: MH reported application for funds to contribute towards organ concert 6thJune got a lukewarm response from Tracey Winner-Scott **MD** will bring up with council. **FW** suggested bonfire on the beach would involve considerable organisation: will approach Rugby Club and Rotary.

FSWCA update on Wallacetown: Alan Roseweir submitted an update. Block of flats in Wallacetown has been identified as being suitable for solar panels and as potential site for a community hub.

Winners of a logo competition in Newton Primary will go on an outing to STEM Centre at Dumfries House.

The Energy Group has been awarded £10k from Coastal Communities Fund for 'feasibility study to identify fuel baseline data' and 'feasibility study to identify suitable renewable technology and other measures to raise the Energy Performance Level (EPC) as identified in the Scottish

Government's *Tackling fuel poverty strategy.*' Forbes Watson FSWCA treasurer will manage the funds.

Councillors' Report: LL said that due to proximity of council elections, little to update on last month's report.

MD said planning has approved plans for leisure centre though no contracts have been signed. Brodies, Solicitors, Edinburgh advised SAC that proposal to finalise on 14th April now be set on new date of 10th June, with contracts signed 17th. If present administration re-elected, leisure centre will go ahead. If conservative administration is voted in, Citadel will be refurbished - cost £9m - and High Street (including Hourstons repurposed as council offices - cost £3/4m) and Seafront developed.

New lighting has been installed in South Harbour.

Despite its Art Deco heritage, Odean cinema building is not listed. Cinema multiplex proposed for Kyle Centre.

Work continues on bottom of the High Street gardens and community building. A change in administration would propose erecting flats along the High St in keeping with surrounding buildings with an arch leading to river frontage.

Darlington Church to be sold for £1 to Iris Arts. Despite offering £35k Sikh Temple turned down due to errors in the application process.

Nick Larkin pointed out present council's misappropriation of Common Good Fund. Investment properties are being sold off to 'plug the defect'. The fund is owned by the people of Ayr and controlled and managed under statute by the council. Suggests a Common Good Committee is set up comprising elected members, members of the public and community council members.

Planning Control: Ongoing issues with Springvale Road; boundary line crossed another's property.

Seafield Tennis Courts. Ayr Lawn Tennis Club have taken ownership of their premises to develop further courts and improve facilities. **NMcL** said this was a positive result is sure that funds will be appropriately spent.

Belleisle House remains unsold due to unrealistic purchase conditions imposed by council.

Report & Correspondence: OS forwards emails to CC members as she receives them.

Email received from Citadel Quay resident on the subject of waste disposal by guests staying in short term let properties. Kenny Dalrymple to follow up.

Tracy Winner-Scott emailed regarding collections for Ukraine. A number of venues have been set up including Red Cross in Wellington Square, Alloway Church, Mossgiel and Olga in Newmarket Street premises.

Financial Report: MH announced zero balance. Three donations of £50; Ayrshire Hospice, Newton Primary School and Newton Primary Nursery.

AOCB: OS enquired about what help was available for those affected by homelessness. MD suggested those declaring as homeless would be allocated temporary accommodation in a B&B or hotel however few establishments permitted dogs.

MH commented on the 'philistine's' ' approach shown by council to archaeological investigation on the site at the bottom of the High Street. Plans to involve the public as site was exposed, eventually incorporating remains in a permanent display have been shelved and exploration area filled in.

GK said a meeting had been arranged this Saturday 2pm by resident Marion Morrison regarding, among other things, the future of The Watchful. He would try and attend.

Final Meeting of this Council pending Election results in April 2022