



## FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes** of Meeting held on Wednesday 13 March 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings at 7.00pm.

**Present** Sandy Crawford (SC), Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Phil Martin (PM), Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Eileen Munro (EM), David Petrie (DP), Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Forbes Watson (FW) Vice Chair.

**In Attendance** Cllr Siobhian Brown (SB), Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, PC Geraldine Cannell (PCGC), PC Jamie Cree (PCJC).

**Public** Chic Brodie, Mark Lilley, Tricia McNicol, Alistair Paterson.

**1 Apologies** Cllr Martin Dowey (MD), Dympna Gardiner (DG), Cllr Lee Lyons (LL), Elizabeth Martin (EM), Cllr Derek McCabe (DM), Judith Paterson (JP), Angi Pinkerton (AP), Robert Singer (RS), Denise Somerville (DS), Frank Ward (FW).

**Election and welcome** The Chairman thanked outgoing members who did not stand for re-election: Elizabeth Martin, Peter McCall, Eileen Munro, Judith Paterson Frank Ward and Robert Singer. The Chairman congratulated the five new members: Allan Dorans, Ian Henderson, Alison Logan, Elizabeth Morrison and Denise Somerville who join from 1 April. The Chairman welcomed three members of the Fort Residents and Tenants Association.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting** Minutes of 13 February 2019 previously proposed by FW, seconded by NM.

**3 Police Business** Crime in Ayr West February 2019 and February 2018 Offences Data:

Crime Type	Feb 2019	Feb 2018
Housebreaking	4	9
Theft MV	0	5
Drugs Offences	12	6
Assaults	11	15
Breach of the Peace	13	17
Drunk/Disqualified Driving	0	0

Housebreakings decreased by 5 compared with the previous year. Car crime decreased during the period. Residents are reminded to be highly vigilant regarding home security and leaving items visible in their cars and ensuring central locking systems are engaged correctly. Anyone seen acting suspiciously should be reported to the Police immediately. Drink driving detection remained static.

Frank Braddick now leads the Community Policing Team in our area.

## Ward Priorities

1. Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour
2. Road Safety
3. Drug Dealing and Drug Misuse
4. Housebreaking and Dishonesty

In an emergency, dial 999.

For non-urgent crime, dial 101.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ayrshirepolice](https://www.facebook.com/ayrshirepolice)

Email: [AyrWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AyrWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

**4 Matters Arising – High Rise Flats** NM and DP are due to meet Michael Alexander Mark Baker and Karen Monaghan from SAC on Wednesday 27 March in connection with the High Flats Working Group involving tenants and SAC representatives regarding the future of the three iconic buildings. The three options are as follows:

1. Decant tenants one block at a time for minimum 12 months to allow renovation.
2. Demolition and move tenants elsewhere.
3. Demolition and build on site on 3 year minimum programme.

One-to-one discussions were taking place with tenants.

**5 Fort Flats and Residents Association** Three members of the group who represent 2,500 residents both permanent and itinerant from South Harbour Street, the Esplanade and the Fort area came to highlight several current concerns. A major concern is the increase in AirBNB accommodation which has resulted in noisy weekend parties that disturb permanent residents, particularly the elderly. Issues relate to rowdy behaviour, entry security and limited transport links. SB has held meetings with residents to discuss the lack of transport to the Citadel and Esplanade areas. The group were anxious about the large care home being built at Plot Nine, as it was not known which category of care home it was to be and enquiries had drawn no information. Planning did not know, the Care Commission did not know and all enquiries had yielded no detailed information whether it was to be for young or old or special needs or what. It was considered altogether unsatisfactory.

## 6 Ayr Town Centre / Belleisle / Councillors' Business

Ayr Station Hotel – Structural Engineers' Report awaited.

Belleisle House Hotel – ongoing discussion with SAC and potential hotel developer.

A new owner was planning to develop a first national flagship store within the former BHS building on High Street.

Long term plans for Ayr Town Centre / High Street were being considered, such as leisure facilities and landscaping the Riverside Site.

A Scottish Design Exchange could come to Hourston's with interest from London and the Far East.

Kyle Centre – no information.

Parking to be considered, IT, the Scottish Diaspora could become interested.

Former Clydesdale Bank building is due to open in May. Alan Moore is planning events.

Schools could showcase events there.

National Chamber Music Day is scheduled for Saturday 14 September.

High Rise Flats brochure sent out by SAC. NM and DP to send out a note setting out options and implications for residents, who clearly do not want to move. They will report back.

## 7 Planning Control

Wellington School planned an access from Blackburn Drive.

Two hours' free parking was advocated in the morning to encourage a boost to the town centre.

Elms Curt Hotel permission for flats may have lapsed and there may be a new owner. It continues to blight Miller Road.

Royal Hotel, Kyle Street is a cause for concern as, viewed from the back, the roof has dangerously sagged and could cause a collapse of the frontage endangering life.

Concern at neglected state of properties at 5-15 Barns Street.

Seafield House may be the subject of a planning application soon. TPO concern.

Proposed Golf Academy – no business plan seen.

Burns House may be empty by December.

Future use of current Ayr Grammar School, as suggested by Ayr Rotary Club, to be considered as the primary school is due to move to Fort Street in 2020.

No plans yet for the High Street Open Space – could it be subject of a competition for schools or the wider public? A community councillor asked if, as the site is owned by SAC, the required archaeological investigations could go ahead sooner rather than later? It would be a tourist attraction as at Whithorn or Kilwinning.

**8 Reports** – See 12.

**9 Public Business** Dealt with at 5.

**10 Correspondence** It was suggested that the Community Council Elections could be notified by email rather than by post thus saving expense.

**11 Financial Report** £170 available for administration. Two donations were agreed to encourage the work of the Salvation Army in the Wallacetown area and the Riverside Evangelical Church also in the Wallacetown area.

## **12 AOCB**

Members were notified that names and sub ward of members were to be displayed on the website, and a non-private email contact address was to be provided.

### **Town Hall Organ Concerts**

35 Monday lunchtime organ concerts have been arranged for 2019, all Mondays at 12 noon:

1 April, St Nicholas PC, Prestwick Dr John Kitchen MBE

8 April, St Nicholas PC Prestwick, Chris Nickol

15 April, Holy Trinity Church, Ayr, Gordon Cree

22 April, Easter Monday, No Organ Concert

29 April, Ayr Auld Kirk, David Hamilton

6 May, Ayr Auld Kirk, Frikki Walker

13 May, St Columba PC, Ayr, John Turner

20 May, St Columba PC, Ayr, Chris Bragg

27 May, St Columba PC, Ayr, Sam Austin

### **Town Hall Orchestral Concerts**

Friday 22 March, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra plays in Ayr Town Hall at 7.30pm in what could be the final concert by a professional orchestra supported financially by SAC. The treasurer from Ayr Arts Guild explained that the dates for the 33rd Series have been arranged and he was hoping that SAC would continue to invest in their annual Ayr Concert Series bringing International conductors and soloists to Ayr with Scottish orchestras. But the recent budget economies resulted in the elimination of that financial support. A meeting with a senior council officer would be sought.

Sunday 24 March, Ayr Choral concert, 7.30pm, Ayr Town Hall.

Sunday 31 March, Ayrshire Symphony Orchestra concert, 7.30pm.

**12 Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 10 April 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings, 7.00pm.

**PS** A black cashmere Elgin scarf was missed following the December meeting. Did you inadvertently lift it?