



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 11 September 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings at 7.00pm.

Present Murray Buchanan (MB), Sandy Crawford (SC), Allan Dorans (AD), Dympna Gardiner (DG), Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Ian Henderson (IH), Alison Logan (AL), Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Catriona McNichol (CM), Phil Martin (PM), Elizabeth Morrison (EM), David Petrie (DP), Denise Somerville (DS), Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Forbes Watson (FW) Vice Chair.

In Attendance Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, Cllr Lee Lyons (LL), Cllr Derek McCabe (DM), CI Brian Anderson (CIBA), PC Geraldine Cannell (PCGC), PC John Cook (PCJC).

Public Reg Tait, Monica Tait; Fiona McAvoy (Head Teacher), Daniella Miller (Depute Head Teacher), Nicola Killick (Acting Principal Teacher), all at Newton Primary School.

1 Apologies Cllr Siobhian Brown (SB), Cllr Martin Dowey (MD),

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting Agreed after noting that Murray Buchanan and Catriona McNichol had been present. Minutes proposed by MB and seconded by SC.

3 Matters Arising There was none.

4 Police Business Crime in Ayr West Aug/May 2019 and Aug/May 2018 Offences Data:

Crime Type	Aug 2019	Aug 2018	May 2019	May 2018
Housebreaking	4	10	5	4
Theft MV	3	4	2	2
Drugs Offences	8	10	9	16
Assaults	8	14	15	11
Breach of the Peace	10	9	10	17
Drunk/Disqualified Driving	1	2	1	0

Housebreakings in the Ayr South ward have decreased by 6 compared with the same period last year. Car crime has decreased by 1 in Ayr South during this period. Residents should 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 increased by 1 compared with the same period last year.

Chief Inspector Brian Anderson is going round the community councils to introduce himself and understand the concerns of the community. Concerns raised included boy/girl racers, with an action plan for Ayr Esplanade; and attempted suicides for which there are no figures. He was hesitant at

discussing drug incidents and sudden deaths. He was complimented on the handling of road closures in Ayr during the Go! Festival on Saturday 7 September.

He acknowledged that the figures each month were historic and trends might be more meaningful. He is in charge of the Locality Policing Team on foot, mobile and cycle and the Response Officers who meet weekly to look at problem areas.

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

Twitter - @AyrshireSPolice

Email: AyrWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

5 Public Business The delegation from Newton Primary School gave a graphic account of the challenges of getting and keeping pupils in school with so many disadvantaged families in the Wallacetown area, though 90% pupils were in school. She invited members to visit the school for themselves. Much effort is working with families and a sheet illustrated many facets. She spoke of food bank Monday, supper club, food parcels taken to homes, the family worker, 21 mums, sport Wednesday, horticulture club, hygiene packs, light bulbs, shampoo, clothes bank, washing machine, homeless accommodation, basic stuff for kids. Some help had come from local Rotary Clubs. Initiatives to clean closes, community safety, holiday programmes, hair cuts, family fortnight, Christmas lunch and tea, presents. Some families are just coping with introduction of Universal Credit, Bestart, Easistart. The school band and music opportunities were beginning to bear fruit. DS confirmed problems in closes and in flats. AL said that new housing and more housing of quality using renewables such as solar panels to cut heating costs were required.

6 Ayr Town Centre: High Flats and Riverside Site Arguments had challenged the wisdom of considering demolition of the high flats when they were in good condition and well loved by occupants; concern was expressed that two council officers had been pressing tenants to sign a Housing Application Form before the end of the month. Some had been offered but needed to turn down the offer because access was up stairs. Interviews were ongoing. Community Councillors did not realise that a time limit had been set. Some had been offered sheltered housing and it was not a surprise that it was accepted. Tenants felt that there was threat to lose priority. Many still felt it had all been a *fait accompli*. Some expected to be offered accommodation at the Mainholm site scheduled for house building. FR called for a reconsideration of the whole project, having heard the need for priority to be given to Wallacetown. Estimates for costs need to be reconsidered as PVC would be as good as costly aluminium. DM was to ask for the matter to be revisited. The job had been approached back to front. PM reminded the meeting of the Wallacetown Action Group and the presentation from the teachers, who should give their presentation to elected SAC councillors and officials.

Concern was expressed at the reappearance of the notion of developing a Golf Academy that could intrude onto the successful, safe, well-used Old Racecourse Football Playing Fields.

7 Councillors' Business The northern area of High Street was now the Cultural and Heritage Zone. Public consultation would continue: Riverside Site, Lorne Arcade, Boat at Harbour, Station Hotel 595 page First Report now published online. Fort Residents' Chair reported again that there was mystery surrounding the specific designation of the seafront care home on Plot 9. The Care Commission had not been consulted, though it was anticipated to be a generic facility for elderly with dementia. The Balconies were 2.6m, there were 17 parking spaces, and 200 residents. There was no transparency, and nothing to prevent change. Could the law help? asked a cc.

8 Planning Control Signage and driveways topics. Ayr Academy building to open August 2020 as a primary school. There was a call for it be called the Ayr Academy Junior Department or Ayr Academy Primary School, as Ayr Academy near this site was one of the oldest schools in the United Kingdom. Royal Hotel was a blight on Kyle Street, though an application was anticipated. In South Harbour Street application for two more blocks of flats was anticipated at Compass Pier South Quay where PS Waverley used to berth.

9 Reports There was none.

10 Correspondence There were letters about Licensing, the Tenants' Fun Day at The Citadel on Saturday 14 September, Community Resilience, and VE Day 75th anniversary (weekend of 8/9/10 May 2020). An unsolicited letter had been received from a local lady expressing support for the residents of the High Flats in their campaign to retain their lovely homes.

11 Financial Report £550 available for administration.

12 AOCB Organ concerts well supported so far: over 1,400 listeners. Brochures for the 33rd Joint Ayr Concert Series were distributed, first highlight Scottish Chamber Orchestra with Pekka Kuusisto from Finland, director/soloist/conductor, on Wednesday 2 October in Ayr Town Hall.

12 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 9 October 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings, 7.00pm.