



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community Council Minutes for 13 April 2022 Council Chambers, Ayr Town Buildings, 7pm

1. Apologies Eric Armstrong, Denise Sommerville, Gordon Bingham, Trina McNicol, David Porte, Martin Dowey, Lee Lyons, Jason Peter, Jamie Lyall (police)

Present Norman McLean, Forbes Watson, Olena Stewart, Alison Logan, Michael Hitchon, Phil Martin, Alan Roseweir, Gordon Kelly, Kenny MacLeod, Adam Short, Jamie Tait (SAC Service Lead – Thriving Communities, Returning Officer), Derek McCabe (Councillor), T. Davies Brock (public), Esther Clark (public)

Norman McLean welcomed everyone to the newly elected CC and asked each to introduce themselves round the table.

He then passed the chair to Jamie Tait, SAC Service Lead – Thriving Communities, Returning Officer to conduct the election of Office Bearers.

For the post of Chairman: Norman McLean, proposed by Forbes Watson, seconded by Gordon Kelly.

For Vice Chairman: Forbes Watson, proposed by Alan Roseweir, seconded by Michael Hitchon.

For Secretary: Olena Stewart, proposed by Norman McLean, seconded by Phil Martin.

For Treasurer: Michael Hitchon, proposed by Olena Stewart, seconded by Norman McLean.

2 & 3. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

Speeding in Doonfoot Road – it was suggested that ‘Beware Deer’ signs should be provided. Phil was concerned that extra houses led to extra traffic and at the bridge by ‘The Secret Garden’ recommended a rail to protect people using the narrow footpath. Better markings were needed. He witnessed a cyclist had experienced a near miss. Although this is outwith our area, it is of concern to us regarding road safety.

Gordon reported a successful litter picking morning near The Watchful on 2 April.

4. Police Business

No Police present since the outbreak of the pandemic.. They will be reminded that the CC has been active for several months and meeting in person. Their attendance at future meetings would be welcomed.

5. Talk by Esther Clark, Secretary of Ayr Development Trust and formerly the Chair of Ayr Station Hotel Community Action Group

Norman introduced Esther Clark and she in turn spoke in some detail about the work of each of the two groups with which she is involved. She provided reprints of two articles written for the Magazine of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, Spring 2022 Issue Number 49, pp 24-27. Esther also reminded members of the Report written by SAVE Britain's Heritage on ways forward for the future of Ayr Station Hotel. She answered some questions. It was agreed that the council would consider the Ayr Development Trust details outlined by Esther for consideration at our next meeting.

6. Councillors' Report

Derek McCabe reported that with the local election pending, there was little to report from County Buildings. Norman said he had written to the Scottish Government suggesting that in addition to MoD properties, the three multi storey blocks of flats in Ayr could be used to house refugees from Ukraine on hopefully, a temporary basis. After receiving the approval of the Community Councillors present, he would write to the SAC CEO, Eileen Howat after the coming election.

7. Participation Request

Norman explained that many groups nationally had shared their disappointment and frustration at the lack of involvement when asking to become involved with Participation Requests. He said that there was growing concern that there was no appeal policy and thus a request for an amendment to the Act was suggested by the government working party. SAC had indeed used delaying tactics to deny the CC becoming involved in the decision taken with regard to the high flats and this should not be repeated.

8. Planning

Why has there not been any response to the request for involvement with a Place Plan for Ayr town centre, was asked.

There was an appeal that there should be an opportunity for public viewing of the 'Full Archaeological Investigation' (two conditions of planning) undertaken at the Riverside Site before it was all covered up. It could have been a tourist attraction all summer, but was now just a lost opportunity.

9. Report by Alan Roseweir, Chair of Wallacetown Energy Project Group

Alan gave an update from the report provided for the CC meeting held on 10 March.

Logo competition – A competition for a logo had been organised, the winner to receive a day at the STEM Centre at Dumfries House.

Feasibility Studies – funded through the Coastal Communities Fund. Proposal prepared and submitted by Fraser of Allander Institute and University of Strathclyde to carry out a baseline

study. This will allow to benchmark and to measure change in Wallacetown. It will also be of use to the Multidisciplinary Team deployed in the area. Three public buildings have been agreed with SAC (Newton PS, St John's PS and Wallcetown EYC). Scoping brief has been sent to three companies, choice to be determined 19 April.

Other Matters – Alan had been invited by Fiona McAvoy to speak to her primary cluster group of schools (Newton PS, Annbank PS, Dalmilling PS and Coylton PS covering areas: STEM learning for P6 and P7 classes; Strathclyde Inspire overview; Overview of the Energy Project involving FSWCA and SAC Partnership; STEM Grants 2022; Ayrshire College – access to online learning materials; Climate Action Hubs.

Alan spoke warmly of the co-operation he was receiving. The group of helpful colleagues, all recognise the mutual benefits in working together to access available funding.

A major aim is to offset fuel poverty in Wallacetown and roll out findings to a much wider audience.

10. Cycleways

Norman reported that he was in touch with Patrick Dunne SAC, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and Sustrans over the proposal of placing a cycle/pedestrian bridge across the pillars of the former railway bridge on the river to avoid the hazard of traffic on the New Bridge and successfully complete the Ayrshire Coastal Path. This is in line with the Masterplan proposal being prepared by the SeeAyr project. Coastal Communities Funding was being investigated to provide feasibility funding.

Post Meeting: As a grant funding vehicle, it could be headed by FSWCA who are in a position to apply for funding where it is outwith the scope of FSWCC.

9. Reports and Correspondence

Olena Stewart circulates appropriate emails and information as received for CCs to action.

10. Financial Report

Michael advised that the Administration Budget was all spent and a request would be made for £800 plus £86 to cover the Zurich insurance payment plus £40 to cover the ICO annual registration.

11. AOCB

Andrew Todd, Ranger, is asking to be notified of natural history opportunities contributing to exercising and wellbeing.

It was hoped that Ayr Common Good Fund would benefit significantly from the rent use of The Old Racecourse for the major events there this summer.

The red tulips in the window boxes funded by owners and businesses along Alloway Place and Barns Terrace have been admired by many.

Signs banning campervans from the Esplanade, except in Blackburn Car Park, have yet to be re-positioned where missing in places.

12. Date of Next Meeting

11 May 2022 at 7pm