



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of FSWCC on 9th October 2024 at 6.30pm
in Grammar School Ayr.

1. Welcome and Introduction by Jim McKay Vice Chair.
Members Present; Carol Fisher, Eric Armstrong, Forbes Watson and David Connolly.
SAC Councillors; Bob Shields Ayr West and Mark Dixon Ayr North, Member of Planning and Licensing Committees.
SAC; Craig Isles Planning SAC and Chris Carroll Licensing SAC.
Members of Public; David Petrie.
2. Apologies; Denise Sommerville Chair, Rachel Borland, Andy Seville, Alan Roseweir and Michael Hitchon. David Porte SAC, George Weir Councillor and Stewart Slaven Police
No Apology from Robert Singer. Could members please put apologies in by WhatsApp or e-mail ASAP it only takes a few minutes.
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3. Declarations of Interest; None.
In future can anyone declare if they are employed by SAC?
4. Short Term Lets (STLs)
Half an hour discussion was opened by Eric Armstrong giving a comprehensive account of the issues involved with the residents in the Fort area and their frustrations with SAC and STLs, notably pop up brothels, key safes and noise. 1 application had been refused and did SAC keep records of percentages refused. Carol Fisher asked if SAC had a vision or plan on this issue. Response was no plan said Craig Isle and Chris Carroll stated that no records of percentages of refusals were kept and that each application was treated on an individual basis by both planning and licensing. However, it was pointed out by both Craig and Chris on several occasions that the more objections that are received then the stronger the case.

Bob Shields stated that there was a video of an owner meeting and greeting two ladies at the alleged property being used as a pop up brothel and that the feeling in the community was that SAC was in favour of the operators of STL's. Bob asked if SAC can take policy on Licensing and Planning for single entry properties as these have been adopted in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Mark Dixon confirmed that this would be a political decision.

Forbes Watson asked if police complaints would weigh heavily with SAC and this as confirmed by Mark Dixon as yes. David Connolly raised the issue of these properties being changed from residential to commercial properties? Chris Carroll

intimated that he is preparing a mail drop in the Citadel area to encourage residents to voice their concerns and will inform us when this will take place. Craig and Chris were thanked for their attendance and that the full and frank discussion that took place hopefully gave everyone a better insight into this major issue. They both left the meeting at this point as did Councillor Dixon.

- Minutes of meeting on 12th June 2024 not ratified due to further discussions required.

Minutes of meeting on 11th September 2024 Proposed by Forbes Watson, seconded by Carol Fisher as a true and accurate account.

Matters Arising;

Councillor Shields reported that the beach cleaning issue depends on many factors not least that the part of the beach concerned has to be left natural due to Green issues, the Council will remove dead animals or birds and large logs but nothing else. Bob was disappointed that the lady who raised the issue was not present however Carol intimated that she would get her e-mail address for Bob.

- Public Business. David Petrie raised issue of scaffolding erected at Ayr Sheriff Court as this is a Scottish Government building but according to a BBC Scotland TV news programme Channel 9 this is being paid for by SAC? Likewise apparently Belleisle Conservatory was funded by SAC? Eric asked what has happened to all the projects Mr Dowey had promised. Bob said he would provide details of status on these projects.

- SAC Elected Members

Councillor Shields reported that our request for help from SAC re ZOHO was not well received neither was the issue regarding a wreath for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 10th November 2024 as they say if they provide one for us they would have to include all other CC's despite the fact the CC were planning to paying for it. Sometimes words fail you. We will arrange our own.

- Reports;

A) Police - E-mail received from Sgt Slaven but very poor information with little detail. Bob Shields advised that there is a Zoom call every quarter with Ward Councillors and Police if we wish to sit in on.

B) Treasurer - Michael's report received and no issues raised.

C) Planning - Rachel's report received and no issues raised.

D) Licensing - Forbes brought up parade application from Orange Order for Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2024 at 2pm to march from Wellington Square to Castlehill Church

David Connolly was only objection. His reason being it was the noise of drums and flutes being played. David was advised that if he did object on a personal level then to make sure that he stated that he was a Community Councillor and that his views were not the views of the FSWCC.

- Blackburn Car Park meeting; Briefing was distributed before the meeting unfortunately neither Andy nor David Porte could attend this evening the next meeting is on 24th October.

10. Common Good; Forbes reported hearing at Sheriff Court re; Cafe on Low Green has had no response re this. Mr Dowey said this is part of Common Good. We must as a matter of urgency get a sub-committee involved as there are issues to raise which can only be beneficial to the people of Ayr.

11. Community Energy Project; Nothing to report.

12. A.O.C.B; Chair and Secretary of all Community Councils to meet with SAC to discuss issues which affect us all. Carol took the following from our meeting broken windows in Town Centre, Common Good fund, STL's, Blackburn Sea Front, Trees at tops of buildings including at tower at Town Hall and neglected buildings

Meeting closed at 8.10pm. Next meeting 13th November 2024 (time to be confirmed) in Grammar School, Ayr.

For noting Janitor advised it is easier to use entrance next to Dansarena as you can park in there and Memorial Hall is at top of stairs.