

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council
Minutes
7pm, Wednesday 10th January 2024
Memorial Hall, Ayr Grammar Primary School, Ayr

Attendance

CC Members: Denise Sommerville (DS -Chair), Gordon Kelly (GK- Vice chair), Michael Hitchon (MH), Forbes Watson (FW), Kenny MacLeod (KM), Andy Seville (AS), Jim McKay (JM), Carol Fisher(CF- Secretary), Ken Ballantyne (KB), Alan Roseweir (AR), David Connelly (DC).

SAC Councillors: Cllr George Weir (GW), Cllr Bob Shields (BS)

SAC Link Officer: David Porte

SAC Licensing Officer: Chris Carroll

Police: Not present.

Minute Secretary: AS (stand-in)

Member of the Public: Michael Clarke, Lynn Carleton, Audrey Gatt;

1. Apologies:

- a. Robert Singer
- b. Cllrs Martin Dowey and Lee Lyons were invited to the meeting but did not respond.

2. Declarations of Interest:

None.

3. Minutes of Meeting Held on 13th December 2023:

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by vote and ratified.

Proposed: FW, **Seconded:** CF. **Carried.**

4. Matters Arising from the Meeting Held on 13th December 2023:

- a. Mike Newall. 2 meetings were held with Mr Newall. Among items discussed were the Station Hotel. MN stressed that the current works were specifically safety works rather than demolition, and that the legal case for these works was solid.
- b. FW commented on the Profit and Loss account for the Common Good fund. £4000 from the Ayrshow was allocated to the Common good fund, whilst SAC made £64,900. In addition £750 was made from use of the Old Racecourse for event car parking. The Common Good fund accounts should be reviewed by a qualified accountant. **Proposed FW, Seconded AR Carried**
- c. Further discussions were had regarding the email received from Cllr Dowey in December. Various options for response were discussed. AR proposed a vote of confidence in the Chair (DS) and GK Seconded, with the clarification that matters of a political nature had neither been discussed at meetings nor influenced FSWCC activity under DS's tenure. This was carried unanimously with strong support from all members. Cllr Shields commended the members for not sharing the contents of the email outside of the Community Council. It was proposed that GK reply directly to Cllr Dowey. **Proposed KM, Seconded AS Carried**
- d. Sam Platt has still not responded to FSWCC

5. Chris Carroll, SAC Licensing

Mr Carroll was welcomed to the meeting. He made a presentation covering the Licensing process for Short Term Lets. It was noted that to date there had been 470 applications, of which 70 had been approved, and that a further 50 had received competent objections. There was clearly a large backlog in processing the license applications. CC stated that there were now 2 SAC employees working on this.

There then followed a Q&A session, which covered issues such as compliance with the License conditions, especially regarding Anti-Social Behaviour by STL occupants. CC noted that if complaints were received, they would be acted upon, involving the Police if necessary. Lynn Carleton made comments regarding the STL licensing legislation which she felt was not strong enough regarding control of numbers of STL's, and with compliance to licensing conditions. JM raised the issue of testing for legionella in STL's. CC explained that landlords could carry this out themselves and JM expressed the view that this explanation was unsatisfactory and required further clarification.

6. Public Business

- A. **SAC Parking Consultation.** Michael Clarke commented on the current Parking Consultation for the town which closes 31/01/24. He strongly objected to the proposals and stated that he considered them a tax on residents and local businesses. There was strong support for this view from members of FSWCC and from Cllr Weir, who stated he had also received similar comments from members of the public. Members of FSWCC had already responded to the consultation and others were encouraged to do so.
- B. **Place Planning.** Audrey Gatt discussed the results of a Place Planning Consultation which closed in December 2023 regarding the future development of Ayr town centre. It was proposed that a Sub-group be set up to meet with Audrey to discuss this in more detail. Members would be KM, AR, CF and MH **Proposed AR**
Seconded KM Carried

7. Reports

a. Police:

No Police report was received, and it was noted that there had been personnel changes in Ayr Police which meant a new officer would now be our contact. **Action:-** DS to contact Ayr Police.

b. SAC Elected Members - Cllrs Weir and Shields provided provide a summary of issues as follows:

- i. Station Hotel, which would be made safe by 8/3/24. This would involve reducing the South Range to a height of 10 feet and cost £1.2 Million, which has not been budgeted for. Once this work has been completed, the rest of the building will be inspected. SAC were hoping to get further funding from the Scottish Government and Network Rail.
- ii. Parking Consultation.
- iii. Overflowing bins on the Promenade.
- iv. Health and Social Care issues, specifically access to Care Packages.
- v. Criticism of the MV Watchful Survey
- vi. Belleisle House Hotel. Specifically, 2 proposals have been refused by SAC as they proposed demolition of the fire damaged building. Further discussions re the listed status of the building are planned by SAC in the future.

c. Planning:

- i. An application has been submitted for removal of trees in the building formerly the Ellisland Hotel on Racecourse Road. KM proposed the FSWCC object to this. **Proposed KM Seconded AR Carried**
- ii. A Planning application has been lodged for a 24Hr Gaming venue on Ayr High Street. Concern was expressed by members that this was not the image the town should project, and that the planned 24hr operation may lead to increased crime, anti-social behaviour and gambling addiction. **Action:-** KM to submit objection on behalf of FSWCC

d. **Licencing**

FW – no applications for our area of responsibility.

e. **Treasurer's Report**

MH provided the financial update. He reported a current balance of £476.88.

Proposed: MH. Seconded: FW. Carried

8. **Co Opted Member:**

Rachel Borland to be Co Opted to join FSWCC for the vacant Seafield post. **Proposed GK Seconded DS. Carried.**

9. **AOCB:**

a. **Events Working Group.** Meetings are to be held between Airshow organisers and local businesses on 23/1/24 and 31/1/24. Members of the Events Working group are to attend.

10. **Date of next meeting:**

The Chair(DS) closed the meeting at 21.00 hrs and confirmed the next CC meeting for Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7pm, memorial Hall, Ayr Grammar Primary School