

**Fort, Seafield, and Wallacetown Community Council
Minutes
7 pm, 13th December 2023
RBA3, Town Hall Buildings, Ayr**

1. Attendance and Welcome

Chair welcomed members and Mark Greeves to the meeting, and it was agreed that the meeting be recorded for the purposes of the minute.

CC Members: Denise Sommerville (Chair), Michael Hitchon (MH), David Connelly (DC), Forbes Watson (FW), Robert Singer (RS), Kenny MacLeod (KM), Alan Roseweir (AR) Gordon Kelly (GK), Carol Fisher (CF), Jim Mackay (JM),

SAC Councillors: Cllr George Weir, Cllr Bob Shields

SAC Link Officer: Mark Greeves (SAC) Accessible Ayr

Police: Not Present. No report

Minute Secretary: DS (stand-in)

Public: Karen O'Neil, Ian Scott

2. Apologies:, David Porte, Eric Armstrong (EA), Andy Saville (AS) Ken Ballantyne (KB)

3. Declarations of Interest:

None noted

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 8th November 2023:

KM GW Amendments to the minutes were proposed and agreement from the members was accepted..

Proposed: KM **Seconded:** JM. **Carried.**

5. Matters Arising from the Meeting Held on 8th November 2023:

KM Sam Platt has not responded to the emails.

The chlorine odour at Kyle Street KM case has closed due to application withdrawal.

Bath place – No objections

MH – The Christmas window competition which the CC supports. MH represented the community council in judging the winner shop L&T Décor Wallpaper and Paints Scotland on Dalblair Road and the runner-up was Olga's Alterations on New Market Street. Well done to all that took part.

6. Accessible Ayr

Mark Greeves Accessible Ayr was welcomed and presented an informative overview of the ambitious plans for Ayr Town in the next few years. A flyover AI-generated visual of where the new cycle lanes and roads will be in and around the town centre. He was happy to take questions and ideas going forward with an ongoing consultation.

Most were concerned with the aging population of SA

6. Reports

a. **Police:**

No police attendance or Report. FW reports that police have been present and active down the esplanade which is known to be notorious for boy racers.

Action: DS to contact the local Senior Officer to arrange a meeting to discuss.

b. **Wallacetown Energy Project**

AR gave an update on the success so far in getting this off the ground. The schools have been confirmed to be able to connect successfully to the grid. The capital funding bid was rejected with the recommendation to reapply. 2024 could see this manifesting. CC to continue to support this.

c. **Elected members report.**

Cllr GW provided a summary of report issues as follows: Quiet on the constituent issues, standard issues such as housing, potholes, parking, and health and social care issues have been ongoing. An update on STL is provided below.

Cllr BS reports on the fire at the Arran mall – it was reported it started in the old carpet retailer, it was controlled and extinguished safely. With thanks to the local fire service.

Dispute on the scaffolding around the station hotel and the damage being caused by the forceful removal of the scaffolding.

d. **Short Term Lets (STLs)**

GK – discussed the recommendations for the STLs and the justification for the £50m claim for the local economy. DS updated the members on the meeting that GK and DS attended with Mike Newell (Chief Exec SAC). There will be a response to the STL in due course as our meeting was only 30mins long with a welcomed agreement to a follow-up meeting later in the week.

GK and DS to attend the follow-up meeting.

The issue of the STL list has been updated and received by the community council.

GW updated the members about Cllr Dowey's plan for the control area around the Fort area.

KM has requested FOI on the issue of STLs being used by SAC for temporary accommodation – 20 days and no reply.

Both councillors agreed to keep investigating this issue closely

FW suggests writing to sellers and the B and B Association.

e. **Planning**

KM brought to the attention of CC the following applications for discussion:
Old Bridge St - Application for a change of use from shop to residential
Arrol Park - Application to remove tree
Salvation Army Community Church, Wallacetown - Application for remedial building work

Draft a complaint to the Chief exec around the planning department **KM** to bring to the January meeting.

f. **Licencing**

A new Italian pizza place on New Market Street has opened with no objections to its license.

g. **Common Good**

FW reported the working group had a short meeting and had an answer to the FOI – last 10 years of accounts. Obtained vital information. Proposal for the common good toilets at the old racecourse to have a refurb.

At this point close to 9 pm chair asked to extend the meeting for 15 minutes and everyone agreed

h. **Treasurers Report**

MH reported £490 was in the account and gave all members a printed report.

7. **Community Engagement Ideas**

Carried on till next meeting.

Public Business:

Constant leaking within a council building which is let out for a business. Cllr agreed to action this and investigate, and the members of the public were happy with the response.

11 AOCB:

DS brought to the Community Council's attention an email that GK had received from Cllr Dowey which was read to the members as he requested. This email was discussed, and it was agreed that this would be discussed, and a response be written in due course.

Both Councillors in attendance and all members of the FSWCC were in support of the chair.

12 Date of next meeting:

The Chair concluded the meeting at 21:14hrs and confirmed the next CC meeting for Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7pm, Ayr Grammar School.

FENVAL