



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fort, Seafield, and Wallacetoun Community Council
Wednesday 14th June 2023, 7 pm, Ayr Town Hall

The chair welcomed the members and the public

2. Apologies

Eric Armstrong, Phil Martin, Robert Singer, Bob Shields

3. Attendees:

Denise Sommerville (Chair), Gordon Kelly (GK), Michael Hitchon (MH), Alan Roseweir (AR), David Connelly (DC), Carol Fisher (CF), Forbes Watson (FW), Jim McKay (JM), Andy Seville (AS), Ken Ballantyne (KB), Kenny McLeod (KM).

SAC Councillors: George Weir,

SAC Link Officer: David Porte

Public: Alan Mackay, Lynn Carleton, David Petrie

Declarations of Interest

None Declared.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 10 May 2023

KM proposed amendments to last month's minutes to include his voting preference. This was discussed and agreed that the proposed amendment would be incorporated.

5. Matters Arising –

Pavilion Festival:

It was announced that the Pavilion festival set a date for the 4th of May 2024 subject to licence with the expectation that StreetRave will go ahead on the 5th of May 2023.

Ayrshire post letter had been circulated to all members via email with the agreement that all members were happy for it to be published. Action for GK.

Notice boards

The previous notice boards at Wallace Tower had been removed which DP has reported would need to have planning permission to get them reinstated. More questions were asked to clarify this matter. Action for DP.

Further to this Norman Mclean (former chair) helped assist Carol with the Seafield noticeboards as there has been damage done to them their access is limited.

WhatsApp Group

The chair (DS) set up a WhatsApp group for easy communication between members. For the purpose of the minute KM objected to using this form of communication. However, with a previous vote taken, no more discussion was had on this matter.

6. Reports

a. Police/ Youth Anti-social behaviour

Police Reports were read. (APPENDIX). DS and GK updated members on the meeting they had with Sergeant Lyall, mainly surrounding the issues of youth anti-social behaviour and the dilapidation of our town centre. This will become a regular meeting that we can use to voice our community concerns. Concerns were raised around the policing numbers and the use of the 101 number and its ineffectiveness to tackle the problem quickly.

DP spoke about the safer shores initiative which comes into force when temperatures reach 22 degrees.

b. SAC Elected Members/Meeting Report

Cllr Weir stressed that it is a busy time for SAC in June as it is just before recess GW informed us that an ARA report should be out within a week. ARA report is very extensive and will be available on web site after the Cabinet meeting at the end of June. Complaints now mainly housing within the Wallacetown area had increased. With Parking/driving complaints to him being reduced. He had 'no insight' regarding the £50 million claim made by SAC to justify the short-term lets economic sustainability. No progress had been made in regard to the common good questions that were raised at May's meeting. no further insight on the Capital Funding Project but said that Mike Newall is leading in this.

GK gave a verbal update on our meeting with Cllr Dowey and Cllr Lyons, noting that they had not responded to the written notes. Action Chair DS to initiate a follow-up meeting.

c. Short Term Lets (STL)

Lynn Carlton (public) had submitted her lodge of complaints that had been ongoing over the previous month to give members an insight into what the residents are enduring in terms of anti-social behaviour within the holiday lets. This led to a discussion around the Judicial review in Edinburgh which saw the court overturn the council's policy. FW said that the Edinburgh ruling is a challenge with LC informing that this relates to licensing, not planning. Concerns were raised around the increasing number of applicants and public notices not being displayed timeously or appropriately. Alan Mackay (public) stated that Edinburgh's policies considered the impact on amenities to others, contrasting this with SAC's priority on economics.

d. Planning

KM informed the members that the planning system offers no way for objectors to appeal decisions, whereas applicants can appeal. There had been no updates to the list of STL applications in the last 2 weeks, but he'd received an email from a resident in Seafield Rd, who had been kept up until 0330 with partying in the neighbouring STL. Alan Mackay (public) said that Gov. policy is to encourage full-time residents in homes. DP cautioned that Planning was 'wary' of CC blanket support for objection to applications with shared entrances. Planning papers were distributed through email before the meeting to all members.

GK quoted the Turnberry decision, citing the £50 mil claim as justification, and suggested writing to Ward 5 Councillors. Proposed by GK and agreed by all members,

KM made reference to the heat pumps at the flats above the ex Clinton Cards Building, making the point that his/our objection was disregarded. DS also noted that this objection was the only one that was received and had been reported in the press.

The Carrick St Application was discussed – 4-floor block and car park. No objection noted.

Public consultations – KM mentioned solar farms and 5G masts. This is of interest to all community councils and planning will be looking out for these issues.

e. Licensing

No licensing applications were received.

f. Ayr Common Good Fund/Land

Common Good – a working group was proposed by the chair DS and all members agreed due to the in-depth, complex detail that is needed for such research. This will be led by FW, JMc, AR, and GW to form. The working group will report its findings monthly at the CC meetings.

g. Wallacetown Community Energy Project (TBC)

AR read an update on Energy Project. (APPENDEX)

8. Proposal for private July meeting

July meeting proposed by chair DS, seconded by GK, and vote in favour (KM objected). GW said that a document on CCs would be coming to Cabinet.

9. Capital funding

JM asked where Year 1 Cap Funding has been allocated and AR said we need timelines, as year one appears to have been agreed upon from previous proposals across the ward from consultations done through Place Planning. FW suggested a discussion in July. Action chair DS to email Jamie Tate Thriving community to gain further clarity. All agreed that projects should be agreed on going forward.

10. Seagulls

AS explained seagull issue. Proposed that SAC should obtain a licence to remove nests/eggs under their pest control regime. GW has had communication from residents and contacted Env. Health. Alan Mackay (public) opined that poor maintenance of public buildings was a factor and GK informed that maintenance of private buildings is the owner's responsibility and can install nesting deterrents. AS proposed writing to SAC regarding the licence (2nd JM) and Members voted in favour.

11. Motorhomes

11. Motorhome waste at the Pier end is a problem as no facilities. The sign says to send feedback to ARA. AR asked if we could request a breakdown of cost/revenue from SAC. This initiative is deemed a success by SAC.

David Petrie (public) said the scheme was running at £30k loss (from FOI). Action Chair DS write to ARA.

12. EV Charging points

Nobody had heard of consultation referred to in the EV charging report. AS had emailed Kevin Braidwood (as a private citizen) and KB thinks the consultation was sufficient.

Proposed by AR 2nd by AS and agreed by vote that we roll this over to the next agenda.
Action chair DS to email Kevin Braidwood for further information.

13. Public Business

Nil - addressed throughout the meeting.

14. AOCB

KM – Funding applications are required by 23 Jun. MH read the expenditure report - £240 for emails. As at the meeting, FY 23/24 allocation had not been paid by SAC. KM had requested a £15 postage refund from Michael – rejected by the chair DS as it was not authorised. £100 not yet received from DW Shaw – Action CF and MH to check.

FSWCA AGM is being held on 28th June at Horizon Hotel at 7 pm.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 12th, 2023 at 7 pm, Ayr Town Hall. Council Chamber.