

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council
Minutes
7pm, 9th August 2023
Ayr Railway Welfare Club, James St, Ayr

1. Attendance

The Chair welcomed those attending and confirmed that the meeting was quorate. As the minute secretary post remains gapped, Phil Martin kindly volunteered to record minutes so that the meeting could proceed.

CC Members: Attendees: Denise Somerville (Chair), Gordon Kelly (GK), Michael Hitchon (MH), David Connelly (DC), Phil Martin (PM), Andy Seville (AS), Robert Singer (RS).

SAC Councillors: Due to an administrative error, SAC Councillors had not been informed of the meeting.

SAC Link Officer: Due to an administrative error, the Link Officer had not been informed of the meeting.

Police: Ayrshire Partnerships & Community Wellbeing Officer, Inspector Allen Dodds.

Minute Secretary: Phil Martin (standing in).

Public: Nil.

2. Apologies

Ken Ballantyne, Eric Armstrong, Forbes Watson, Jim McKay, Kenny Macleod (KM), Alan Roseweir, Carol Fisher.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared. A brief discussion followed on what constituted a declaration of interest. It was decided that this continues to rely on the candour of Members and a common sense approach but that any dispute would be settled by vote in accordance with Clause 4.1 of the Guidance for Community Councils.

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 12th July 2023

Factual amendments to the draft minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by vote and ratified. **Proposed:** Chair, **Seconded:** GK. **Carried.**

5. Matters Arising from Meeting Held on 12th July 2023

An eclectic range of topics discussed, some covering Agenda Points 7 and 8:

- a. Camper van parking and waste issues at Pier End – some action on waste has been resolved. Other previously recorded concerns remain.
- b. Camper van parking at Blackburn Road Car Park – questions remain with regards to barriers, payment and facilities.

Action: Chair to pursue SAC over plans for this facility and to explain delays in implementation of said plans.

- c. Facebook page/group – development of this site is being explored/undertaken.

- d. South Ayrshire Joint CC Forum – Chair met with other CC Chairs/representatives. Most issues discussed were common to all CCs (see Para 7). A new representative group is to be formed, consisting of all local CC Chairs in order to hold SAC to account and to seek clarification on all matters pertaining to local issues.
- e. Common Good Fund - this will be a focus for the new group.
- f. Air Show (see Para 7). A CC stall at this event was considered but there was a consensus that this would be too near the event to organise properly. The Air Show next year (if in place) would be a better option.
- g. The Cutty Sark/Farmers' Market was considered a good venue for a CC stall; all local CCs could be represented.

6. Reports

- a. **Police:** Inspector Allen Dodds gave a detailed, perspicuous account of both his role and that of his team within the community. Future police presence at CC Meetings has been assured. This was welcomed and appreciated by those present and a 'thank you' to Allen was noted. There followed an open Q and A session where many important and intrinsic topics were broached:
 - i. Blackburn Road Car Park: Allen will contact Greg Norwood (Road Traffic Officer) to forward all our concerns.
 - ii. Police involvement in social/community matters: It is clear that the Police have a willingness and resolve to perform their duties, despite challenging circumstances.
 - iii. Red light jumpers, 'boy racers', speeding/engine noise in built-up areas: 'Public safety' is an issue to be addressed.
 - iv. Unlawful shoppers, street beggars, drug use in Ayr Town Centre also discussed with Allen.
 - v. Police presence at CC Meetings that enables conversation, as opposed to reading out stats, is a well-received development. This will enhance our representation of the community. Again, thanks to Allen for his time.
- b. **SAC Elected Members:** None present and no Reports submitted. However, issues surrounding the setting-up and use of our CC email process may affect accessibility.
- c. **Short Term Lets (STL):**
 - i. FSWCC Planning Representative KM had submitted an STL Objection Form (dated 9th August 2023) reference 42 Churchill Tower. The reasons can be discussed at the September Meeting.
 - ii. SAC have not updated the public list of STL Licence applications since early July. There are three applications not listed/recorded. KM to monitor closely.

iii. There appears to be no system/checking process in place to check the number of occupants for each Let.

iv. Whether SAC are actively encouraging STLs was raised.

v. A question of whether STLs were good for the 'wider, local community' was discussed; how to assess and quantify given stats/figures is difficult. While information and figures can appear informative, they can also be misleading. Proliferation and monitoring of STLs remains a central issue.

vi. A question was raised on removing STLs as a permanent agenda item. It was agreed to leave this for now as the CC carried weight in the on-going debate. Both the CC and CA are actively seeking answers and engagement from SAC in this area, particularly with the question of an STL Control Area. It was agreed that STLs remains an important issue for continued attention.

d. **Planning:**

i. See above for main point, reference STL objection.

ii. Conversions at Glenpark Hotel and in Wellington Square are also being monitored (KM).

iii. It was suggested that we return to pre-covid procedure regarding CC objections to planning issues/concerns. These should be discussed and agreed at each meeting before objections are submitted by the CC. Individuals can continue to operate as normal. This will be discussed further at the September Meeting.

e. **Licensing:** No report.

f. **Treasurer:** MH presented a financial update up-to and including 9th August 2023. After receipts and payments there is a working balance of £621.18.

7. **Community Engagement Ideas**

a. As noted, many of these ideas have been mooted in previous agenda areas. However, a broad, engaged, informative and intrinsic debate followed.

i. CC stall, Air Show, Farmers Market/Cutty Sark facility, Motorhomes (parking facilities, responsibilities), consultation with SAC and the ARA, were all debated.

ii. A Meeting (video call) with Matt Lamb, reference the Air Show, will be undertaken by Chair & GK.

iii. Air Show. It was noted that a lack of community consultation is a major issue, particularly relating to road closures and areas of restricted parking. The community needs to know a good time in advance of any proposed closures and restrictions. Residents, business owners, those on holiday and visitors to the Show, are seemingly given scant consideration. Current practice is lacking in consideration for the public and local community when planning for events.

8. Motorhomes on Ayr Seafront

- a. CC will invite Kevin Braidwood (ARA) to the October Meeting to discuss all issues surrounding this topic.
- b. Fiona Robertson, 'Streets' will be invited to the September Meeting.

9. Public Business

No public in attendance.

10. AOCB

GK proposed a 'tracker' for external communication. This was agreed and will proceed. A full vote on this will be taken at the September Meeting.

11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7pm, Ayr Town Hall.