



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 12 December, Ayr Town Hall at 7 p.m.

1.	<p>Members Present: Norman McLean (NM), Chair, Forbes Watson (FMW) Vice Chair, Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Olena Stewart ((OS) Secretary, Frank Ward(FW), Robert Singer (RS), David Petrie (DP), Phil Martin (PM), Liz Martin (LM), Denise Sommerville (DS). Angi Pinkerton (AP).</p>
2.	<p>In Attendance: Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, Cllr. Martin Dowey (MD), Cllr. Derek McCabe (DMcC).</p>
3.	<p>Public: Esther Clark (EC) Ayr Station Hotel Community Action Group (ASHCAG), Lianne Hacket (LH), Ayr Deserves Better.</p>
4.	<p>Apologies: Cllr. Siobhian Brown (SB), Cllr. Lee Lyons (LL), Sandy Crawford (SC), Eileen Munro (EM), Judith Hood Paterson (JHP).</p>
5.	<p>Welcome: NM welcomed everyone to this, the last meeting of 2018.</p>
6.	<p>Minutes of previous Meeting: November Minutes were reviewed and accepted: Proposer RS, Seconder CS.</p>
7.	<p>Police Business: An apology had been received from the police. Over the last few weeks there has been an increase in murder, knife and drug crimes in Ayr. The Councillors present were asked if they knew of any reasons. MD said that drugs are a major concern but did not appear to be related to the murder or to knife crimes.</p>
8.	<p>Matters arising: NM congratulated the Christmas window display winners, namely Rotherwood in first place, Beau Beau in Sandgate in second place, with World of Art, opposite the Riverside development site, as runner up. NM expressed his disappointment at the number of empty shops in the town, including at the Fish Cross area. DS raised the South Ayrshire Council (SAC) proposal to rehouse tenants and demolish the 3 high rise blocks. DMcC, DP and DS had attended a residents' meeting and had taken on board the concern and distress of residents, some of whom are elderly, and unwilling to be decanted. DMcC said that matters are at a very early, exploratory stage and that residents will be kept closely advised as the investigations proceed. DMcC said that clarification could be sought on the website: www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/riversideproject. AP updated the meeting about Wallacetown Action Group (WAG), and on what AHEAD does in support of WAG. AHEAD will hold a street Santa on 18 and 20 December at St Johns Primary and Newton Primary Schools. FSWCC agreed to donate £50 towards costs.</p>

9.	<p>Station Hotel and Belleisle House Hotel:</p> <p>Station Hotel: NM introduced LH, as well as EC in her role as chair of ASHCAG. LH updated the meeting about the Community Empowerment Act and advised that a meeting will take place in January with Network Rail and Transport Scotland, as well as a meeting with Donald Gillies, Head of Place next week. LH advised that the Community Empowerment Act came into force in 2015 so that communities can request to attend meetings from which they would otherwise be excluded. It was suggested that Mark Baker, SAC, might be able to make a suggestion of who could provide more information about the working of the Act.</p> <p>Belleisle House Hotel: FMW advised the meeting that he is no longer involved in any way in this project. NM told the meeting that, as far as he understood, SAC have been instructed to buy back Belleisle Hotel from the previous owner.</p>
10.	<p>Councillors' Business and Matters arising: DMcC advised that an impressive number of people had got involved in the online survey following the public consultation presentation on the plans for <u>Ayr Town Centre</u>. He also advised that the <u>Clydesdale Bank</u> alterations and renovations should be completed by the spring of 2019, with offices on the upper floors and market space on the ground floor. There is no clear information at present about the management and running of the ground floor.</p> <p><u>Golf Academy</u>: NM said that there appears to be an overwhelming desire from the community that the Old Racecourse should not be encroached upon to accommodate the Golf Academy, as the Old Racecourse is a very rare source of open space ground belonging to Ayr Common Good Fund and thus belonging to the citizens of the town for general recreational use.</p>
11.	<p>Planning Control: PM advised the meeting that it is proposed that a shop in Kyle Street be converted into a public convenience. Two applications have been received for public houses to be converted into private residential housing. SAC propose to demolish an ice cream kiosk on Pavilion Road. MD tried to get the lease checked as there are 3 or 4 more kiosks on the sea front which have a good potential business. NM raised the matter of the two derelict and possibly dangerous buildings in the town centre, namely the west building on the Riverside Site and the former Royal Hotel in Kyle Street. The first is, in his view, of no great architectural merit and would be extremely expensive to rehabilitate and the second, which is the subject of a refused planning application for redevelopment, is now in a deteriorating state and causing concern. NM asked the Councillors if they could obtain an up to date proactive assessment of these buildings.</p>
12.	<p>Report; MH that the organ recitals in Ayr Town Hall on Mondays had attracted 1700 attendees, which is about 100 more than 2017. MH hopes to bring back international players from Germany, Italy, New York and New Zealand. When RS asked if it was possible to get schools involved, MH said that Newton Primary children had attended twice, the first time to listen and the second to see the internal working of the organ. MH said that the Newton Primary headteacher brought some pupils to a Saturday evening BBC concert. MH is happy to give out some free tickets to interested children. FW to pass this information on to Louise Gray at St Johns Primary.</p> <p>The Christmas BBC Symphony Orchestra concert is sold out but there are tickets available for the concert on 4 January.</p> <p>RS updated that Freshayr has received funding from the university for a project with the culture group and would like to find a way to do a sound piece in St Johns Tower. NM suggested that RS should discuss it with Peter McCall to take the matter further.</p>
13.	<p>Correspondence: OS said that Community Councillors all received letters about the Community Council Elections, and advised that each member has to stand down in February pending the Election, and that each member will be notified in due course. There is one vacant position due to Peter McCall standing down. AP circulated the AHEAD newsletter and a letter to FSWCC about the Street Santa donation. EC gave everyone a copy of the ASHCAG updated booklet.</p>
14.	<p>Financial Report: MH advised that there is £335 for administration, taking into account the donation of £50 to WAG, £40 Minutes secretary fee, and £15 monthly payment for the website.</p> <p>FMW informed the meeting that £200 will be received from the Stewart Robertson from the disbanded Ayr Building Preservation Trust. This will be donation to FSWCC.</p>

15.	Public Business: RS asked CC to go over the donated plants and gardening equipment as mentioned at the November meeting. CC explained that a procurement group of a few local businesses were willing to offer support in kind to local community groups, such as notice boards, litter pickers, sacks, plants, gardening equipment, etc. CC to email marion.govan@south-ayrshire.gov.uk for more information.
16.	AOCB: The date fixed for the annual social event is Tuesday 8 January 2019 at 7 p.m. at the Waterfront Restaurant. Ten members expressed their interest and will be joined by Yolanda and Peter McCall. A provisional booking will be made for 15 people.
17.	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9 January 2019 at 7 p.m. at Ayr Town Hall.