



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 9 January 2019 of Fort Seafield & Wallacetown Community Council in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings at 7.00pm.

Present Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Phil Martin (PM), Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Eileen Munro (EM), Judith Paterson (JP), Angi Pinkerton (AP), Robert Singer (RS), Frank Ward (FW), Forbes Watson (FW) Vice Chair.

In Attendance Cllr Siobhian Brown, Chris Campbell (CC), PC Geraldine Cannell (PCGC), PC Jamie Cree (PCJC), Cllr Martin Dowie, Gary Fanning, Ayrshire Post, Lianne Hackett.

1 Apologies Sandy Crawford (SC), Dympna Gardiner, (DG), Cllr Lee Lyons (LL), Elizabeth Martin (EM), Cllr Derek McCabe, Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, David Petrie (DP), Denise Somerville (DS).

Welcome The Chairman welcomed Gary Fanning, Editor of the Ayrshire Post and Lianne Hackett from Ayr Deserves Better. The Chairman passed round the note of appreciation received from Peter McCall and Yolanda McCall who had been guests of honour at the Seasonal Dinner held the previous evening.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of 12 December 2018 approved after incorporating a clarification as follows: section 9 – LH said ‘include’ a better word to use in relation to the Community Empowerment Act.

3 Police Business Crime in Ayr West November and December 2018 & 2017 Offences Data:

Crime Type	Nov 2018	Nov 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2017
Housebreaking	1	2	3	3
Theft MV	0	0	0	2
Drugs Offences	6	3	10	8
Assaults	8	10	15	16
Breach of the Peace	17	9	18	14
Drunk/Disqualified Driving	0	0	2	1

Housebreakings decreased on November last year but remained static on the December period last year. Car crime remained static on November but decreased on December. Residents are reminded to be highly vigilant regarding home security and leaving items visible in their cars and ensuring central locking systems are engaged correctly. Anyone seen acting suspiciously should be reported to the Police immediately. Drink driving detection has increased due to officers continuing to carry out high visibility patrols for road traffic crimes.

Inspector Frank Braddick now leads the Community Policing Team in our area.

Ward Priorities

1. Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour
2. Road Safety
3. Drug Dealing and Drug Misuse
4. Housebreaking and Dishonesty

In an emergency, dial 999.

For non-urgent crime, dial 101.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ayrshirepolice

Email: AyrWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

4 Matters Arising

Best Dressed Christmas Window in Ayr Town Centre The Chairman had been in touch with Ayr & Prestwick Lions Club, the Rotary Club of Ayr and Ayr Guildry to arrange the judging 2018. Winner was Rotherwoods, Beresford Terrace, Runner up, Beau Beau in Sandgate and Highly Commended, World of Art in High Street. The Provost kindly presented the trophies.

Community Council Elections Community Council elections take place every three years. Nomination Forms will be available during January and need to be filled in and lodged by 5.00pm on Sunday 24 February. The new Community Council to take effect from 1 April.

High Rise Flats Through the Community Empowerment Act, NM asked for endorsement that he and DP be nominated to attend the High Rise Flats Working Group involving tenants and SAC representatives regarding the future of the three iconic buildings. It was unanimously agreed.

5 Ayr Town Centre

Ayr Deserves Better Lianne Hackett of Ayr Deserves Better apologised that her colleague Patrick Lorimer was again unable to attend. Meetings had been held with Douglas Campbell, Donald Gillies, Director of Place, and Kevin Carr, also with Network Rail and Transport Scotland in connection with Ayr Station Hotel, Minutes of which would presently be forthcoming. It was thought that the owner had been in touch with SAC and with Robin Ghosh. There were restraints.

Belleisle House Hotel NM confirmed that SAC had agreed to buy back Belleisle House Hotel.

Proposed Ayr Golf Academy All has gone quiet.

Hourston's SB was saddened to report the closure of the department store Hourston's that opened in Ayr in 1896. Job Centre staff are trying to help. Members noted the changing habits in the retail sector that was suffering nationwide. Many agreed that it was sensible to encourage the provision of more residential properties in the town centre and activities such as leisure facilities to encourage footfall. The successful small units in Prestwick and Troon were favourably compared with the big units in Ayr Town Centre.

6 Councillor's Business Ayr Academy partial demolition is proceeding. The Town Centre questionnaires attracted 2,713 responses. A brief is to be prepared by ARPL Architects and may lead to a competition. 'How is the former Clydesdale Bank Building to be managed?' was a question unanswered. There would be disruption in Newmarket Street through March and April. The unsightly Eurobins from Newmarket Street are to be relocated. My Beach Your Beach project was to be repeated. There is to be a Burns Celebration marking the 260th anniversary of his birth. Details on the website. There had been a request for consideration of supporting a CAB in Ayr, one of very few large towns without such an independent advice centre. A briefing paper had gone to Council giving reasons why SAC was not going to support the idea. There was a request that the provision of recycling bins on pavements be reviewed sooner rather than later, as so many had recently appeared. Adjacent to Fullarton Street bus station, there is no longer a bin for rubbish. 'What is the fate of the red sandstone buildings in Kyle Street?' was a second question that was

unanswered. Concern at the vulnerability of large empty buildings whether listed or not listed was expressed for Belleisle House Hotel, Elms Court Hotel and Seafield House.

7 Planning Control No report.

8 Reports There was none.

9 Public Business There was none.

10 Correspondence The Community Council Elections letter noted earlier.

11 Financial Report £280 available for administration. The Treasurer said that two donations each of £50 could be made before the end of March. The Chairman invited suggestions.

12 AOCB

Close Inshore Fishing

There was expressed concern at potential overfishing of clams close to shore, with seabed disturbance of seaweed and other species contributing to local biodiversity.

Town Hall Organ and December Concerts

Over 1,700 people had attended the weekly organ concerts in Ayr Town Hall in 2018. The *Christmas with the BBC SSO* concert attracted a full house and the *New Year Gala Concert* by the SCO was well supported as had been concerts arranged by the Ayrshire Symphony Orchestra, Dalmellington Band with Ayr Community Salvation Army Choir, Ayr Choral, Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra, Red Hot Chilli Pipers, and Hootenanny. Ayr Town Hall is clearly well used.

12 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 13 February 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings, 7.00pm.

PS A black cashmere Elgin scarf was missed following the meeting. Did you inadvertently lift it?