

Fort, Seafield & Wallacetown Community Council
Minutes November 2021
Room RB3 Town Hall Buildings, Ayr

Apologies Norman McLean, Siobhian Brown, Alan Roseweir, Martin Dowey, Libby Cummings, Derek McCabe, Phil Martin, Katherine McNab, Alison Logan, Dympna Gardiner, Jason Peter

Present Forbes Watson, Olena Stewart, Trina McNicol, Michael Hitchon, Eric Armstrong, Sandy Crawford, David Petrie, Denise Somerville, Gordon Kelly, Lee Lyons (councillor), Reg Stewart (public)

Not present Iain Henderson, Chris Campbell

Welcome from Forbes Watson: Chairperson in Norman's absence.

Matters Arising NMCL to delay inviting SAC Chief Executive, Eileen Howatt, to attend FSWCC meeting until her department staffing issues are resolved.

Ayr Grammar has been bought by a private developer for around £800,000.

Wallacetown visit to **Ferguslie Park Community Initiative** delayed till Spring '22. Lee Lyons is familiar with Ferguslie's transformation and agreed that regeneration needs to be community led. Phil Martin to be kept updated with developments.

Police Business. No report forthcoming despite request from NMCL. Lee Lyons commented that police resources are stretched beyond capacity and asks that FSWCC shows patience and offers support.

DS reported an increase in crime and tension within Wallacetown.

Lee Lyons confirmed that although numbers fluctuate, only around 40 police officers are on duty in Ayrshire.

Councillor Lee Lyons reported that although the Motorhome pilot scheme ended in September, comments on its efficacy can still be submitted. GK pointed out that if Motorhomes are taxed, they will still be able to pay&display on the Esplanade. FW expressed dissatisfaction with poor SNP Councillor representation at CC meetings. Lee Lyons commented that generally it was done on a rota basis and that as far as he was aware, FSWCC is the only CC in South Ayrshire with regular Councillor attendance.

Citadel Petition. Views of over 3,000 signatories have been discarded by SAC due to insufficient personal data being included however this decision can be overturned if two-thirds of the 28 councillors vote to accept the petition. Objections should be forwarded to SAC prior to councillors/officials meeting in December.

Although not strictly ring fenced for the town centre pool, just over 40m has already been borrowed.

Conservative administration would use the money to refurbish the Citadel, move Burns House staff into Hourstons and build flats to the rear.

It is unlikely that building work will take place on the **vacant High Street site** till after next year's Council elections.

Having received no reply from SAC Chief Executive on the present position of planned archaeological dig, MH will write again stressing importance of the need for professional investigation prior to construction work involving heavy machinery.

Station Hotel. Ongoing discussions on whether still a need for costly scaffolding, whether building should be demolished or retained and in what guise/for what purpose. SC suggested facade might be retained with a modern station within original walls however it was pointed out that the building lacks sufficient depth.

In **Wallacetown**, DS reported that a 'Voice' group of around 20 people is to be established. 'Place' and 'Housing' are the other groups being formed.

The Violence Reduction Team have identified premises in George Street for office accommodation.

EA reported that progress on replacing **South Harbour** canopy was ongoing but slow. Lee Lyons agreed that the **Watchful** was unsafe however as no direct access from public land, scaffolding isn't legally essential. GK asked if removal and disposal of Watchful had been costed. Lee Lyons wasn't aware if it had.

Meeting on South Harbour issues is scheduled to take place 3rd December.

Tom Burns is reported to have said that the organisation interested in **Darlington Church** failed to produce their proposals by end September deadline.

Planning matters include five shops renewing signage in Newmarket Street and pre-planning for 400 new homes at Corton plus erection of a bridge over A77.

McCalls in Ayr, High Street has closed.

As OS forwards all correspondence, she suggests that '**Reports**' and '**Correspondence**' come under a single 'Emails' heading in future.

MH reported **Financial** reserve of £377.

MH also promoted the work done by the Locality Planning Group. Primary care provision is discussed by a cross section of society at monthly (3rd Tues) Zoom meetings. An appeal was made for anyone interested to become involved. Decision Day funding of up to £1,000 is available for Community Projects complying with award criteria.

AOCB MH announced Ayr Rotary Christmas window competition is to run again this year.

Lee Lyons canvassed opinion on city status for Ayr (all who expressed an opinion, were against the proposal).

RS highlighted ongoing issues with cars being driven at night and at speed around Belleisle. OS also heard 'screeching' of tyres. Lee Lyons to look into gates being replaced.

MH announced weekly (Monday) organ concerts will run April - November.

Festive night out in January - venues to be discussed.

TMcN gave notice that FRA Special General Meeting will be held 7pm on 30th November in the Horizon Hotel. Motion will be put forward to disband the Residents Association with continuing information available via online platform Nextdoor Ayr Fort and FSWCA.

Date of Next Meeting

8th December 2021 at 7pm