

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council
Minutes
7pm, 12th July 2023
Ayr Railway Welfare Club, James St, Ayr

1. Welcome and apologies for late change of venue due to Town Hall redecoration and staff availability.

2. Attendance

Attendees: Denise Somerville (Chair), Gordon Kelly (GK), Michael Hitchon (MH), David Connelly (DC), Phil Martin (PM), Jim McKay (JM), Andy Seville (AS), Ken Ballantyne (KB), Robert Singer (RS), Eric Armstrong (EA).

Chair raised the issue that we still do not have a minute secretary and it was agreed by all that the meeting should be recorded.

Action: Chair to readvertise the minute secretary's post.

3. Apologies

Forbes Watson, Carol Fisher, Alan Roseweir (AR), Kenny McLeod.

4. Declarations of Interest

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the declaration of interest and withdrawal from the discussion and subsequent vote by those with interests declared. It was agreed unanimously that if a member has specialist knowledge of the subject, they may make a brief statement to provide information after declaration and prior to withdrawal from the discussion and vote.

5. Minutes of Meeting Held on 14th June 2023

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2023 had been circulated to all members by email prior to this meeting. It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by GK and agreed that these were a true account of the meeting and therefore ratified and released for distribution.

6. Matters Arising from Meeting Held on 14th June 2023

a. The Pier End (or Battery) motor home trials were discussed, as issues were noted in the website "Park 4 Night", criticizing SAC for lack of waste disposal, suspect water supply, etc.

Action: Chair to follow-up e-mail re discussion.

b. 'Planning in Place' initiative has not been undertaken for Ayr West. The Chair discussed this with David Porte (SAC) and he will liaise with CC to have a 'Planning in Place' meeting.

c. The Air Show and Holy Fair were discussed in relation to income for the Common Good Fund.

Action: Air Show to be discussed at August Meeting. Reference to Matthew Lamb, community engagement officer for the Air Show.

Action: Common Good working group to follow up on the discussion on income funds.

Action: Chair advised all CC chairs have agreed to meet on 26th July. They will discuss the Common Good fund and administration, costs for CCs and also having a stall at the Air Show to publicize CCs in Ayrshire.

d. Seagulls. The licensed removers of seagulls were mentioned during the discussion, and the policies of SAC and the Scottish Government were raised.

e. Re EV Charging points, dissatisfaction on the stand made by SAC officers in regard to the needs of EV users and the lack of fast chargers. The electrical infrastructure in the town needs to be upgraded.

7. Communication

a. Members have reported that access to Zoho has proved difficult.

Action: Members to contact KB by phone if required.

b. All e-mails must be formal in nature when communicating with fellow members or SAC. All to CC or BCC in Chair and Vice Chair on all external e-mails for information and transparency.

c. Social Media: Proposed by Chair, seconded by GK and agreed by all – Facebook page to be updated. We should use social media to engage with the community through a Facebook group, where people ask to join.

Action: Chair & Vice Chair to be Administrators plus AS to manage the group including monitoring posts. CC will limit our correspondence through the page but will use private messaging when required. AS to author content on the page on behalf of CC.

d. Website update: KB to advise Paul at Smart Media to update minutes, meeting times and dates including front page and links. All agreed to approve this decision.

8. Community Engagement Ideas

Further discussions by Community Council chairs on 26th June to look at common aims and objectives and how to lobby SAC, for example how the Common Good Fund could be used. Also, pressure by CCs on SAC to improve admin. and finance, which has not been increased since 2004. Advisory notes on role of CCs to be made available to public to help increase engagement. To this end, a stall at the Air Show has been proposed. PM to also attend on behalf of CC.

9. Proposed Change in Constitution

There was a discussion on the proposed amendment by AR to vote for new office bearers by members of the CC. It was agreed that a proposal for new wording for postal votes by members who are unable to attend meeting, should be drafted for the election of office bearers.

Action AR to raise at next meeting. All agreed.

10. Treasurer's report

Treasurer reported the balance in the accounts was approximately £114.00 – £100.00 of which came from web page advertising. SAC had not recently paid out the £800 payments due to each CC and this is now 4 months overdue.

11. Planning report

Nothing to report.

12. Licencing

FW sent in an e-mail to advise no applications received. Mention was made about the possible sale of the caretaker's flat at Old Racecourse Pavilion. Shortage of toilet facilities at the seafront was recognised as a problem which could be part of the Capital expenditure, SAC aware of the need. Ayr Ice Rink discussion re possible move to Citadel to be discussed at the next meeting in August.

13. AOCB

- a. Hospice Works starting earlier in the mornings than planned and residents have raised issues.

Action Letter to be drafted for Chair to send on behalf of CC by JM. All agreed.

- b. Concert from a Cologne musical group will be held on 22nd July at the Holy Trinity Church.

14. Final word from the Chair

Meeting closed at 8:55 pm and date of the next meeting is the 9th August 2023.