



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2017 in Room RB3, Town Hall, at 7pm

Members Present

Norman McLean (NM) Chair, Forbes Watson (FW) Vice Chair, Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Sandy Crawford (SC), Peter McCall (PMcC), Phil Martin (PM), Liz Martin (LM), Dympna Gardiner (DG), Eileen Munro (EM).

In Attendance

Cllr. Kirsty Darwent (KD), Cllr. Bill Grant (WG), Cllr. Alan Dorans (AD), Chris Campbell (CC) Link Officer, PC Carlyle U190.

Public

Derek McCabe (DM), Murray Buchanan (MB).

1. **Apologies**

Judith Hood, Catherine Hunter (Ayr Advertiser)

Welcome

NM welcomed all to the first meeting of the year.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

November minutes accepted.

Changes to Previous Minutes

None

3. **Matters Arising**

None

4. **Public Business**

NM introduced two prospective South Ayrshire Councillors: Liz Martin for Labour; Derek McCabe for Conservative. Both gave a talk on why they are standing. NM said that the CC is a non-political organisation with everyone involved in and concerned about the community. It is very pleasing to hear that both candidates would like to work with the community council and put their focus on the good of the community. Alan Dorans advised that the SNP candidates will be announced this week. There may also be some independents.

5. **Police Business**

PC Carlyle presented a report sent from the Community Inspector for Ayr, contactable at James.Hendrie@Scotland.PNN.Police.uk
Crime Statistics for December 2016, with comparable figures for December 2015:

Crime Type	Offences: Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015
House-breaking	2	8
Theft of motor vehicle	1	0
Drug offences	3	3
Assaults	11	8
Breach of peace/Abusive behaviour	15	14
Drink driving	1	1

PC Carlyle advised that detection rate is high and overall picture is positive, house breakings down and other offences similar to last year. Residents are asked to remain vigilant throughout the dark, winter evenings as there have been some opportunist thefts from houses, sheds and cars in recent weeks. NM asked about the increase in drink driving detections in Scotland, reported in national press. PC Carlyle advised that there was an initiative for increased attention to this activity around the festive period, but he was unable to provide stats for S. Ayrshire. SC queried whether the decrease in alcohol limits affected the stats. PC Carlyle felt that this may affect figures for morning driving, after drinking the night before.

6. **Ayr Town Centre Renaissance, Riverside Consultation and Belleisle**

Re: Renaissance project, AD advised that a workshop was held before Christmas. Views will be fed into the master plan. Demolition is scheduled to start last week of February: three phases with archaeology survey first. KD added that the town centre strategy and riverside consultations are ongoing.

NM and OS had a positive meeting with Tom Burns (TB) and took the opportunity to quiz him on the plan for the riverside block. TB has a clear view that the council offices will be the lead development; it will be good quality, with no mission creep. Darlington Church was also covered. There are three suggestions; work needs to be done regarding funding and feasibility for each proposal. TB wants to work with the groups rather than put it in on the market. Opportunities also discussed with regard to having a large open space when Burns House is demolished and possible move of the cinema into the town centre. TB is not involved, but is taking cognisance of the possibilities there. TB acknowledges that car parking needs to be appraised with regard to the council offices moving to the bottom of the town.

EM asked about the cinema plan for Kyle Centre. KD advised it is private ownership, subject to commercial negotiations for which the council has no ability to influence decisions, however they remain hopeful. WG believes there is a potential buyer, but eateries and cinema operator need to be secured by the vendor. Ayr is blessed with high quality eateries; there are positives in the face of decline of retail trade in the town. KD confirmed that all the councillors were adamant that their new offices should be in the town centre, providing opportunity to support eateries and other shops.

Re: Belleisle, NM met with Jill Cronin last month. She had met with John Campbell, the owner of the hotel, the week before. Things are looking reasonably positive and an update should be available at the end of January.

PM asked what is happening with the Station Hotel. NM advised it is a difficult situation with a private owner and logistical problems for renovation in conjunction with Network Rail. There are two parties interested in the hotel, however there is an absent landlord who is not making it a priority.

MB asked what percentage of the riverside development will be council offices. KD advised it looks to be about a third. There will be a lot of glass covered public space. WG provided an artist's impression of the development, from an architectural magazine. Final layout will be in adherence with the agreed master plan. LM asked where the money comes from. KD advised that the council will pay for its building there, but Ayr Renaissance has brought in over £5 million from outside organisations, including Clydesdale Bank, Heritage Lottery and Scottish Government.

OS spoke of Belleisle's new project officer, Shona Munro, who is working with Fiona Ross to deliver the remaining elements of the Belleisle master plan, the stable block and community hub, cafe area with toilets. The conservatory is closed until Easter for tiling work to be completed. Fundraising continues: there will be a gin master class at The Newmarket, 16th Feb, £22.

EM asked about a potentially controversial initiative for discounted golf for those living outside Scotland. WG advised that to sustain the cheap season tickets for local residents, they need to increase visitor numbers. They don't envisage a rush taking place.

MH advised good news that a derelict terraced house on the north side of Miller Road is under offer. On the other side of the road however, vandalism is occurring at the Elms Court hotel. Building control has

been advised. FW commented on the very good renewed frontage for Rotherwood. KD added that a new dress shop has opened in Miller Road.

MB enquired whether there are any risks associated with the planned residents for the Fort Street development in vicinity of the nursery and primary schools. NM advised there is absolutely no risk. There will be eight flats managed by a caretaker and the community council is fully supportive.

7. **Councillors' Business and Matters Arising**

KD said concern has been expressed with regard to emergency services access around a development in Wallacetown (Church Court and Macadam Place). Bollards have been installed to prevent driving on the pavements and the associated damage to footpaths, which has caused falls. Emergency services have been consulted and they do not foresee any access issues.

Council has approved its finance strategy. Scotland has had its settlement with agreement of what is going to local authorities. Detail still being worked on, but all understand there will be a real terms reduction with ongoing difficult decisions to be made regarding feasibility of leisure and cultural activities, against mandatory requirements for schools, social care, litter bins, etc. Council tax increases coming for larger properties in April. AD noted that it has been frozen for the last nine years.

AD advised ward boundaries are changing prior to upcoming council elections; this ward takes on St. Leonard's, previously in Ayr East.

Attention drawn to Alloway 1759 Festival, brochures distributed.

Christmas window display competition may have run its course – to be discussed later in year.

WG: New Planning Manager is Fiona Mullen (Christina Cox has moved away).

All to be aware of the 20mph speed limit in Dalblair Road - police are monitoring.

Christina's Bar has re-opened. Lidl's plans for expansion are going ahead. Rozelle is well worth a visit, lots of improvements. Air Show funding up by 62%, reported in Ayrshire Post. NM requests traders to contribute to the funding.

SC enquired whether Ayr Academy is fit for purpose as a primary school. KD advised that there will be an £8 million renovation investment. Primary requirements are different than for secondary and smaller pupil numbers. We don't want another empty building. WG added that the plan provides a new senior school on an educational campus at Craigie, while saving an historic Ayr school building. MB queried associated traffic issues with more cars for primary children. KD advised this is the only negative, on balance will be no worse than for the current Grammar, but the council are looking at it and hope to resolve.

8. **Planning Control**

NM and OS met with Tom Burns re plans for a substation next to Pirate Pete's, to satisfy electrical requirements of the County Buildings. It is not a big structure and they see no issues. Common Good fund has to be approached as well. They have also been consulted about the development for three houses in Auchendoon Crescent. After consideration they have lodged a formal objection, big drainage problems foreseen and it doesn't conform to local development plan for open space.

9. **Reports**

OS advised that 22 Bar & Grill are planning a crèche upstairs. Other reports emailed to members.

10. **Financial Report**

Treasurer reported £385 available for administration.

MH still seeking funding to continue the organ recitals. There were 1613 mostly elderly attendees last year. It gets people out, provides music therapy, with health and social welfare benefits.

11. **Correspondence**

Homeless Conference (Sea Scape & Salvation Army): 1st Feb, 9.30am-3.00pm, Ayr Town Hall.
Ayrshire Tennants newsletter, available on website, lots of good information in it.

12. **AOCB**

CC is supporting a residents' group on some traffic issues. It may lead to some traffic management changes outside Kyle Court on Smith Street.

CC/NM/LM: discussion of administration process regarding resignation of community council member and new appointment. MB enquired whether there is a fixed number of councillors. NM advised there are 6 for Seafield, 5 for Fort, 4 for Wallacetown. Currently 3 vacancies for Wallacetown. Additional 'special interest' members can be co-opted at discretion of community council.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 8th February at 7.00pm
Room RB3 Ayr Town Hall