



Fort Seafield & Wallacetown Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 10 April 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings at 7.00pm.

Present Michael Hitchon (MH) Treasurer, Phil Martin (PM), Norman McLean (NM) Chair, David Petrie (DP), Forbes Watson (FW) Vice Chair, Alison Logan (AL), Libby Morrison (LM), Ian Henderson (IH), Murray Buchanan (MB), Allan Dorans (AD), Denise Somerville (DS).

In Attendance Cllr Derek McCabe (DM), Cllr Martin Dowey (MD), Cllr Lee Lyons (LL), Chris Campbell (CC), Link Officer.

Public John McGuire (JM) and Ian McPherson (IM) from Forehill & Masonhill Community Council, Chic Brodie.

1 Apologies Olena Stewart (OS) Secretary, Sandy Crawford. Cllr Siobhian Brown.

Election and welcome The Chairman thanked the Members who were standing down at this time: Liz Martin, Peter McCall, Eileen Munro, Judith Paterson, Frank Ward & Robert Singer. He then welcomed the new members: Allan Dorans, Ian Henderson, Alison Logan, Elizabeth Morrison and Denise Somerville who join from 1 April. Two co-optees have been noted for Fort Sub-Ward and they will be welcomed and adopted at the next meeting. The Chairman also welcomed two members of Forehill & Masonhill Community Council.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of 13 March 2019 previously proposed by FW, seconded by NM.

3 Police Business No Police were in attendance.

4 Public Business - Forehill & Masonhill Community Council- John and Ian are looking for help from other community councils in assisting the development of Castlehill Woods as a community space. Several ideas on where to seek assistance were discussed with help for some fundraising ideas.

5 Riverside Flats – The Community Empowerment Act Application has been lodged and will be formally considered when Tenants' support, presently canvassed, is secured. There was some debate on the SAC proposed options.. There are three options being offered by SAC to the tenants
1 Decant for one year while modernisation works are completed.
2 Demolish the Flats.

3 Demolish flats and rebuild a new development reduced to 90 dwelling, not all ground floor status ie. no lifts below five storeys.

A fourth option that we feel could be available, is to move tenants into the 12 vacant flats while their flats are being renovated to a less intrusive and more cost effective standard than that proposed in Option 1.

The Flats are structurally sound and were modernised in 2002. If demolished, many elderly people and those with mobility issues, would be moved out and would lose the social cohesion of their neighbours and the proximity to the town centre. There are considerable grounds for examination of SAC's proposals and establishing actual costs.

6 Ayr Station Hotel – Building appears to be drying out but still no Structural Report has been published.

7 Belleisle House Hotel – We have been pressing for an update on the “Buy Back“ progress which was due to be concluded at the end of March.

Kyle Centre – No information to date.

Former Clydesdale Bank building – The latest estimate is that it will be completed by the end of March, however we have been given many promises, to no avail.

Royal Hotel, Kyle Street – Not yet designated as dangerous building. However the state of the building is causing us considerable alarm and should be actioned by SAC.

15 Sandgate – Councillor McCabe asked that something be done about its condition.

Hourstons Building – There appears to be interest in developing the building.

5-15 Barns Street – Concern was expressed about the condition of these properties.

8 Councillor Business & Matters Arising – Long term plans are being considered by SAC for the Town Centre/High Street including leisure facilities and open development for the Riverside Site. A Report will be stabled at the next Leadership Panel meeting. A new Parking Charges Consultation has started and everyone is urged to respond to this Ayrshire Roads Alliance consultation on line. Limited free Parking would be good for the town. Free parking in Prestwick has been a boost to the town and it is now also under threat of parking charges. In its quest for increase in revenue, SAC seems to be oblivious to the fact that by reducing footfall in the town centres, revenue will be ultimately lost to the community at large.

9 Planning Control - Elms Court Hotel – No movement but a builder has been dumping waste in the car park so bollards have now been installed. Chris Campbell is closely monitoring the situation.

Seafield House - Two planning applications and a Listed Building Application have been lodged.

19/0255/APPM – House Application

19/0255/APPM for the Houses

19/00269/LPC for the Renovations

Or call 07796466384 for information

BHS Building -No applications in but a developer is apparently showing interest.

10 Reports – The Organist Entertains Concert Series continues in its 11th Series thanks to the diligence and hard work done by Michael and his colleagues. Due to the works being undertaken on the Town Hall organ, various different venues will host the concerts until June. Details are available on the posters around the town.

11Correspondence - nil

12 Financial Report - No money at the moment as we are now a new council and after the AGM we will receive £800 for administration.

Website now costing £15 a month = £180 per year

Wallacetown was gifted a planter and consultation has started with the residents. They would like to be gifted any surplus gardening equipment available.

Sadly Joe Lafferty, a long time member of the Council passed away on 10 April 2019. It was agreed that a letter of condolence will be sent to his widow.

12 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 8 May 2019 in Royal Burgh Suite 3, Ayr Town Buildings, at 7.00pm