

**Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council**  
**Minutes**  
**8th June 2022 @ 7pm**  
**Council Chambers, Town Hall Buildings, Ayr**

**1 Apologies:** Norman McLean, Olena Stewart, Martin Dowe, Lee Lyons, Alan Roseweir, Gordon Bingham, Adam Short

**Attendees:** Forbes Watson, Michael Hitchon, Phil Martin, Kenny MacLeod, Trina McNicol, Eric Armstrong, Gordon Kelly, Denise Somerville, Ali Logan

**Councillors:** Bob Shields, George Weir

**Public:** Esther Clark, Scott Coulter, Davies Brock, Al Priestnall

**2&3 Minutes from May Meeting, Matters Arising, FSWCA discussion re bank account.**

May minutes were approved: proposed by **DS**, seconded by **GK**.

As a result of a bank account not being in place, **MH** said FSWCA £10k feasibility study grant has been temporarily lodged in CC account.

**FW** said FSWCA Wallacetown Renewables project continued apace and solar panels in the process of being sourced and costed.

Following consultation with SAC, FSWCA request for Iain McKie to present report on short term lets was turned down as members declaring a personal interest would be required to withdraw, leaving remaining member numbers short of the necessary quorum.

**EA** said FSWCA was extremely disappointed at this decision and refuted any personal interest.

**GK** said SAC decision needs to be challenged claiming it is unprecedented for a group representing the community's views to be denied the floor.

**DP** will look into legislation and explore with council.

**TMcN** said there was also an issue with FSWCA withholding permission for report to be shared prior to the meeting with those who run/manage STL properties reason given being that report had been submitted to the Land Tribunal with response pending.

**EA** said not the case and report being with Land Tribunal had no bearing on sharing of report. He said he would have welcomed input from individuals and/or agencies such as Donnini Apartments.

**FW** agreed that report being with Land Tribunal was irrelevant in this case.

**EA** asked that CC rubberstamp the report.

**FW** said that CC while sympathetic, would not rubberstamp it at this stage.

**4. Police Business**

**GW** said that he and **BS** met with Superintendent Lammie who said staff shortages were behind non attendance at CC meetings and suggested conducting sessions online involving all Community Councils. He also said he didn't believe CC members were representative of the communities they served.

**FW** disagreed, said duration of police visit at CC meeting was short and that police should value the feedback.

**DP** said he didn't believe police were obligated to attend CC meetings.

**FW** actioned letter to be sent to Superintendent Lammie.

## **5. Councillors' Business and Matters Arising**

**GW** said to date his time has been spent being assigned roles and onto panels and attending PowerPoint training sessions. Meetings commence end June. New administration has appointed Ayr West four councillors cross party committee responsible for High Street regeneration.

Demolition of **high flats** may still go ahead as cost implications of asbestos removal may prove prohibitive.

Despite Martin Dowey assurances, town centre **Leisure Centre** plan is not yet 'dead in the water' as legal issues around repurposing the money and a two-thirds majority vote requirement obstructs new administration's preferred modernisation of Citadel and High St and Esplanade investment.

**PM** asked if a further public consultation would be held prior to any decision being taken regarding leisure centre proposals.

**GW** said majority of councillors would be in favour.

**BS** said there had been a positive meeting regarding the Air Show and that responsibilities will be split between 'air' and 'ground' committees.

**FW** pleased to note that application to hold a two day 'rave' at the Old Racecourse had been withdrawn possibly due to poor ticket sales.

## **8. Ayr Station Hotel update, Esther Clark**

**EC** said major stumbling block was Network Rail's minority stake resulting in much of the property remaining derelict even if a buyer could be found.

More 'give' is required from SAC to allow remedial works to progress; repointing works arranged by present owner could only take place one hour per evening.

Involved are Scottish Government's Strategic Governance Group, where ADT is represented by David Couchtr, Save Britain's Heritage working group and SAC cross party committee are working towards a solution to this long running issue.

The 'SAVE' report has now been published.

**BS** said it was disappointing Martin Dowey wasn't there to add his comments.

## **9. Planning Control update by Kenny McLeod.**

**KMcL** said council enforcement charter asks for public to report planning concerns.

Greek takeaway at the entrance to Boat Vennel moved to larger premises in Newmarket Street before planning had an opportunity to approach them about a number of possible non compliance matters.

**PM** repeated that Planning Department employees are paid for by the public and have a responsibility to act in their best interest.

**KMcL** said a cafe application by Lewis Cosly, local shop owner had been approved for one of the units below Churchill Towers.

Fraser McIntyre's application for Cafe/Bar on the ground floor of High Street's Halifax building was likely to be approved despite neighbour's objection.

Belleisle Gatehouse application for two bedroom extension was approved.

'Tattie' A frame signs come and go but still pose problems for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.

**FW** actioned to write to Seafield Stores owner, Mr Stuart.

**10&11. Reports and Correspondence** distributed by **OS** as she receives them.

## **12. Financial Report**

**MH** said CC received £800 from SAC of which £635 remains for administration. Insurance costs were reimbursed.

## **13. AOCB**

**MH** said 44 attended jubilee organ concert. Due to a programme change, president of the Organ Trust, Iain McLinchie will now play at this Monday's (13th) concert.

**GK** said some local residents were suggesting road between Cromwell Road and Charlotte Street could be named Flowerpot Lane as locally known.

**KMcL** suggested checking ARA website to see if it has an official name.

**FW** said speeding continues to be a problem on Doonfoot Road. ARA disagree. Deer warning signs were erected but at too low a height and partially obscured by foliage.

Recently appointed Prestwick Councillor **Al Priestnall** introduced himself. He founded and runs the charity 'Community Gift Exchange' which for five years has operated a workshop in the Kyle Centre and now a retail outlet in what was previously Poundland. Donated bikes and furniture are refurbished and resold by local people addressing their barriers to employment and providing training and employment for forty 'kick starters' (wage bill £250k) - as well as saving 30-50 tons of waste.

Aims: Re-Use, Recycle and Employment.

**Al's** vision to locate a Re-Use Village within the Kyle Centre or Arran Mall are presently dependent on leisure centre proposals.

**GW** suggested he considers Hourstons as no definite decision has been taken regarding its future use.

**FW** announced Norman McLean would be stepping down as Chair of FSWCC having done an excellent job for around eighteen years. Applications are invited. Help will be provided and 'spreading the load' by having two people share the role may be an option.

**15. Date of Next Meeting: 14th September 2022**