

**Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council**  
**Minutes**  
**11th May 2022 @ 7pm**  
**Room RB3 Town Hall Buildings, Ayr**

**1 Apologies:**

**Attendees:** Norman McLean, Olena Stewart, Michael Hitchon, Trina McNicol (Minute secretary), Phil Martin, Kenny McLeod, Adam Short, Eric Armstrong, Alan Roseweir, Gordon Kelly

**Apologies;** Denise Somerville, Ali Logan, Forbes Watson, Gordon Bingham.

**Councillors:** Bob Shields

**Councillors Apologies:** Martin Dowey, Lee Lyons, George Weir.

**Public:** Esther Clark, Ann Henderson, Scott Coulter, Davies Brock.

**2&3 Minutes from April Meeting, Matters Arising, FSWCA discussion**

April minutes were approved.

As a result of a bank account not being in place, FSWCA asked if funding money could be lodged temporarily in CC account. This was approved by **MH** and **NMcL**, who will inform Colin Love.

**NMcL** asked membership numbers of FSWCA and was informed this was on FSWCA AGM agenda.

**EA** asked that further discussion on short term lets take place at June meeting. Issues include instances of anti-social behaviour by guests and some landlords' non compliance with (as things stand, optional) regulations.

**KMcL** said that Planning Department has no category for flats.

**OS** said she and her husband ran an airbnb property, complied with regulations, including paying business rates and metered water charges, and to date have not experienced unacceptable guest behaviour.

**Wallacetown** update: **AR** drew attention to the Wallacetown Community Energy Project winning logo designed by a Newton PS pupil.

Coastal Communities Fund feasibility study. Fraser of Allander Institute and Strathclyde University have submitted a proposal to carry out a Renewables baseline study.

SAC has agreed Newton PS, St John's PS and Wallacetown Early Years Centre can be used for the Renewables project. 'Absolute' are the contractors.

**PM** asked what else was being done for the people of Wallacetown. He had previously been involved in a self-funded arts project in Newton PS and would be interested in further involvement. He invited **BS** to share his views on Wallacetown at a future meeting.

**NMcL** Had discussions with Patrick Dunne, SAC, involving role of Sustrans, Accessible Ayr and Coastal Communities Fund regarding proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge linking north

& south Ayr over the river. ARA would require that an underwater survey be conducted. The Waterfront (McPherson group) carpark is presently located at the South access to the proposed bridge. It was agreed that contact would be made after the outcome of the Election was determined.

**GK** said he believed ARA contract was up for renewal. **NMcL** affirmed and added that if SAC wished to cease the Alliance a problem lay in plant and machinery belonging to East Ayrshire.

#### **4 Police Business**

No update from police. **BS** said Doonfoot&Alloway CC report similar lack of police presence at meetings. **NMcL** to follow up.

#### **5 Council Election Results**

Although allegiances still to be confirmed, SNP/Labour look to be the predominant group leading SAC. **BS** and others said the non-attendance of newly elected councillors at CC meetings was unacceptable. **NMcL** said it had been four years since SNP was represented. He said no job description existed for either councillors or politicians. **PM** suggested action is taken to query councillors' poor attendance. Voters deserve better.

#### **6 Ayr Development Trust**

**NMcL** invited **Esther Clark** to explain progress on three development sites ADT wish to acquire/develop in Ayr.

**AR** replied that the proposals were over ambitious and needed to be prioritised.

**EC** said plans had started with Station Hotel. Network Rail intimated they would be willing to work with a community group and subsequently David Ramsey from ADT produced a report which was submitted to Network Rail, SAVE and David Coughtrie. Conclusion appears to be that approx £3m needs to be spent on remedial works prior to selling.

Community Funders have stipulated ADT engages minimum of 200 members from KA7 1\_\_ area, **EC** is asking FSWCC to support this recruitment drive.

**GK** said lack of business plan weakened the proposals. **EC** said being a Trust meant putting the Why and How in place before the What. **TMcN** said successful Community Engagement will determine what activities take place. Charity she runs is approached by Community groups wishing to run projects such as a Men's Shed, Dance School for Children with additional needs, Community Gardens etc.

## **7 Councillors' Reports**

**BS** pledged to uphold his election promises to be 'the common sense voice that speaks up for an Ayr that has lost its way, and speaks out against an administration that has lost the plot.'

## **8 Planning Control**

**KMcL** said application submitted for 71 High Street for ground floor retail unit(s) and Upper floor 3 bed flat. It was agreed that the Application should take its course.

Boat Vennel corner; premises previously a hairdressers had been painted blue and opened as a Kebab Shop with no apparent ventilation or means of pollutants extraction. This has been brought to the notice of the planning authority.

Despite signs prohibiting overnight parking by Motorhomes on South Harbour 'The Battery', it is not illegal for them to do so.

A-Boards advertising Ayrshire Tatties are causing an obstruction beside traffic lights on corner of Seafield Road and Doonfoot Road. Council have been informed.

**KMcL** received an email from Hugh McBrien, manager of West of Scotland Archaeology Service saying the report on investigations at bottom of High St site was still being compiled. Certain artefacts will remain beneath new build to preserve for future investigation.

Planning Aid Service, PAS, offers training to members of CC who wish to learn about planning laws and application processes.

**OS** asked about Belleisle Hotel however **KMcL** believes this to be an issue for Doonfoot&Alloway CC. **NMcL** to contact Andrew Russell, Chair of D&ACC.

## **9 AGM and Chairman's Verbal Report on Year 2020/21. Presentations of Accounts 2020/21.**

**NMcL** outlined the year's activities which included SAC council policy to renovate and repair has not been applied to High Flats and Citadel.

Darlington Church's fate remains unresolved.

**Topics included:** Wallacetown, High Flats, Belleisle, Golf Academy, Riverside Block, Darlington Church, Boats in Racecourse View, Motorhomes Parking, Leisure Centre/Citadel, Grammar School Museum, Common Good Land, Short term lets, formation of Wallacetown Energy Group, Pedestrian/cycle bridge proposal over the River Ayr, Esplanade consultation submission, Speeding on Doonfoot Rd, Christmas Window Display Competition, Queens Jubilee, Ayr Development Trust.

**FSWCA** was conceived, formed and charitable status awarded. **NMcL** thanked **EA** and **AR**.

**NMcL** thanked **MH** for continuing to organise Organist Entertains, now in its 12th year. **MH** also organises the plants and window boxes in Barns Terrace on a self funding basis.

**NMcL** notified the Council, that after 18+ years in post, he wished to retire as Chair at the conclusion of the June meeting.

#### **10&11 Reports&Correspondence**

**OS** said she forwards reports and correspondence as she receives them.

#### **12 Financial Report**

**MH** submitted annual financial report for year ended 31 March 2022. This was signed by Hon Treasurer Michael Hitchon MBE and Chairman Norman McLean and independently examined and signed by M.J.Laird CA on 11 May 2022.

#### **13 AOCB**

**FW** wished to take over Licensing role and on his return from Argyle will meet with **Davies Brock** to discuss issues with common good land.

#### **14 Date of Next Meeting**

8th June 2022 @ 7pm