



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes: Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th October, 2015 in Girvan Room, Ayr County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: N McLean, (Chair); M Hitchon; F Watson; P Ferguson; P McCall; S Crawford; M Anderson

In Attendance: PC Anne Marshall, Police Scotland; PC Michael McClymont, Police Scotland.

Apologies: Cllr A Dorans; Cllr K Darwent; O Stewart; J Hood;

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00p.m.

Previous Minutes were accepted as correct, proposed by PF, seconded by SC.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Police Business.

PC Marshall reported that the recent Ayr Show had attracted over 100,000 visitors and Ayr Gold Cup Race meeting 20,000 visitors. Both events went extremely well with no incident of note at either. Preparing for 'Tamfest' to take place in the Town Centre on Halloween – fun run, ghost trails, street entertainment and a tableau of Tam o' Shanter being chased by witches. It is hoped that visitors to this event will notice and appreciate the enhanced Police presence in line with the new plan being rolled out for the safety of residents and visitors to the Town Centre.

She went over the crime figures which are relevant to July, being the most up to date that she has available. 1 serious assault, detected; 2 housebreaking, 1 detected; 2 garden hut/garages break-ins, detected; 20 drug offences, detected; 22 common assault, 19 detected; 10 breach of the peace offences and 2 street drinking offences. The common assaults remain high, but

good detection rates and no pattern, with most offenders being known by the victim. Housebreaking remains the same and Police continue to engage with the public and encourage them to report anything which seems suspicious. NMcL asked if there is a pattern to the housebreaking, Police advised that there had been a group of people committing these offences but due to a recent housebreaking initiative this seems to have ceased. PC Marshall described a few methods used in housebreaking and this can assist police to know who had committed the crime. There followed some discussion in general around the type of crimes being committed in the immediate area.

NMcL asked about the recent news of police cuts across Scotland and asked what effect there was locally. PC Marshall referred to the new Inspector, Inspector Craig Feroz, who would be more able to answer this.

MA asked if there was any news on the reported brothel in the Church Court area. PC Marshall had no knowledge of this as she is new to Community Policing. She offered to ask a colleague to update MA personally by telephone the next night.

PM asked about the new town centre plan. PC Marshall explained the plan for Wed, Friday and Saturday nights when officers have specific areas to show increased police presence to prevent trouble sparking off at certain times of the night. It is hoped to increase public reassurance in police security in the town centre. There is a higher police presence, with shifts being overlapped on certain nights to allow this.

CC advised that there is to be a hub opened in the church hall in Fullarton Street, with street pastors and St Andrew's Ambulance present. There is already a marked decrease in trouble and a marked increase of people coming in to Ayr Town Centre due to the decrease of trouble. He went on to explain further about street pastors and the work they do; it is hoped they will start work around the beginning of December. There have been around 40 volunteers from church communities around Ayr and Prestwick.

NMcL mentioned that the Club de Mar is only open 2 nights a week. There followed a discussion around the town centre clubs and the activity at closing time of these premises. PC Marshall outlined what happens when Police have to take people to hospital following violent arguments and the like, and the impact that this time lost has on the rest of the shift etc.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance and they left at 7.30 p.m.

Ayr Town Centre Renaissance

Referring to Belleisle NMcL mentioned that there had been crowd funding which raised £500 following the recent vandalism to the children's playground. It had been suggested to use this for CCTV for the children's playground, and he asked CC what the chances were of this happening. There followed some detailed discussion around the pro and cons of this, and it was evident that the lighting was inadequate and he felt it would not be viable enough. CC feels it would be better to put a camera at the entrance on the Doonfoot Road, but there were objections from a resident nearby so it had to come down. CC suggested the money could be used to fund a post to supply power for a camera to be positioned correctly, and also the possibility of a solar powered camera was suggested by NMcL. CC proposes to look into

various possibilities to solve the problem and report back. He reported that following some vigilant policing the trouble has decreased greatly within the area.

There was some general discussion around the conservatory and the walled garden and the security and safety in place there.

CC said he had been hearing rumours about Reid's Furniture Shop in Arran Mall; MH said he attended a meeting in County Hall regarding the Town Centre retailers and the proposals for the Local Plan. He described the layout and the various suggestions; suggestion to relocate Council Offices to Arran Mall from Burns House. He had challenged the logic of this due to staff using all the car parking. Some detail discussed regarding car parking arrangements in the town and adjacent areas. Comments are invited regarding suggestions for empty and underused buildings in the town centre. MH went on to speak about the consultation regarding the riverside block at the bottom of the High Street, which is to take place soon. Comment was made that these consultations are not being publicised very well. Appears to be just enough to 'tick the box' that consultation was done. MH directed members to the council website to find the consultations. It was proposed to invite David Bell to the next meeting, since there seems to be a lot happening that Community Council are not being told about. 'The Chair mentioned he will make contact with him in the next few days.

CC had a meeting with 'Moving Arts' which is run by two ladies, one from Prestwick and one from Dunure; they have an interest in purchasing the Darlington Church building to use it for Art Works with children; also looking for premises in Newmarket Street, and also the underground car parking in Davidson Place for storage.

MH said he knew of someone interested in using the premises for a Columbarium, which is for storing ashes following cremation.

FW mentioned that the building needs £3m spent on it to bring it up to scratch. Discussion about the various projects and what may or may not be proposed for the building. FW is having trouble getting agreement from council officers to agree to get something done with the building, on behalf of Ayr Building Preservation Trust.

MH reported that last week Ian Holland, Sheila Andrew and Tricia McKeand were in the building, Estates must have let them in, along with Peter Bouchard. Peter Bouchard and Cllr Bill Grant have been in and removed weeds from the building and it now looks good, just needs a longer ladder to reach the guttering. Surprised how dry it is inside. Jamie McGeachen, the folk singer is meant to be in discussions regarding using the Darlington Church for music. CC mentioned that he may be working with the two ladies he mentioned previously, and that they have been granted £5k to put together a business plan. They have commissioned a firm from Glasgow to do this for them.

Some detailed discussion followed regarding the various proposals for the building and querying how CC can give such information yet Community Councillors knew nothing of such matters. CC offered to give FW, as Chair of the ABPT, contact details of the ladies from Moving Arts, and to contact Tom Burns, (Common Good Fund) SAC, to discuss the matter.

MH mentioned certain graffiti he has seen around the town, and he wanted to draw CC's attention to this. CC reported that he has been working on removing graffiti at Murdoch's

Lone. He went on to commend work that has been done recently by John Russell, who is working on behalf of the Renaissance. They will sand blast any graffiti from a wall, he has also taken up cleaning the underpasses at TK Maxx and at the High Flats. Other projects included paint that had been spilled in Blackfriars Walk and some graffiti in Butter Market Close at the back of BHS. John and his team are doing work better sometimes than regular Council methods. MA mentioned chewing gum removal in Prestwick that she had witnessed, which led to further discussion of past and present projects.

PF mentioned that we get so much more news of what goes on in the town centre from him and she commended him for his work.

There followed some discussion about future work that is being carried out for recycling item like satellite dishes. CC will be working on this project with the Green Champions, 5th – 12th November in Belleisle, then to Rozelle for the weekend. This initiative will be housed for the week in a Mongolian Yurt!

A brief discussion around the usage of the coloured waste bins, and the difference caused to landfill usage.

CC was thanked by the members for the comprehensive work he does in various areas around the town.

Councillors' Business and Matters Arising

No Councillors present.

Planning

The Chair and MA had attended a meeting on 9th October in County Hall regarding the Local Planning Strategy, but they both found it was a disappointing meeting, not very well delivered or organised. MH mentioned the Health and Social Care Locality Planning, and the six zoned areas, which is being rolled out throughout South Ayrshire, PMcC said he had been to a meeting in the Book and Bun regarding lining in with pharmacists within the scheme.

Correspondence

The Chair has received a letter from the Ayrshire Roads Alliance regarding the winter operation. They have been reviewing grit bins usage and this may result in underused bins being removed. There is to be training and equipment, snow/grit shovels, protective clothing provided to those who are willing to participate in spreading grit in their immediate local areas on a volunteer basis, in rural areas. This has been tested in Maybole with some success. They are asking for volunteers to do this work. NMcL asked what the members want to say to this. Consensus was to ask for further information about what routes they are thinking of in this area. There was also some concern about injury possibilities in doing this work and concern about liabilities.

A letter from David Pugh regarding the Ayrshire Litter Volunteer Network, this has been resurrected and seems not now to be closing down; they have been successful in getting

committee members. There is an urgent need for two members from South Ayrshire on the board.

Financial Report

£800.00

AOCB

MA mentioned the Digital workshop that she attended aimed at Community Councils. CC was also at this event. She outlined that it was a well-attended and well organised day. There had been extensive discussion about Community Councils making use of social media and having their own websites; how to get funding for this and how and who would administer the sites. It was generally felt that one of the best ways forward on this would be for CCs to appoint and/or elect a Web Officer at the AGM each year. This would ensure smooth running of the website and give responsibility to one person for its administration. CC went on to quote some statistics that had been given at the start of the meeting which clearly indicated that nationwide the biggest problem was the ongoing administration of websites. There had been a demonstration of setting up a website for free, which took around 15 minutes to do: however, this is not necessarily the best way to go. There followed a 'debate about funding for a website and how we could go forward with this. CC suggested that if Association of Community Councils charged each Community Council £50 then they could create one website which would give drop down menus for each CC. There was quite a bit of detailed discussion around the subject, surrounding covering sponsorship, membership, advertising, content, ethical matters this. FW added that he would be happy to assist with the adding of content. CC mentioned that Forehill have significant numbers viewing their website.

PMcC mentioned that this CC could have plenty of content to add to a website, St John's Tower etc. It was suggested that members have a look at Forehill Community Council's website – fhmcc. FW offered to sponsor the creation of a website. This was accepted by the Chair on behalf of the Community Council. FW will study the website design before the next meeting.

CC advised that with Forehill it was rapidly become a 'community' website, with a wider audience.

MA said it had become apparent to her that there is little contact between Community Council across South Ayrshire, they all seem to stand alone.

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

Wednesday, 18th November, 2015 at 7p.m. in Girvan Room, County Buildings, Ayr.
(Please note change of date in special circumstances)