

**Fort, Seafield and Wallacetoun Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**12th April 2023 @ 7pm**  
**Room RBS3, Ayr Town Buildings**

**Welcome**

M Hitchon welcomed all to the meeting, particularly the six new members, and asked for their permission to circulate their email addresses to all members; no objections were made.

**1. Present**

Michael Hitchon (in the Chair), Eric Armstrong, Kenneth Ballantyne, David Connelly, Carol Fisher, Gordon Kelly, Kenny MacLeod, Phil Martin, James McKay, Andrew Seville, Robert Singer, Denise Sommerville, Forbes Watson

**SAC Councillors:** Bob Shields, George Weir

**Link Officer:** David Porte

**Minute Secretary:** Tricia McKeand

**Members of the public:** John Allan, Lynn Carleton, Helen Ford, A Henderson, Janet Johnson, Kirsty Johnson, Susan Keenan, Jake Murray, R Stewart plus two others.

Adam Short's resignation was noted with regret and he was thanked for his service as a community councillor.

Kenneth Ballantyne's offer to deal with putting minutes on the website was gratefully accepted. He also said he would look at setting up generic email addresses, in liaison with D Sommerville and G Kelly. **Action: KB**

**2. Apologies**

Alan Roseweir, Cllr Martin Dowey, Cllr Lee Lyons

**3. Declarations of Interests.**

None.

The community councillors who had not completed a Declarations of Interests form at the last meeting or since then, and all new community councillors, were given forms to complete and return to the Chair, who would pass them to the new Secretary when one was appointed. They would file them, and bring them to meetings. **Action: EA, DC, GK, RS**

**4. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2023**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by F Watson and seconded by D Sommerville.

**5. Matters Arising**

The Chair had contacted Councillors Dowey and Lyons who had explained that their recent absences had been because of Council commitments and recesses.

Jim McKay tabled a report he had produced: 'Capital Project for Ayr West Funding of £250k per annum for Next 4 Years. Proposal to Refurbish/Renovate Old Racecourse Pavilion.' with an attachment showing costs from SAC (Appendix 1). There was a discussion which included that a business plan would be needed; that the funds available should be spread over the CC area; and that the funds should be used to leverage in other funds. It was agreed to discuss it further once the procedure and timetable were notified by SAC.

## **6. Speaker: Matt Lamb – Pavilion Festival**

Matt Lamb, of the organisers of Pavilion Festival, gave a description of the event, including that the numbers attending were expected to be 7,000 on Saturday 29 April and 5,000 on Sunday 30 April, and said there was still a letter containing updated information to be sent out to those likely to be most affected.

He invited questions and was told of concerns about lack of communication and unanswered emails which he undertook to investigate. There had been a lack of consultation by Ayrshire Roads Alliance about road closures, and they had been published on the ARA site on 31 March, with the order allowing them then made on 6 April.

Reassurance was asked for that extra street cleaning would be in operation, and that calls to SAC and Police re problems would be responded to. D Porte said he would raise SAC matters with relevant departments. Regret was expressed that a Police representative was not present to answer questions. It was pointed out that there had been a public meeting at the Town Hall at which SAC and Police had been present. It was emphasised that if the event was to be repeated then much better communication with secondary stakeholders would be required. **Action: DP**

Matt Lamb pointed out that the event had been signed off by SAC elected members and that he had wanted to attend March CC meeting. He was thanked by the Chair for attending.

## **7. Election of Office Bearers**

David Porte took the Chair. It was agreed that a secret ballot would be used for any contested roles and that Cllr Shields would assist the Chair in counting the votes.

Chair: K MacLeod was proposed by E Armstrong and seconded by J McKay. D Sommerville was proposed by P Martin and seconded by R Singer.

The result of the secret ballot was: K MacLeod four votes; D Sommerville seven votes; two abstentions. D Sommerville was duly elected as Chair.

Vice-chair: G Kelly was proposed by D Sommerville and seconded by K MacLeod, and was duly elected.

Secretary: there were no nominations. F Watson's offer to continue to let his email address be used for contact until a new Secretary was found was accepted with thanks.

Treasurer: Michael Hitchon agreed to stand again, and was proposed by F Watson and seconded by D Sommerville and duly elected.

He said that two more bank account signatories were needed and D Sommerville and J McKay were appointed.

Planning Convenor: K MacLeod was proposed by G Kelly and seconded by D Sommerville.

Licensing Convenor: F Watson was proposed by K MacLeod and seconded by K Ballantyne.

Denise Sommerville took the Chair.

## **8. Correspondence**

None.

## **9. Public Business**

A member of the public asked a question about the need for guest house licences which was answered by the Planning Convenor.

A member of the public raised ongoing concerns about problems in Doonfoot Road with parking and speeding, and agreed to forward to Cllr Shields an email she had received from ARA.

## **10. Reports**

### **a. Police**

A report 'Policing in Ayrshire Community Council Report for Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown' had been received which covered April 2023 – see Appendix 2.

Cllr Shields said that the meeting of Police and SAC elected members to which CC Chairs would be invited was still to happen.

Cllr Weir said that an analysis was available from Police of the figures in their reports; M Hitchon would write to ask for a copy. **Action: MH**

Regret was expressed that a Police representative was not present at the meeting.

### **b. SAC Elected Members**

M Hitchon read out a report from Cllr Dowey – see Appendix 3.

Concern was expressed about the lack of use of the new Cutty Sark building. D Porte said SAC's Laura Kerr would know its intended use.

### **c. Short Term Lets (STL)**

K MacLeod said he had been objecting to planning applications on basis agreed at pervious meeting.

Jake Murray of Donnini Apartments said they'd been waiting to be asked for feedback, as stated in previous month's minutes, but had not been contacted. It was agreed that he should contact Fort Wallace and Seafield Community Association. He answered some questions about their business operation and invited people to contact them direct with any concerns.

Cllr Shields responded to question about SAC's interpretation of Scottish Government's legislation and said that advice was still awaited and was expected in June.

### **d. Planning – K MacLeod**

Belleisle Gatehouse let was not yet confirmed.

### **e. Licensing - F Watson**

No applications in area. R Singer said he had made applications but FW confirmed he had not seen them.

KMacL said he thought the CC should be sent all licensing applications and not be restricted to those re alcohol. It was agreed that D Porte and D Sommerville would both contact SAC to ask for this. **Action: DP & DS**

**f. FSWCA: Community Energy Project**

No report in A Roseweir's absence but members confirmed their support.

**g. Ayr Common Good Fund – F Watson**

F Watson would investigate the ownership of fire-damaged building at foot of High St, and also that of Old Racecourse Pavilion. He would also ask how much the Common Good Fund was expected to benefit from the Pavilion Festival. **Actions: FW**

**h. Treasurer**

Nothing to report.

**i. SAH&SCP AS&C LPG (South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership Ayr South & Coylton Locality Planning Group) – nothing to report.**

**j. A&ACB (Ageless and Active Champions Board) – Ageing Well event in Town Hall on 6 June 11.00-15.00.**

**11. Fort Matters**

Cllrs Shields and Weir would enquire about opening of new care home on Esplanade.

**12. Seafield Matters**

Nothing more.

**13. Wallacetoun Matters**

Early Years Community Garden representative to be invited to speak at future meeting.

**14. AOCB**

K Ballantyne was given authorisation to arrange for an organisational domain, in liaison with M Hitchon and D Sommerville.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 7pm, Room RBS3, Ayr Town Building

Capital Project for Ayr West Ward funding of £250K per annum for next 4 years.

Proposal to Refurbish/Renovate Old Racecourse Pavilion.

The above is situated at the 12<sup>th</sup> green at Seafield Golf Course on Racecourse Road and this building has only had basic maintenance and has been under used for many years now.

The Pavilion comprises a Large Detached Building over 3 floors which includes a Ground Floor Apartment currently rented out by SAC, this was previously the Caretakers Apartment.

The roof was recently fully replaced with new slates but there are several broken windows which let birds in to the building. I understand the top 2 floors are changing facilities which can still be partially used, the ground floor can be used for changing facilities but at present is also used by council workers as a Bothy. Outside there are 3 toilets Gents,Ladies and Disabled. These are in a dire condition and the Disabled toilet is not fit for purpose

I was informed that the council had been looking to perhaps spend some money on upgrading the facilities but this has not materialised and a lady had indeed approached SAC with a proposal to lease the ground floor to enable her to open a Cafe/Takeaway to cater for Golfers as this is an ideal pitstop at 12<sup>th</sup> hole for toilets and refreshments. This would also be an excellent service to offer many sports people who use the Old Racecourse for Football, Rugby, Hockey at weekends as well as mainly in Summer Months for evening games, training sessions and also would cater for the many families and spectators who also attend. There are of course many dog walkers who also use the Old Racecourse and Families who use the open spaces for recreation would benefit greatly if the facilities on offer were upgraded. I attend most Saturday mornings to enjoy the football and there can easily be upwards of 1000 people there with various matches taking place. A visitor asked where he and his family could get a toilet and a cup of tea so imagine the embarrassment when he was told there were no facilities available.

I'm convinced that with a fully costed upgrade and forward thinking that this proposal would restore the Old Racecourse Pavilion to its former glory and become once again a tremendous asset to the community and visitors alike.

Please find attached budget costs for the above proposal.

Jim McKay

Community Councillor for Fort,Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council

12<sup>th</sup> April 2023

## Old Racecourse Pavilion

### List of Budget Costs associated with Potential Building Refurbishment Works\*

#### External Works

-Repairs/decoration to stonework/roughcast/ rainwater goods /timber facias	25K
-Replacement/Repair/Decoration of Timber Windows	25K
-Upgrading of external Toilets, including Accessible Toilet	25K

#### Internal Works

-Decoration (Flooring/Resin & vinyl / Painting, including fire retardant /Timber facings & skirtings) ; of Entrance areas/ Stairwell/Corridors/Changing Rooms. Repairs to the stairwell steps.	50K
-Upgrading of Communal Shower Areas and Toilets	45K

#### M&E

-Upgrading of Boiler/Heating & Hot Water System	40K
-Upgrading of Lighting and Electrical System/ventilation	40K

£250,000

\*Please note that these costs are based on a level of works to harmonise with potential levels of funding available but would represent a significant upgrading of the building. The works could be further increased however in some part in scope/quality by additional expenditure.

**POLICING IN AYRSHIRE  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT  
Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown  
April 2023**



### **Ward Priorities**

1. Drug Dealing & Drug Misuse
2. Road Safety
3. Dishonesty
4. Violent Crime

### **Your Locality Officers –**

Our team covers Ayr and the Villages.

Inspector Joanne Logan leads the Locality team for your area.

Sergeant

Jamie Lyall

Police Officers

PC Hunter, PC Huttner, PC McGregor, PC Nicol, PC Dominick

### **This report covers the time period of April 2023**

Calls to police – 375 - including concern calls, sudden deaths, missing persons, road crashes.

#### Crimes

Thefts – 27 – mostly thefts from Town centre.

Disorder – 6

Assault – 13

Vandalism – 7

Drug Offences – 4

Fraud – 1

Road Traffic Offences – 10

Ongoing issues with drugs and ASB in the Wallacetown area has been targeted by local officers carrying out both High visibility foot and mobile patrol.

## **Contact us**

In an emergency always dial 999

For non-urgent crime, you can contact your local police office by telephoning 101.

Our Twitter and Facebook sites are not for reporting crime and they are not monitored 24/7.

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/ayrshirepolice](https://www.facebook.com/ayrshirepolice) Twitter - @AyrshirePolice

## **Information**

Our Annual Police plan 2022/23 sets out what we will do to keep our communities safe and this has been developed using your responses to last year's survey, along with focus groups, workshops and other ways we listen to communities.

Please find enclosed some links for your information.

[Your Police 2022-2023 - Police Scotland - Citizen Space](#)

[Online Survey](#)



## **Report from Councillor Dowey**

### **Wards**

£1 million has been allocated to each ward. A paper will go to Cabinet regarding how this will be spent and specifying the same criteria at the VAT money. Communities will have input into the distribution.

### **Watchful**

The basin has been cleaned and the process of removing the Watchful has begun. The bridge will also be revamped.

### **2 hours free Parking**

The ARA are implementing the 2 hours free parking in Ayr. However, this involves re programming ticket machines.

### **Ayr Show – Festival of Flight**

The flying order was announced by the Flying Display Director, Group Captain Les Garside-Beattie (Rtd.) OBE.

### **Pavilion Festival**

This will take place at the end of April, and we don't anticipate any problems.

### **Cutty Sark Centre**

The centre has been named and we are looking at revamping the small area between Sandgate and the bottom of the High Street to match the event space.

### **Station Hotel**

We are continuing meetings with all stakeholders regarding progressing its fate.

### **Hourston's & Arran Mall**

An announcement on these sites will be made at the end of June. The Council are currently in the process of purchasing the Arran Mall.

