



FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of **AGM** Meeting Held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 6.30 pm
at Grammar School, Fort Street, Ayr

Attendance:

CC Members: Denise Sommerville (DS – Chair); Carol Fisher (CF – Secretary); Michael Hitchon (MH – Treasurer); David Connelly (DC); Jim McKay (JM); Eric Armstrong (EA); Rachel Borland (RB); Alan Roseweir (AR); Robert Singer (RS); Forbes Watson (FW – Licensing)

SAC Councillors: George Weir (GW)

SAC Link Officer: Jill Tomlinson (JT)

Police: Not present

Minute Secretary: Vivienne McCulloch (VM)

Public: Gavin Kennedy (GK); Michael Clark (MC)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** DS welcomed everyone to the meeting; JT is here in place of David Porte (DP), SAC Link Officer
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Martin Downey; Cllr Bob Shields; Andy Seville, Kenny McLeod; Gordon Kelly and David Porte

3. Annual Reports:

Chair

DS - Committee Members, Elective Representatives and Community Members

“As we gather for our Annual General Meeting, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication throughout the past year. Our achievements and progress would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our committee members and elective representatives, who have consistently demonstrated their commitment to the betterment of our community.

First and foremost, I must express my sincere gratitude to Gordon Kelly for his exceptional support and guidance as I have undertaken the responsibilities of Chair. Gordon's wisdom and assistance have been instrumental in shaping our endeavours and ensuring the effectiveness of our council's operations.

Reflecting on the past year, it's evident that our journey was not without its trials. However, it's through adversity that we have demonstrated our resilience and unity as a community. While we may not have checked off every item on our agenda, we have made significant progress in advocating for the interests of Fort Seafield residents. Issues such as short-term lets, motorhomes and ECV charging facilities have been diligently addressed, drawing attention from the Ayrshire Road Alliance and initiating constructive dialogue toward resolution.

One notable achievement has been the establishment of a minute secretary position within our council. This milestone, though initially challenging to implement, is a testament to the dedication of those who volunteered their time to ensure accurate documentation of our meetings. Additionally, the launch of our Facebook page, provision of email addresses for members and, the effective management of our website, have greatly enhanced our ability to communicate with and engage our community.

Throughout the year, several significant topics have emerged, sparking collaboration and action within our council. The Station Hotel fire, Pavilion Festival and Ayr show have spurred the formation of specialised working groups aimed at addressing specific challenges and opportunities. These initiatives include the management of events, the promotion of the Common Good project, the establishment of the Wallacetown Energy Group and our support for the South Ayrshire Community Council Chair Association, which we were instrumental in founding.

Furthermore, we have had the privilege of hosting esteemed representatives from South Ayrshire Council at our meetings. These presentations, led by individuals such as Mark Greaves, Colin Love, and Chris Carroll, have provided invaluable insights into various community issues and facilitated productive discussions aimed at finding solutions.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our council and the wider community for their unwavering commitment and dedication. As we look ahead to the coming year, let us approach our responsibilities with renewed energy and determination, united in our shared goal of enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown.

Thank you once again for your tireless efforts and steadfast support.

Warmest regards,

Denise Sommerville Chair,

Fort Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council"

Treasurer

MH – We received the top up grant from SAC; welcomed a contribution from DW Shaw and reinstatement of the Christmas window competition. £1,061.58 present income. MH read through the accounts statement, with regard to what had been spent. The Railway Club in Wallacetown is now closed from 1st January 2024. Insurance raised from £87 to £97.20. Donations to Newton Primary School, Christmas window competition. MH will submit a claim to obtain a Grant top as soon as possible. Civic pride projects and planting of trees; would like to replace the two dead trees with three replacements.

AR – Is there an annual inflammatory rise from SAC in the Grants provided? MH

– The amount has been the same for over 20 years.

DS – Asked Tracy Whiteford of SAC about an increase in the grant amounts; it has to be decided with SAC and would not be an easy or quick process. AR – Due to rates of inflation and cost of things to buy, an increased grant amount should be happening.

DS – Andy Sinclair was looking at other funding for the CC.

MH – In view of the fact that we don't have 28 active CC's, there must be extra money that can be redirected to those that spend the money. Not revised since 2004. Good topic for the CC's of SAC to discuss.

CF – I will contact DW Shaw to see if we can get another £100 – ***all agreed; CF to action***

4. Office Bearers stepped down and Jill Tomlinson took the Chair on behalf of David Porte

5. **Appointment of New Office Bearer's**

JT took an official note of the Office Bearers, as follows:-

Chair – Denise Sommerville; FW proposed & JM seconded

Vice Chair – Jim McKay; FW proposed & CF seconded

Secretary – Carol Fisher; DS proposed & AR seconded

Treasurer – Michael Hitchon; AR proposed & FW seconded

Planning – Rachel Borland; FW proposed & DS seconded

Licensing – Forbes Watson; CF proposed & AR seconded