



Minutes of FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (FSWCC) meeting
12th November 2025, 6.45 p.m. in Ayr Police Station, Newton House, 30 Green Street Lane, Ayr, KA8 8BH

Chair: Jim McKay

Secretary: Ian MacLeod (minute-taker)

Attendees:

David Connelly (CC member), Carol Fisher (CC member), Michael Hitchon (CC treasurer), Ian MacLeod (CC secretary), Jim McKay (CC vice chair), Alan Roseweir (CC member), Forbes Watson (CC member), George Weir (SAC member),

Members of Public:

George Bradbury (Police Service of Scotland), Beryl McKay (public), Bill McLellan (public), Matilda Pye (public), Connor Scobie (Police Service of Scotland), Paul Whalles (Police Service of Scotland).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chair Jim McKay chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Denise Somerville. Jim and members thanked the locality police officers for hosting today's meeting at short notice given our inability to access the scheduled premises (Wallacetown hub, George Street, Ayr).

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from members Eric Armstrong, Robert Singer, Denise Somerville, and Councillor Bob Shields.

3. Declarations of Interest

David Connelly declared an interest in scheduled item '7. Reports - Roads' regarding Dalblair Road.

4. Approval of Minutes – 8th October 2025

Minutes approved.

5. Matters Arising

(None raised)

6. SAC Elected Members Report

SAC Regulatory Panel

Councillor George Weir reported that he is scheduled to sit on SAC's Regulatory Panel in due course.

7. Reports

a. *Treasurer (Michael Hitchon):*

Treasurer issued paper statement of financial account, to date.

b. *Common Good (Forbes Watson):*

Councillor George Weir says LAST (Low Green and Seafront Trust) henceforth are to be given notification about consultations affecting the area.

Forbes Watson clarified that the objective of the FSWCC Common Good working group is to identify who is the custodian and operator of the fund, and how they operate it. Forbes said that the working group expect clarification from SAC by spring next year, given that SAC's current chief executive was appointed only recently.

c. *Fundraising and Grants (Denise Sommerville):*

(no further developments: awaiting Community-Led Action Plan outcomes before identifying grant applications)

d. *Guest Speakers (Secretary):*

Secretary Ian MacLeod reported that he has had no reply from the office of MP Elaine Stewart and sought any help from FSWCC members through their contacts.

e. *Licensing (Forbes Watson):*

Forbes Watson reported that no alcohol licences applications are current in our area, and that licence has been granted for the premises offering a virtual-golf feature in Arthur Street.

f. *Planning (Forbes Watson):*

The former Glenpark Hotel at the corner of Miller Road and Racecourse View

Jim McKay reported - further to matter raised at our October 2025 meeting - that concerned members of the public have learned that SAC have informed the owners of the premises that they must submit retrospective planning application for several works. Members acknowledged this prospect and to anticipate scrutinising the plans in due course.

Various applications for change of use of residential property

Forbes Watson to object to planning applications in residences looking for change of use to short term lets where there is shared entry.

- Action: (See item '7. Reports i. STLs': FSWCC requested Councillor George Weir to summarise from recent SAC meeting the sympathetic views about restricting STLs, so that Forbes can factor these into our objections)

g. *Police :*

Police officer George Bradbury, locality policing Ayr North, presented on the monthly report prepared for us. George invited questions from FSWCC members and members of the public:

George observed that anti-social behaviour in Wallacetown ought to be contextualised in regard to the area having a high concentration of temporary housing for people adjudged homeless.

Regarding limited resources in the policing and criminal justice systems, George reported that interventions through the school system are a likely route for trying to manage and/ or reduce persistent youth offending.

h. *Roads (David Connelly):*

Dalblair Road speeding

David Connelly reported that efforts to elicit action by Ayrshire Roads Alliance to prove speeding and obtain traffic-calming measures and/ or structures will not result in any action by ARA because ARA say that speeding is a police enforcement matter and that possible structural changes cannot be considered given the pre-emptive prominence of the Accessible Ayr project plans being considered for the road/ area.

i. *STLs – Short Term Lets (Forbes Watson):*

Fairfield Park, no. 21

Per chair's invitation to members of the public to present their 'other public business' first, member of public Matilda Pye expressed disappointment that FSWCC failed to make objection to the STL application for 21 Fairfield Park within the 28 day limit of notification of the application despite assurances she received at FSWCC's September 2025 meeting that we would submit an objection. Ian MacLeod apologised for FSWCC's mistake in making their objection too late to be considered. Forbes Watson remarked that it is unfortunate that SAC do not notify community councils about STLs made within community councils' bounds, whereas applications for planning and other licensing matters are notified directly from SAC.

General Discussion

Discussion ensued about the disappointment that the STL application for 21 Fairfield Park was granted by SAC. However, two matters for hope potentially: i) Councillor George Weir reported that he and fellow councillors have forced SAC officers to undertake work to draft a proposed new policy for granting Short Term Let licences - for presentation to councillors by late spring 2026 - that must take into account the concentration and scale of concerns expressed by the likes of residents of the south harbour area. ii) Perhaps related to SAC's policy reformulation task, Alan Roseweir drew the meeting's attention to SAC's public notice on its website that it is 'reviewing its Short-term Let licensing policy' and that it invites the public to submit their views, particularly through the survey on the web-page.

- Action: *FSWCC requested Councillor George Weir to summarise from recent SAC meeting the sympathetic views about restricting STLs, so that Forbes can factor these into our objections.*

j. *Town Centre Regeneration and Events (Robert Singer)*

Members acknowledged that we have discontinued the possibility of such a working group currently.

High Street aesthetic

Member of public Beryl McKinlay reported she has obtained assurance from SAC that the Cutty Sark building's environment will be maintained regularly, and that SAC officers will monitor traders' compliance regarding the presentation and security of their bins. Regarding Beryl's concern about the dangers and aesthetic of dilapidated buildings, Councillor George Weir suggested SAC officer George Hunter is the lead officer for such matters.

Heritage strand of town centre vitality

Member of public Bill McLennan suggested that heritage preservation, education, and socialising be encouraged and that his place of volunteering - Heritage Hub at Ayr Town Hall - could be used more.

k. *Wallacetown Community Energy Project (Alan Roseweir):*

Alan Roseweir reaffirmed effort is ongoing to make the project tax efficient so that as much revenue as possible goes to good causes as decided by the community.

l. * Place Planning - Ayr South(-west)*

Ian MacLeod reported on progress made by the delegated working group - in partnership SAC Place Planning officer Audrey Gatt - for formulating suggestions for facilities and/ or projects representative of the preferences garnered from surveys of the community: Working group is meeting weekly to complete this task. So far, one meeting has occurred, with another planned for next week.

8. Communication

Beachfront Plaque attributed to FSWCC

Regarding the approach from a different community council in South Ayrshire about the plaque at the beach that FSWCC has been attributed as organising, Michael Hitchon undertook to liaise with SAC payments/ procurement team to ascertain the manufacturer.

- Action: *Michael Hitchon undertook to liaise with SAC payments/ procurement team to ascertain the manufacturer.*

Physical Noticeboards in our Ward

Carol Fisher wishes to identify the locations of SAC and/ or FSWCC physical noticeboards in our ward and undertook to enquire to SAC.

- Action: *Carol Fisher to enquire to SAC as to location of physical noticeboards in our ward.*

9. Accessible Ayr

Ian MacLeod affirmed that Chair - Denise Somerville - had written to SAC Cabinet to state our opposition to the stage four proposals that were publicised as being scheduled for decision by SAC this autumn, or by December at the latest. Ian reported that he thinks there are no minutes yet from potentially relevant SAC meetings held since October. Ian drew the meeting's attention to the project's latest survey of the public that is open until Friday 21st November.

10. Other Public Business

(has been integrated to the relevant agenda items)

11. Any Other Competent Business

Remembrance Sunday event

Members thanked Michael Hitchon for representing FSWCC at the event, and Jim McKay and Forbes Watson want their compliments on the conduct of the event to be intimated to SAC.

- Action: *Secretary to write to SAC to express our compliments.*

Belleisle Park golf course redesign or development of buildings

Jim McKay asked FSWCC to support 'option three' proposed by Golf South Ayrshire/ South Ayrshire Council to site 'golf pods' - technology that simulates golf strokes - on current rough car park near current golf and 'stables' buildings, and to join those existing buildings together with interior developments. Councillor Weir spoke favourably to the proposal given the historic opposition of golfers to accommodating a driving range on the golf course itself (option one). FSWCC agreed that Jim McKay can write to SAC to state our support for option three.

- Action: *FSWCC agreed that Jim McKay can write to SAC to state our support for option three of the Belleisle park golf development.*

12. Date of Next Meeting

18:30, Wednesday 10th December 2025 at Working For Wallacetown ('hub'), 37 George Street, Ayr, KA8 0AH.

Action Items

- Councillor Weir to press SAC to publish their economic impact report of the most recent International Air Shows.
- Eric Armstrong to report on progress of inquiries into the sufficiency of the facilities operated at Ayr Bus Station.
- Councillor George Weir to summarise from recent SAC meeting the sympathetic views about restricting STLs, so that Forbes can factor these into our objections.
- Michael Hitchon undertook to liaise with SAC payments/ procurement team to ascertain the manufacturer of the beachfront plaque attributed to FSWCC
- Carol Fisher to enquire to SAC as to location of physical noticeboards in our ward.
- Secretary – Ian MacLeod - to write to SAC to express FSWCC's compliments about the Remembrance Sunday event
- Jim McKay to write to SAC to state our support for option three of the Belleisle park golf development (golf pods, and merging existing buildings)