



Minutes of Fort Seafield and  
Wallacetown Community Council  
(FSWCC)  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 6.30 pm in  
Wallacetown Hub, George  
Street, Ayr.

**Wallacetown Hub Community Council Meeting Minutes Date: Wednesday, 14th May 2025**

**Venue: The Wallacetown Hub, 37 George Street, Ayr**

**Chair: Denise Sommerville**

**Minute-taker: (by Artificial Intelligence)**

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**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Chair Denise Sommerville welcomed everyone to the 2nd-to-last meeting of the year and acknowledged the regular attendance of residents and members. She encouraged brief introductions.

**Attendees:**

Eric Armstrong (CC member), David Connelly (CC member), Carol Fisher (CC member), Michael Hitchon (CC treasurer), Ian MacLeod (CC secretary), Jim McKay (CC vice chair), David Porte (SAC staff - link officer), Denise Sommerville (CC chair), Forbes Watson (CC member), George Weir (SAC member).

Members of the Public: Jane Armstrong, John Monaghan.

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**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Alan Roseweir and Bob Shields. The Chair noted that Robert's absence is becoming regular without communication and will follow up directly.

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**3. Declarations of Interest**

Eric raised a query regarding the timing and appropriateness of declarations of interest, questioning how one could declare interest in items that may arise unexpectedly. The chair advised members to pre-read the agendas and declare their interests as items occur. No formal declarations were made.

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**4. Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, 9th April 2025**

Minutes were proposed by Jim McKay and seconded by Michael Hutchinson. An amendment was noted to clarify that no formal paper on place planning was submitted; only prior email correspondence and datasets were provided. Members agreed this should be reflected.

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## **5. Matters Arising**

### **a. Dalblair Road Speeding Concerns:**

- A resident's petition regarding speeding on Dalblair Road was rejected due to technical non-compliance with SAC's petition protocol.
- Concerns were raised about the council's data collection methods (e.g. use of road sensors near speed bumps skewing results).
- Discussion included community observations of frequent speeding at 35–40mph in a 20mph zone.
- SAC's reliance on percentile-based measurement was critiqued as inadequate.
- It was suggested that John Lees, a retired traffic officer familiar with a similar campaign on Blackburn Road, be contacted to assist.
- George Weir outlined the bureaucratic process for petitions and noted that SAC's petition protocol requires complainants to demonstrate prior engagement with council complaints procedures.
- As a proactive measure, a potential working group was suggested to strengthen our community's case and address the speeding concerns on Dalblair Road. This initiative should give us hope for a safer future.

### **b. Wallacetown Hub Residents Day (23rd April):**

- The event was coordinated as a multi-agency drop-in day, attended by residents and representatives from housing, waste management, and community safety.
- Emotional and practical concerns raised by residents were constructively addressed.
- Several agencies took follow-up actions. Structural concerns were referred to building maintenance.
- Monthly follow-ups are now planned to maintain communication and responsiveness.
- The Residents Day on 23rd April was a resounding success, with over 20 residents in attendance and several complaints resolved on the spot. This achievement is a testament to the strength and unity of our community.

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### **c. Common Good:**

- Cllr Weir reported on a new SAC paper outlining proposals to improve management of common good assets.
- Criticism was levelled at SAC for charging low rents (e.g. £11,000 for the Low Green site used during the Ayr Show, which generated £115,000 in revenue).
- George and Bob have pushed for a review of valuation practices and rent recovery, especially concerning profitable commercial use of common good assets.
- Plans to develop a scrutiny model and assign advocates to protect common good interests were also discussed.
- George committed to circulating the latest council paper to all members.

### **d. Public Business:**

- Public comments were made about Dalblair Road and Residents' Day issues and were addressed under items 5a and 5b.

## **6. SAC Elected Members' Business**

George and Bob's motions on Belleisle Golf Course development and short-term lets have been delayed due to the cancellation of officer meetings.

- Motions are likely to be addressed after the summer recess.

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## **7. Reports**

### **a. Police:**

- No officers were present, but an online report had been circulated to members in advance.

### **b. Treasurer:**

- Michael provided a financial update on the account balance.
- It was confirmed that the following community council grant from SAC is due shortly.

### **c. Planning:**

- Updates included objections to change-of-use applications, such as converting the Glen Park Hotel into a 22-room student accommodation block.
- Concerns have also been raised about increasing multiple occupancy applications.

### **d. Licensing:**

- Very few new licensing applications. General observation that the decline of the pub sector has contributed to licensing stagnation.
- Noted procession: Air Presbyterian Flute Band's 40th anniversary march.

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## **8. STLs (Short-Term Lets) – Bob Shields and George Weir**

- Bob's motion on STLs is in progress but currently delayed.
- It is expected to be revisited after the summer recess once officer feedback becomes available.

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## **9. AOCB (Any Other Competent Business)**

- Proposal to move meetings to Ayr Grammar School for summer and consider Grain Exchange/Citadel for winter.
- Chair to step back during the 2026 election period; Jim McKay to act as interim chair.
- Concerns raised about:
  - Flooding near the Bowling Green area
  - Unauthorised repainting of shopfronts in the town centre
- Request a list of future guest speakers to improve meeting engagement.

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### **Date of Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, 11th June 2025 at 6.30 pm – Venue TBC (possibly Ayr Grammar School)**

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## **Full Action Points (Detailed)**

### **✓ Action Points**

- **Chair to follow up regarding repeated absences.**
- **Email Jane Corey, David, George, and others to revisit the Dalblair Road speeding petition.**
- **Explore forming a working group to address local traffic issues.**
- **Contact John Lees (retired traffic officer) for guidance and support.**
- **Distribute SAC's common good paper via email to all members (Bob/George).**
- **Compile guest speaker list for future meetings.**
- **Investigate alternative venues for summer and winter sessions.**
- **Council motion updates (Belleisle and STLs) to be revisited after recess.**
- **Follow up with council officers on signage, road markings, and repainting enforcement.**
- **Monitor flooding concerns around Bowling Green and liaise with the Roads Alliance.**
- **Check the receipt and confirmation of the SAC community council grant.**
- **Share the police report link in minutes or the subsequent email correspondence.**
- **Approval of Minutes from Wednesday, 9th April 2025: Amendment noted to clarify that no formal paper on place planning was submitted; only prior email correspondence and datasets were provided.**