

Minutes of Fort Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council (FSWCC) meeting on Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 6.30pm in Grammar School Ayr.

FSWCC Meeting Minutes

Chair: Denise Sommerville

Attendees: Carol Fisher, Eric Armstrong, Forbes Watson, Robert Singer, Alan Roseweir, and Michael Hitchon

SAC: David Porte, Cllr George Weir, Melissa McCulloch

Apologies: Jim McKay and David Connally.

Public: Residents from Dalblair Road and Sandgate. Resident from Seafield (Ian Macleod)

1. Welcome and Apologies

- Meeting called to order.
- No declarations of interest.
- Chair welcomed all attendees, including guest speaker Melissa McCulloch (External Funding Officer).
- Chair informed members of Rachel Borland's resignation from the CC. Members thanked Rachel for her time and service in the last year

2. Police Report

Overview of Crime in FSW and High Street Areas:

- **Disorderly Conduct:** Multiple incidents reported.
 - **Drug-Related Offences:** Concerns raised about increasing drug activity, especially in Sandgate.
- **Traffic Offences:** Several cases, including road safety issues on Dalblair Road.
- **Football-Related Police Presence:**

- Increased police deployment at a recent match due to intelligence on possible disturbances;
- No major incidents inside the venue.
- Crime Survey: Discuss a Scottish Government survey in Wallacetown to gather crime data.

3. Meeting Schedule & Website Update

- Meeting time correction: The website incorrectly stated 7:00 instead of 6:30 PM.
- Website needs updating with correct details.
- Discussion on who will manage updates (action pending).

4. Funding Discussion with Melissa McCulloch (External Funding Officer)

Melissa's Role & Services:

- Works with community groups in South Ayrshire to access funding.
- Provides support for National Lottery and other grants.
- Organizes funding fairs and funding surgeries with the National Lottery.
- Publishes a bi-weekly funding newsletter.

Key Funding Opportunities Discussed:

- National Lottery Awards for All. Up to £20,000 (previously £10,000).
- Larger Grants Available. Funding from £20,000 to £500,000 for bigger community projects.

Community Empowerment Fund (Upcoming)

- Up to £5,000 for small projects.
- Up to £15,000 for capital projects (buildings, infrastructure)

Robertson Trust & Other Funders

- Funds available for mental health, poverty, children, and addiction services.

South Ayrshire 4 Community Website

- A searchable funding database for community groups.

Funding Eligibility & Challenges:

- Community groups must have a bank account and a formal constitution to apply.
- Community councils cannot apply for charity-only funds unless registered as an SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation).
- **Action Point:**
Melissa will provide details on the South Ayrshire 4 Community and attend the March 17th meeting for further discussion **FSWCA**

5. Minutes of meeting 8th January Proposed by AR and Seconded by FW

6. Public Business

Traffic & Safety Issues

- John Monaghan of the public present raised serious concerns about speeding and safety concerns on Dalblair Road.
- Suggestion to invite ARA representatives to a future meeting to discuss.
- Discussion on installing traffic-calming measures
- **Action Point**
- David Porte agreed to meet with members of the public from Dalblair Road to discuss

- Members of the public present updated the CC on a drug misuse issue in Sandgate that Police Scotland is aware of.

- Member thanked the CC for their support
- Discussion occurred around the lack of CCTV coverage as a major concern.
- Increased police patrols requested.

6. Reports

Common good

- The new lighting and Wi-Fi insulation on the low green was discussed
- Discussion on whether these installations affect common good land.
- Street Lighting & Wi-Fi for Public Events:

Wallacetown Community Energy Project

- Renewable Energy Project: Funding commitment deadline: March 14.
- The FSW Community Association is working to secure preferred contractors and funding approvals.

Planning & Licensing Issues

- Short-Term Lets Regulation:
 - Motion to be presented to the council by Cllr Shields.
 - Shop Front Improvement Scheme:
 - Decision postponed to the next meeting
- **Licensing Applications:**
 - Noted a decrease in hospitality-related applications.

Treasurer – paper copy of finances given to all members

7. AOCB

- Zoho Email System Costs & Usability Issues
- Concerns about cost-effectiveness.
- Alternative providers to be explored.

Action Point:

- Zoho Admin Ken Ballantyne to be asked to investigate options. Forbes Watson to discuss with Ken
- New Pharmacy at Alloway Place:
 - No immediate objections.

9. Community Council Membership & Digital Updates

Need for new Minute Secretary

- Recruitment of college students considered to engage younger members.
- Potential work experience & references offered as incentives.

Website & Facebook Updates:

- Discussion on removing outdated content.
- Action Point: Ken to be asked to assist with updates.

10. Upcoming Events & Community Engagement

Winter Support Event

- Organized by Siobhan Brown, MSP at the Salvation Army for Wallacetown residents.

Wallacetown Arts Festival (April 27th)

- Plans to involve local nurseries & schools.
- Chair unavailable due to prior commitments.

Planning Pavilion Festival & Road Closure

- Discussion on traffic management & community consultation.

11. Action Items & Next Steps


Immediate Actions:

- ✓ Melissa McCulloch will provide details on the funding newsletter and South Ayrshire 4 Community.
- ✓ Community Council to register on South Ayrshire 4 Community for funding alerts.
- ✓ Melissa is to attend the March 17th meeting for further funding discussions for the Community Association
- ✓ Ken (IT admin) to explore alternative email providers and assist with website updates. Forbes will meet and discuss with Ken
- ✓ Community Council to invite ARA representatives to a future meeting to discuss traffic & speeding issues.
- ✓ Follow-up on Sandgate drug issues and request a CCTV assessment.

12. Next Meeting

 **Date: 12th March 2025**

 **Time: 6:30 PM**

 **Location: Wallacetown Hub George Street
Ayr**

Meeting Adjourned at 8.32 pm