



Minutes of Fort Seafield and Wallacetown
Community Council (FSWCC)
11th Jun 2025 at 6.30 pm in Ayr Grammar
Primary School, Fort Street, Ayr

Fort, Seafield & Wallacetown Community Council (FSWCC)

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th June 2025 at 6.30 pm
Ayr Grammar Primary School

Chair: Denise Sommerville

Minute-taker: Jim McKay (vice-chair), Ian MacLeod (secretary), and Denise Somerville (chair); taken from their notes (AI record of meeting lost/failed).

Attendance

Attendees:

David Connelly (CC member), Carol Fisher (CC member), Michael Hitchon (Treasurer), Ian MacLeod (Secretary), Jim McKay (Vice-Chair), Denise Sommerville (Chair), Forbes Watson (CC member), Cllr. Bob Shields (SAC), Cllr. George Weir (SAC).

Apologies:

Eric Armstrong (CC member)

Members of the Public:

Nick Larkin, John Monaghan

Item 2 – Apologies

Cllr. Bob Shields asked if the CC had received, or was in the process of receiving, apologies from Ayr West councillors Martin Dowey and Lee Lyons. Members confirmed that apologies are not usually received from these councillors.

Item 3 – Declarations of Interest

Jim McKay declared an interest in a planning application relating to 6a Ronaldshaw Park.

Action: Jim McKay to recuse himself from decision-making on this item.

Item 4 – Approval of Minutes (14th May 2025)

Minutes proposed by Ian MacLeod and seconded by David Connelly.

Item 5 – Matters Arising

a. Chair to follow up regarding repeated absences.

The chair has contacted the relevant member.

b. Dalblair Road speeding petition – John Monaghan updated that he is progressing the petition with ARA/SAC. This is a crucial issue that requires our collective attention. David Connelly to lead FSWCC's work. Sgt. Slavin (Police) invited to update on enforcement.

c. Local traffic working group – Subsumed into Item 5b.

d. Contact John Lees (retired traffic officer) – Subsumed into Item 5b.

e. SAC Common Good paper – Cllrs. Shields and Weir advised that the paper is lengthy. SAC staff may prepare an abridged version. Cllr. Weir to report. Cllr. Shields to re-lay paper at the first meeting after recess. Tom Simpson is to be invited to present.

f. Guest speaker list – CC members to approach Tom Simpson.

g. Investigate alternative venues – Chair reported SAC costs make alternatives unfeasible. Venues until March 2026 are set.

h. Council motions (Belleisle and STLs) – These are important decisions that we need to revisit after the recess to ensure we've considered all aspects.

i. Road signage, markings, repainting – Defects to be pursued as required. Your safety on the roads is our top priority.

j. Flooding – Seafeld Bowling Green – Forbes Watson noted flooding remains minor.

k. SAC community council grant – Covered under Treasurer's Report.

1. Police report link – Circulated with agenda pack.

m. Approval of April 9th 2025 minutes – Amendment noted to clarify no formal paper submitted, only correspondence and datasets.

Item 6 – Public Business

a. Dalblair Road – See Item 5b.

b. Common Good – See Item 5e and Item 7c.

Action: David Connelly to lead work with ARA/SAC.

Cllr. Weir to report on the abridged report. Tom Simpson is to be invited.

Item 7 – SAC Elected Members

a. Traffic in town centre – Cllr. Weir raised concerns about vehicles exiting the Ayr Central underground car park across the Mill Street pedestrian walkway.

b. International Air Show – Cllr. Weir noted that an independent assessment will be shared with councillors. Some councillors expressed concern that, despite £7m spent, Ayr has not benefited sufficiently.

c. Common Good – Discussed: telecoms masts at Low Green; Seafield Golf Course; Ayr Racecourse—suggestion to form a working group of CC, SAC and public.

d. Belleisle Golf Course – No redesign until after summer recess.

e. Kyle Centre – Cllr. Shields noted ownership appears via a ‘shell’ company. Plans indicate refurbishment into smaller retail units, with bridge lighting and housing upgrades underway.

f. Arran Mall – Delayed due to underground gas pipe.

g. Burns Statue Square – £6m allocated for public realm improvements. Private properties cannot be compelled to join.

Item 8 – Reports

a. Police – Monthly report reviewed. David Connelly highlighted a spike in May crime figures. Alan Roseweir said police are not using technology to their full advantage. Denise Sommerville to clarify anomalies in crime data with the police. Reminder of SAC officer David Porte’s offer to visit the camera control room.

b. Treasurer – Michael Hitchon reported £37.58 balance, from Carnegie grant. Further increase expected—suggestion to liaise with other CCs on funding. Alan Roseweir’s idea to use Common Good funds was not supported.

c. Planning – 6a Ronaldshaw Park – cladding application. Jim McKay recused. CC opposed as incompatible with conservation—Forbes Watson to register objection.

d. Licensing – Arthur Street premises – virtual golf application. No objection.

e. Common Good – See Item 5e and 7c.

f. STLs – Cllr. Shields reported CC’s preference for no STLs in shared entrances. SAC officers are concerned about legality. Cllrs. Shields/Weir to report back.

g. Wallacetown Community Energy Project – Switch-on scheduled for summer 2025. Go-live on 1st August 2025, exporting to the grid and selling to SAC. Video promotion launch on 26th June 2025, funded by Scottish Power. Alan Roseweir to approach Cllr. Shields re media contacts.

Item 9 – Meeting Venue and Minute-Taking

CC voted to use Artificial Intelligence for minutes when subscription can be afforded (from Sept 2025)—Treasurer and CC to prepare for this expense. Venues confirmed as Ayr Grammar School and Wallacetown Hub until March 2026.

Item 10 – AOCB

Ayr Arts Guild (AAG) bulletins – Secretary instructed to circulate.

Action: Ian MacLeod to forward AAG bulletins to members.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 10th September 2025, 6.30 pm at Ayr Grammar Primary School.