

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2025

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair – Denise Sommerville – extended a warm welcome to all members and members of the public, marking the beginning of the proceedings.

Attendees:

David Connelly (CC member), Carol Fisher (CC member), Michael Hitchon (CC treasurer), Ian MacLeod (CC secretary), Josie McFarlane (SAC staff - link officer), Jim McKay (CC vice chair), Alan Roseweir (CC member), Bob Shields (SAC member), Robert Singer (CC member), Denise Sommerville (CC chair), Forbes Watson (CC member).

Public:

William Gilmour, Alan Lawson, Beryl McKay, Alistair Millar, Matilda Pye.

Minute-taker:

Artificial Intelligence, and secretary's notes.

2. Apologies

Eric Armstrong (CC member). George Weir (SAC member).

3. Declarations of Interest

None noted.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes – 11th June 2025

Minutes approved with clarification that erroneous mention of 'assault' be removed.
Proposed: Carol Fisher. Seconded: Michael Hitchon.

5. Matters Arising / Action Updates

- 'repeated absences':

Related to RS - now resolved.

- Dalblair Road Speed Petition:

Updates ongoing with Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA); enforcement issues remain. David Connelly noted the criteria for 20mph zones.

Cllr Bob Shields confirmed Dongola Road, and Midton Road are also being monitored by ARA.

-SAC Common Good paper;
-& Proposal to form Common Good working group (CC Members & Cllrs.):
See item 9 'SAC Elected Members Reports'.

-Guest Speakers:
Denise Sommerville to re-invite Audrey Gatt (SAC) to a future meeting.
Members agreed to invite MP Elaine Stewart during recess.
Tom Simpson's Common Good Fund presentation to be postponed until the SAC councillor discussions progress (See item 9 'SAC Elected Members Reports')

-Belleisle Golf Course redesign:
See item 9 'SAC Elected Members Reports'

-International Air Show economic impact assessment – key findings update (Cllr. George Weir):
Historic economic impact – i.e. up-to 2024 (last year) – to be located and disseminated by councillors Shields and/ or Weir. Suggestion from FW that interested FSWCC members could approach an acquaintance who might have the information from a freedom of information (FOI) request already made.
Relatedly, regarding this year's event (2025), concerns expressed about the lack of local trader benefits and inflated prices. The attendance figure of 264,000 is questioned. JM and AR praised the organisation and traffic management. DS and RS raised concerns about the lack of local trader benefits and inflated prices. Michael Hitchens noted a positive impact on restaurants.

-Police Data Anomalies:
Denise Sommerville read the response from Sgt. Slavin.
Agreed: Denise, Jim Mackay, and Ian MacLeod to meet with the police to seek further clarity.

-SAC community council grant:
See 10. Reports – Treasurer.

-Planning objection – confirmation of submission regarding 6a Ronaldshaw Park's cladding:
FW confirmed submission of FSWCC objection.

-STLs – update on SAC legal advice about shared entrances (Cllrs. Shields & Weir):
See items 8 'Other Public Business', and 9 'SAC Elected Members Reports'

-Wallacetown Community Energy Project:
Seen item 10 'Reports'

-AI minute-taking – preparations for subscription (Treasurer & CC):
See 10. Reports – Treasurer.

-Circulation of Ayr Arts Guild bulletins (Secretary):
Implemented.

6. Low Green telecoms/ wi-fi masts

-Concerns received from residents about aesthetic and/ or underwhelming functionality of masts installed:

As regards 'aesthetic', CC acknowledge that SAC performed a consultation on this and that such process is sufficient for residents to participate.

As regards 'functionality', it is Councillor BS' understanding that the masts are for enhancing wi-fi access for users of the low green at highly attended events held there.

7. Black Slab cultural installation at harbour: Vandalisation

Councillor BS reports that SAC discussions are inclined towards dismantling the installation.

8. Other Public Business

-Short Term Let (STL) application re: Fairfield Park:

Several attendees from the public sought support of FSWCC to object to STL application being made by an owner/operator in Fairfield Park shared-entry block of dwellings.

Given FSWCC's position that shared-entry dwellings should not be granted STL licence, FSWCC assured relevant attendees that we will object to the STL application.

Attendees shared ideas about reasons to state when objecting to STLs, including suggestion that STL applicants likely ought to have applied for planning permission for 'change of use' in the first instance, before proceeding to apply for a STL licence.

Further discussion about STLs is at item 9 'SAC Elected Members Reports'.

Ayr town centre amenities:

Several public attendees voiced their concern about the underperforming vitality and unattractiveness of Ayr town centre, in particularly the high street. Discussion ensued about possibilities for improvements. Relatedly - prompted by consideration of the benefits and detriments of the International Air Show - FSWCC agreed that RS lead a working group about how to revitalise the retail and cultural sectors in Ayr town centre.

Blackburn Road car park recent structure:

It is reckoned that the recently installed structure is adjudged to be 'temporary' and, therefore, it is beyond the scope of planning law.

9. SAC Elected Members Reports

-Common Good Fund:

Cllr Bob Shields indicated SAC are inclined to dispose of costly properties: highlighted risk to Loudon Hall. Carol Fisher noted past community use. Councillors yet to complete

deliberations on policy for deploying common good funds. FSWCC will delay deliberating our position on use of common good assets and proceeds until SAC state their proposal for Common Good policy.

-Belleisle Golf Course:

Cllr Bob Shields stated there are three options under discussion; strong opposition to the driving range was noted. Awaiting revised paper and public engagement.

-Short-Term Lets:

Cllr Bob Shields reiterated that his motion to ban STLs in single-entry/ shared-entry properties was ruled 'incompetent' by legal officers. He continues to pursue. Denise Sommerville described the negative impacts of STLs on the Fort community. RS stressed accountability issues with officers rather than councillors.

-Seafront maintenance and development:

Councillor BS reported that SAC members must decide on whether or not to allocate more funding to complete renovation/ development of the band stand between the esplanade and county buildings. Councillor BS reminded us that SAC are embarking on implementing other improvements to the esplanade.

10. Reports

a. Police

(as noted at Matters Arising: Denise Sommerville read the response from Sgt. Slavin. Agreed: Denise, Jim Mackay, and Ian MacLeod to meet with the police to seek further clarity.)

b. Treasurer

Michael Hitchon, the Treasurer, presented a comprehensive report on the council's finances, providing a clear overview of the current financial status:

Balance improved by a £800 grant and £97.20 insurance reimbursement.

Expenditure included website (£90), Zoho email, AI transcription tool (£74), ICO registration, and insurance.

Bank of Scotland is now applying monthly charges (£4.25).

David Connelly suggested Virgin Money as an alternative.

Current balance: £591.14.

Subscriptions and payments approved.

c. Planning

No new planning applications adjudged to be concerning by FW.

JM expressed concern that the development of the site formerly known as Glenpark Hotel is not proceeding to plan and that a different use might materialise contrary to the planning decision. FSWCC agreed that no action can be taken by us at this time, likely until the works complete. However, Councillor Bob Shields will relay concerns to SAC officials..

d. Licensing

FW reported that an operator's application for use of an Arthur Street premises is being examined by SAC.

e. Common Good

(as noted at 9. SAC Elected Members Reports: FSWCC will delay deliberating our position on use of common good assets and proceeds until SAC state their proposal for Common Good policy.)

f. STLs

(further to discussions and actions already noted today)

FW will object to application being made regarding a property with a shared entrance in the vicinity of the Rupee Room near Wellington Square.

g. Wallacetown Community Energy Project

AR's report - progress on go-live (1st Aug) and video promo launch (26th June), plus media outreach (Alan Roseweir & Cllr. Shields).

11. Any Other Competent Business

Fundraising was discussed, with a comparison made to other CCs that actively fundraise. Members agreed to explore grant funding and fundraising opportunities.

SAC Link officer Josie McFarlane informed us that SAC is entering the second (2nd) phase of its consultation of the 'scheme of establishment' of community councils.

FSWCC declined to consider a call for inquiry into SAC conduct given that the matter is 'sub judice'.

No majority in FSWCC to pursue query into the number of asylum seekers being housed in our locality/ local authority.

12. Next Meeting

Next meeting is 8th October 2025 at the Ayr Grammar

Meeting closed with thanks from Chair, Denise Sommerville, at 8.50pm

Actions Log

<u>Standing Agenda Item</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible</u>	<u>Status</u>
SAC Elected Members Report	Air Show Historic economic impact – i.e. up-to 2024 (last year) – to be located and disseminated by Councillors Shields and/ or Weir	Councillors Shields and/ or Weir	Ongoing
SAC Elected Members Report	Glenpark Hotel (site) redevelopment - Relay concerns to SAC officials	Councillors Shields and/ or Weir	New
SAC Elected Members Report	Monitor progress of Belleisle golf course redesign proposal	Councillors Shields and/ or Weir	Ongoing
SAC Elected Members Report	Monitor council decisions on the Common Good Fund and report back	Councillors Shields and/ or Weir	Ongoing
Reports – Fundraising/ Grants	Research fundraising and grant opportunities	All Members	New
Reports – Guest Speaker	Invite MP Elaine Stewart to a future meeting	Secretary	New
Reports – Guest Speaker	Invite Tom Simpson after SAC propose Common Good policy	Secretary	New
Reports – Guest Speaker	Re-invite Audrey Gatt (SAC) to attend the next CC meeting	Secretary	New
Reports - Police	Arrange a meeting with the police regarding crime data anomalies	Denise Sommerville	New
Reports - Roads	Dalblair Road traffic-calming progress	David Connelly	Ongoing
Reports – STLs	Continue submitting objections to Short-Term Let applications	All CC Members	Ongoing
Reports – STLs	Object re Fairfield Park	Forbes Watson	
Reports – Town Centre Regeneration	Lead Town Centre Regeneration & Events Working Group	Robert Singer	New
Reports – Town Centre Regeneration	Support Robert in group formation and share past information	Denise Sommerville	New