

# **FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

Wednesday 10 June 2026, 18:30

[The Grain Exchange \(Newmarket Street entrance, 81 High Street, Ayr, KA7 1QL](#)

Attendees:

voting members: Margaret Anderson, Michael Hitchon, Ian MacLeod, Alan Roseweir, Denise Sommerville, Forbes Watson.

ex-officio members: George Weir (SAC Councillor)

SAC link officer: David Porte

public: Beryl McKinlay, John Monaghan

### **01 Welcome and Introductions**

Chair I. MacLeod opened the meeting, confirming quoracy (minimum 5 voting members met).

### **02 Apologies**

Apologies: voting members C. Fisher, R. Singer. Recurring: MSP S. Brown, MP E. Stewart. No ex-officio apologies received.

### **03 Declarations of Interest**

A. Roseweir declared an interest in items 07.7.3 (town board member) and 08.1 (nearby resident). Both contributions were welcomed as information.

M. Hitchon later declared an interest in item 07.7.1 (Burns Statue Square consultation) as a member of Kyle and Carrick Civic Society, which had expressed a view on the consultation.

### **04 Approval of Minutes — Meeting of 13 May 2026**

Approved. A. Roseweir proposed, F. Watson seconded. Note: brief procedural debate about whether a proposer and seconder were required.

### **05 Matters Arising**

Action points from the previous meeting integrated into relevant agenda items.

### **06 Correspondence**

#### **06.1 Short-Term Let — Charlotte Street — see item 07.4.1**

See item 07.4.1.

#### **06.2 Carwash Site — Alleged Non-Compliance**

A member of the public had contacted FSWCC about a carwash they believed was non-compliant. The correspondent was asked whether he wanted FSWCC to act; he said no — information only. Chair confirmed this is now a matter between the individual and SAC / the public service ombudsman. FSWCC has no further role.

#### **06.3 Southern Promenade Bins — Media**

Chair noted a TV programme had picked up on the bins issue on the southern promenade. Noted and moved on — no substantive discussion.

#### **06.4 Car Enthusiasts' Anti-Social Behaviour — Blackburn Car Park — see item 07.6.2**

See item 07.6.2.

## **07 Reports**

### **07.1.1 Finance — Treasurer's Monthly Statement**

Treasurer (M. Hitchon) distributed a summary of accounts to date for year 2026–2027 (April 2026 to March 2027). No queries or concerns.

### **07.1.2 Finance — DW Shaw Solicitors: Donation Intention**

Action from previous meeting: C. Fisher was to contact DW Shaw Solicitors (who had previously donated to FSWCC) to clarify whether they intended to donate again. C. Fisher was not present, but members decided to lapse this matter — i.e. no chase required. Matter lapses.

### **07.2.1 Planning – Month's applications review**

Chair (I. MacLeod) clarified that matters and properties under this item must relate to planning notices, and must not conflate the separate matter of properties applying for a short-term let licence. No applicant properties in the past month-cycle were adjudged noteworthy for decision, let alone discussion.

### **07.2.2 Planning — Incidental matters**

F. Watson observed that he had spotted a wooden fence / boarding on a street-front property on Catchcart Street which he suspects would contravene styling regulations for the street. Another observer — a member of the public — suspected the structure is a temporary response to damage caused by a vehicle. FSWCC agreed no action required.

### **07.3.1 Licensing — Month's Applications Review**

None new. F. Watson reiterated a recent instance of a licence application for a march / procession: FSWCC did not object as there was no reason to do so.

### **07.3.2 Licensing — Incidental matters**

Discussion touched on a political / topical gathering (regarding a violent assault in Belfast) in Wellington Square the previous day. General acceptance that such a spontaneous / incidental gathering would not have required a licence application. Cllr Weir reported that police had informed councillors on the day that police intelligence had detected a gathering was imminent, and that police would deploy to monitor it and try to ensure peaceful assembly.

### **07.4.1 Short Term Lets — Month's Applications Review**

Chair (I. MacLeod) clarified that FSWCC's awareness of STL applications arises from its own searches or from incidents brought to its attention — South Ayrshire Council area community councils do not receive notification of applications by right, unlike planning and licensing applications.

#### 07.4.1.1 Short Term Lets — Month's applications review — a Charlotte Street property

F. Watson reported that he has liaised with a correspondent who sought FSWCC help in objecting to an STL operating in the correspondent's residential building. To the best of F. Watson's knowledge the licence is current. F. Watson has provided information to the resident about how the resident could compile evidence of any suspected breaches of the peace or similar, for presenting to SAC to contest any licence renewal application in due course.

Later discussion at item 07.4.3 (FSWCC policy and practice regarding STLs) conferred an action on F. Watson and / or D. Sommerville to liaise further with the correspondent to advocate for and represent the correspondent should they contest the STL.

**Action:** D. Sommerville and / or F. Watson to liaise with correspondent about the STL in Charlotte Street and to contest the STL on their behalf if the correspondent wishes to proceed.

#### 07.4.2 Licensing (STLs) — Queen's Court, Sandgate: Progress of Challenge

FSWCC had objected to a STL application at Queen's Court. The objection, submitted in an individual's name as required, was submitted by I. MacLeod acting for FSWCC as per the then agreed policy of objecting to STLs in buildings with a shared entrance. It was rejected by SAC. At the May monthly meeting, FSWCC agreed to challenge the rejection. Chair (I. MacLeod) duly did so, copying in voting members and Cllrs Shields and Weir. SAC did not reply over a number of weeks. I. MacLeod gained Cllr Weir's assistance to press for a response. Duly, the response from SAC officer C. Carroll was forwarded to voting members: essentially, C. Carroll is permitting the objection, and will 'likely' refer it to the regulatory panel (elected members) that will meet in due course. I. MacLeod expressed his disappointment that the officer replied on a new email trail rather than engaging with the precise matters Ian had raised. However, voting members agreed that reinstatement of the objection was the principal objective and so the matter now takes its course. No need to continue correspondence with the SAC officer.

#### 07.4.3 Licensing (STLs) — FSWCC Policy and Practice

##### 07.4.3.1 Short Term Lets — FSWCC policy and practice debate

Chair I. MacLeod referred to the briefing paper he had written and circulated to members in the agenda pack a week earlier.

The meeting then considered the substantive core question: the tenability of maintaining a policy to object to individual STL applications in 'shared access' residential buildings.

The key matters Ian posed were:

*Statutory Mandate:* Community councils have no statutory role or notification rights in the STL licensing process. Does the policy overreach from the intended realm of community council interest — i.e. the public realm — into private property rights?

*Representation Limits:* Current objections reflect individual neighbour grievances rather than a settled community view. Affected residents possess a direct right to object; community councils become selective case workers.

*Inconsistency:* Ad-hoc objections result in the arbitrary and inequitable treatment of individual STL applicants.

*Strategic Focus:* 'Play the ball not the man' — shift from individual objections to policy advocacy, such as pressing for local Control Area designations, which aligns with a community council's permitted role in liaising on policy matters.

Discussion ensued and nothing was proposed for a vote, as it was clear a majority favoured retaining the policy.

D. Sommerville and F. Watson volunteered to liaise with residents who approach FSWCC seeking support for their objections to STL applications and licence-holders.

#### **07.4.3.2 Short Term Lets — Response to SAC consultation on STL policy (closing 12 June 2026)**

Most if not all members were only latterly aware of this deadline. It was agreed that Chair — I. MacLeod — would write a response to the consultation and circulate to members as soon as possible in order to secure agreement to submit it before the deadline of 12 June. Members agreed three key positions:

*Statutory Consultation:* SAC's failure to list community councils as consultees at s.5.6 limits structured community input; FSWCC suggests formally including community councils. We would not have veto, but would have visibility of applications.

*Objection Thresholds:* The proposed five-objection requirement for panel referral lacks a legislative basis and contradicts *Kirk Harrison v Aberdeen City Council* [2026], which affirms that a single competent objection should suffice.

*Procedural Fairness:* The policy grants officers power to unilaterally disregard objections without independent review, violating principles of natural justice and the requirements of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

**Action:** I. MacLeod to draft FSWCC's response to the SAC STL consultation as soon as possible and no later than 12 June 2026.

#### **07.5.1 Police — Monthly Report**

F. Watson expressed disappointment that his approach to police for information about house break-ins in Seafield yielded no response, despite repeated requests. The monthly report itself did not prompt any consideration beyond acknowledging the report.

#### **07.6.1 Roads — Dalblair Road: Second Speed Survey Update**

SAC had committed to a second speed survey on Dalblair Road to assess whether 20mph signage nudges had reduced speeding, but stated that such a survey is of an indeterminate date because of other priorities. I. MacLeod has pressed Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) for

an update. No reply to date. A member of the public present expressed disappointment and frustration at the slow pace of action by ARA. Overall, members agreed to allow the incremental process of ARA's pledged escalation of actions on this, but that failing a pledged date for action being notified before the next meeting (July), FSWCC will likely escalate its disappointment to ward councillors.

**Action:** I. MacLeod to monitor for an ARA commitment on a date for conducting the second speed survey on Dalblair Road.

### **07.6.2 Roads — Blackburn Car Park: Non-Enforcement Against Anti-Social Behaviour**

As per correspondence already noted, this long-running effort to yield durable counter-measures to anti-social car culture behaviour faces an acute and imminent instance: large-scale 'cruiser' meet-ups anticipated on the weekend of 12 and 13 June.

D. Porte reported that police invoked a multi-agency meeting (police; Ayrshire Roads Alliance; SAC neighbourhood services) to devise counter-measures for that weekend, which resulted in the parties agreeing in principle to close the car park at 6pm — provided that SAC, as operators of the barriers, proceed to deploy staff for the task, accompanied by police.

FSWCC welcomed the prospective enactment of counter-measures and expressed sympathy to SAC staff deployed to this risky task.

**Action:** D. Porte to report to the next FSWCC monthly meeting on what counter-measures were deployed on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 June; and on progress of the previously noted escalation of consideration about sufficient budget and funding for higher-grade, durable physical barriers in the car park.

### **07.7.1 Ayr Town Centre Regeneration — Burns Statue Square: Consultation**

I. MacLeod noted that the first phase of the consultation launched after our previous monthly meeting (May) and concluded before our current monthly meeting (June). Regrettably, there was not time to formulate a response to this phase of the consultation, but there will surely be other phases and FSWCC may be able to formulate a response then, especially given the concerns heard from local traders and residents at our meetings in the early months of 2026.

M. Hitchon then read a statement by Kyle and Carrick Civic Society calling for ornamental aspects of Burns Statue Square — past and present — to be reinstated and preserved respectively.

The statement was heard as information about an interested local group and should not be mistaken as a view held by FSWCC. FSWCC has not yet formed a view on the matter.

### **07.7.2 Ayr Town Centre Regeneration — Shop-Fronts: Compliance Progress**

FSWCC's considered position is that concerns about individual premises cannot be advanced through FSWCC, as such concerns are not expediently practicable for the community council to pursue. M. Hitchon and member of the public B. McKinlay reported on

their work through Kyle and Carrick Civic Society to document suspected breaches of planning consent for shop signs and frontages; photos were taken for evidence-gathering.

### **07.7.3 Ayr Town Centre Regeneration — Pride in Place Programme**

A. Roseweir (declared interest: town board member) was invited to report on Pride in Place progress beyond the previously reported model of funding reserved for community-led projects, which is not to compensate or augment existing SAC capital projects. Alan reported that separate funding for admin staff and a website is nearing fulfilment.

## **07.8 Elected Members' Reports**

### **07.8.1. Cllr Weir — Low Green Fun Fair Tender**

SAC are seeking applications to operate a two-week fun fair on the Low Green in this summer's school holidays. SAC are aware of a local interest group inclined to opposition to commercial use of the amenity, but SAC take the view that the amenity ought to be used more and to generate income to the Common Good.

### **07.8.2 Cllr Weir — Dalblair Road: Pavement Dips for Ease of Pedestrian Mobility**

Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) will place tactile surfaces on relevant dipped kerbs / pavements on this busy, narrow thoroughfare.

## **08 Ayr South Beach Sand Ingress**

### **08.1 SAC Plan for Servicing the Recreation Beach Zone**

At the previous meeting, Councillors Shields and Weir had committed to obtaining from neighbourhood services a plan for enforcing / servicing the beach recreation zone affected by sand ingress. Cllr Weir acknowledged this has not happened yet and that he or Cllr Shields would pursue this for the next meeting (July).

## **09 Common Good Revenue**

### **09.1 Kiosk 2, Promenade — Common Good Revenue**

A. Roseweir had circulated a note on Kiosk 2, Promenade — a Common Good property — which is seeking to utilise more of its curtilage, and which raises the question of whether there would be a commensurate increase in income to the Common Good fund.

F. Watson stated that his understanding is that recent leases are on a 'full repairing' basis, so operators will have to fund developments, and that such leases pay a rent set by an independent valuer; therefore income to the Common Good is greater than it was formerly.

## 10 FSWCC Admin

### 10.1 Community Led Action Plan (CAP) 2026–2030

The Chair referred to the final draft circulated to all members and invited members to comment. All voting members agreed the draft is acceptable given that SAC have removed the onus on FSWCC to deliver some actions, and removed positions ascribed to FSWCC — all erroneously — regarding the desirability or similar of certain preferences and actions.

Action: Chair (I MacLeod) to inform relevant SAC officer that FSWCC approve the draft CAP

### 10.2 SAC Decision on Using Wallace Tower Premises

D. Porte reported that SAC Thriving Communities have rejected FSWCC's request to display its agenda and minutes on their Wallace Tower premises, because to display them would give undue prominence to FSWCC compared to other community councils.

FSWCC laments this decision, as physical public displays of community council documents are restricted to the bounds of that community council — such bounds being mutually exclusive, meaning no other community council is eligible to display their notices in Ayr town centre.

FSWCC agreed to record that it will continue to test the feasibility of accessing and maintaining access to other public noticeboards within the bounds of our community council, preferably within the town centre (Fort) area.

## 11 Questions From The Floor

Questions from the public were integrated into the items and welcomed as and when raised. No public questions were posed at the end of proceedings.

## 12 Any Other Competent Business

No suggested matters were competent for consideration. Several members suggested matters of interest for individual members, none of which need be noted.

## Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Fort, Seafield & Wallacetown Community Council will be held on:

**Wednesday 8 July 2026, 18:30**

[The Grain Exchange \(Newmarket Street entrance, 81 High Street, Ayr, KA7 1QL\)](#)

## Summary of Action Points

| Ref      | Action                                                                                                                                          | Owner                      |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 07.4.1.b | Liaise with correspondent about STL in Charlotte Street; contest the STL if correspondent wishes to proceed.                                    | D. Sommerville / F. Watson |
| 07.4.3.b | Draft FSWCC response to SAC STL policy consultation and circulate to members for agreement; submit no later than 12 June 2026.                  | I. MacLeod                 |
| 07.6.1   | Monitor for ARA commitment on a date for the second speed survey on Dalblair Road.                                                              | I. MacLeod                 |
| 07.6.2   | Report to next meeting on counter-measures deployed on 12-13 June at Blackburn Car Park, and progress on funding for durable physical barriers. | D. Porte                   |
| 10.1     | Inform relevant SAC officer that FSWCC approves the draft CAP.                                                                                  | I. MacLeod                 |