

FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 12th August 2026, 18:30

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

Attendees:

voting members: Margaret Anderson, Carol Fisher, Michael Hitchon, Ian MacLeod (chair; minutes), Alan Roseweir

ex-officio members: Cllr Bob Shields

SAC representatives: Audrey Gatt (Place Planning officer; joined partway through the meeting). David Porte (SAC Link Officer)

Speakers: Ayrshire Roads Alliance – Jane Corrie (departed after item 4).

public: [various]

01 Welcome and Introductions

Chair - I MacLeod – welcomed all to the meeting and stated that the headline item - 4. *Guest Speaker Jane Corrie from Ayrshire Roads Alliance, regarding Blackburn Road car park* - would be our first item of business. Chair noted that five voting members are present therefore the meeting is *quorate*.

(Note on order of business: item 4 was taken immediately after this welcome, ahead of items 2 and 3, to accommodate the guest presenters; items 2 and 3 resumed once they had left. Numbering below follows the published agenda, not real-time order.)

Chair explained that audio recording of the meeting could take place solely to assist minute preparation, subject to the clear consent of all present (Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils 2026, section 7.5, p.10–11). However, it is FSWCC's practice to not audio-recorded guest speaker items such as today's. No objection received to audio-recording the other items of business today.

02 Apologies

Apologies received from voting members: R. Singer, D. Sommerville, F. Watson. Ex-officio: Cllr George Weir. No apologies or response received from the other Ayr West ward councillors, nor from any MP or MSP.

03 Declarations of Interest

A. Roseweir declared an interest as a board member of the Pride in Place programme (relevant to item 9.2). Declaration noted; accepted as an information-sharing declaration rather than requiring recusal, since there is no decision to be made about the matter/ item.

04 Guest Speaker: Ayrshire Roads Alliance – Jane Corrie (Head of ARA) re: Blackburn Car Park

Chair paraphrased recent correspondence with South Ayrshire Council's Kenny Dalrymple (Assistant Director, Housing & Operations), pursued over several weeks to clarify the responsibilities of the agencies involved in countering anti-social behaviour at Blackburn Car Park.

- South Ayrshire Council confirmed it is ultimately responsible for Blackburn Car Park — ARA implements decisions that SAC funds, rather than acting independently.
- SAC confirmed it will not operate the south gateway's manual barrier, citing staff safety; an external security contractor considered for the role declined for the same reason. ARA has been asked to look into a mechanically/remotely-operated barrier instead — potentially requiring a Traffic Regulation Order linked to penalties.
- On policing, as part of SAC's 'community safety' delivery, police will leaflet cars about the potential penalties for disturbance or misuse, backed by additional patrols where resources permit, targeted at those gathering in groups and those suspected of misuse.

- On interim physical measures, SAC tasked ARA with devising a layout of speed bumps to reduce speed, and 'vehicle stops' (barriers between rows of parked cars) to reduce manoeuvring space. Supplier availability and delivery dates are awaited — SAC hopes for weeks rather than months.

ARA's Jane Corrie then presented and took questions. Key points:

- ARA delivers maintenance/construction of measures SAC approves and funds — the responsibility split confirmed above. ARA is exploring a remotely-operated barrier for the south gateway, but SAC's capital budget cycle means consideration starts autumn 2026, with a decision expected by spring 2027 — members and public present were audibly frustrated at this timeframe.
- Relatedly, SAC's coastal parking strategy — which FSWCC has inferred, but not had confirmed, means parking charges at specific coastal locations — is scheduled for Quarter 2 of 2026/27 (Jul–Sep). FSWCC infer that this strategy intends to yield funding for the barrier.
- SAC is in active discussion with suppliers about speed bumps/vehicle stops. Members and public questioned whether interim spend on these would be wise if it reduced funds available for a barrier; J. Corrie undertook to raise that concern with SAC.
- The north barrier at the motorhome park appears effective, and the dividing barrier between the motorhome park and the car park appears resilient.

Information/discussion item; no formal decision taken (formal member consideration recorded at 8.6.1/8.6.2). Jane Corrie left the meeting after her contribution.

05 Approval of Minutes – Meeting of 8th July 2026

July draft minutes presented.

Unanimously approved.

06 Matters Arising

Action points from July reviewed.

All within items on today's agenda.

07 Correspondence (secretary)

Chair, deputising as Secretary (vacancy), noted contact received from a member of the public regarding Burns Statue Square: Deferred for consideration under item 9.1.

08 Reports

08.1 Treasurer – Monthly statement [M. Hitchon]

M. Hitchon distributed the monthly statement of account.

No concerns raised.

08.2 Planning [F. Watson] – Month's applications review

Chair referred members to F. Watson's circulated planning applications list.

No matters raised by members.

08.3 Licensing [F. Watson] – Month's applications review

Chair referred members to F. Watson's circulated licensing list. No matters raised by members.

Noted the unresolved Savoy 5 application is scheduled for SAC's Licensing Board in late August.

Action: F. Watson – monitor SAC Licensing Board outcome (late Aug).

08.4.1 Short Term Lets [D. Sommerville / F. Watson] – Month's applications review

Chair reminded members that D. Sommerville and F. Watson act voluntarily as STL caseworkers. No new STL licence applications reported by them this month.

08.4.2 Short Term Lets – Dalblair Road application: update

F. Watson's report to members: the premises already operates as an STL, and an objection to a continuance would be ineffective.

No objection to be pursued.

08.4.3 Short Term Lets – Charlotte Street: progress

Confirmed: an objection was issued by the Secretary (D. Sommerville) in FSWCC's name. A Regulatory Panel hearing has been listed; Secretary to inform F. Watson and D. Sommerville, who volunteered to attend/speak at the panel.

Panel hearing confirmed as 27th August

Action: D. Sommerville / F. Watson – attend Regulatory Panel 27th August.

08.5 Police – Monthly Report, incl. housebreaking update [secretary; F. Watson]

General beat report noted — town-centre crime deliberately excluded from the local figures, as it would skew toward retail crime rather than the residential-area offences more indicative of FSWCC's wards. The housebreaking query – unresolved - carried forward from a previous month is to lapse.

08.6.1 Roads [I. MacLeod] – Blackburn Car Park: formal consideration following Guest Speaker

Following Jane Corrie's presentation, and question and answers, with members and the public at item 4, members gave Blackburn Car Park formal consideration. Three threads dominated.

Barrier for south gateway

Clearly, it would be SAC's responsibility to fund this. Seemingly, the funding route will be from coastal parking charge revenue, contingent on development and approval of SAC's coastal parking strategy. Cllr Shields confirmed that strategy is not scheduled for imminent Cabinet/Council consideration (no papers seen ahead of recess; possibly Q3). Members were clear that responsibility for progressing this, and the funding decision itself, sits with SAC — not ARA — and that FSWCC should keep the pressure on SAC's Cabinet/Council accordingly.

Interim structural obstacles to anti-social behaviour

Concern that such measures will not prevent the congregation of anti-social behaviour (ASB), however much the measures are intended to disrupt or limit ASB. Relatedly, that such measures would come at the expense of sufficient funds for a resilient mechanically-operated barrier at the south gateway. J Corrie undertook to raise this latter concern with SAC.

Action: FSWCC (Chair) to obtain clarity from ARA (J. Corrie)/ SAC as to the consequences or not for funding for the southern gateway barrier if alternative interim measures are implemented.

Police

Members agreed that police should be asked to account directly for what resource they can and do deploy at Blackburn Car Park.

Action: I. MacLeod and/ or A. Roseweir to contact community police officer to ask for them to account for deployable resource at Blackburn Road car park.

Postscript (arising from later private discussion about FSWCC admin; noted here as incidental to Blackburn Road car park): Chair reported being approached by TV Ayrshire for an interview about Blackburn Car Park, with reference to this evening's attendance by ARA's Jane Corrie. Members supportive of Chair giving a factual interview on the roles/responsibilities clarified and the measures discussed.

08.6.2 Roads – Dalblair Road: speed survey results

ARA confirmed that its speed survey, carried out following the remarking of speed signs on Dalblair Road, shows the 85th-percentile's speed remains too high. A vehicle-activated sign (VAS) is considered the appropriate next measure but will require additional funding. Chair raised this, semi-informally, during Jane Corrie's Q&A at item 4; Jane Corrie good-naturedly accepted being 'shoehorned' into the question and agreed to look into it and ask ARA colleagues to report back.

Action: I. MacLeod to monitor response by ARA as to the likelihood and/ or scheduling of vehicle activated signage (VAS)

08.7 Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Bob Shields (only elected member present) reported nothing to add given council recess, and matters scheduled on the agenda already,.

09 Ayr Town Centre Regeneration

09.1 Burns Statue Square redevelopment: formal consultation response submitted [I. MacLeod]

Chair recapped July's Burns Statue Square presentation (consultation-operator 'Streets UK', with ARA and associated consultants) and action: FSWCC's submitted consultation response. Chair reported that the consultation-operator's own analysis rated FSWCC's response as broadly neutral in form/aesthetic, but recorded clear opposition in substance, largely based on an unproven business case. A member of the public who attended the July meeting had asked FSWCC to confirm this position on the record (see item 7).

Unanimously agreed to publish FSWCC's response on the FSWCC website/Facebook for transparency, ahead of Council's anticipated September decision.

Action: Chair to arrange publication of FSWCC response to the proposed redesign of Burns Statue Square.

09.2 Pride in Place programme [A. Roseweir]

A. Roseweir (having declared an interest at item 3) gave an information-only update: a programme officer has been recruited and will start shortly. No substantive public-facing information expected before the end of the calendar year. Accordingly, the item is to be dropped from the standing agenda until there is substantive change.

10 Ayr South Beach Sand Ingress: update [Cllrs Shields / Weir]

Cllr Shields reported that SAC's Neighbourhood Services deem the matter principally to be a 'roads' matter – i.e. for Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) – rather than one for SAC directly. However, Cllr Shields reasoned that that seasonal maintenance may occur before the International Air Show scheduled for the first weekend in September. A. Roseweir suggested SAC's deflection of responsibility to ARA is disingenuous given history of SAC interventions to construct dunes which cause the spillover/ ingress onto paved areas. Cllr Shields undertook to continue pressing for a substantive response/ plan from SAC..

Action: Cllrs Shields and Weir – continue to press SAC for a substantive response/ plan for mitigating the sand ingress. .

11 FSWCC Admin

11.1 Cutty Sark noticeboard: maintenance clarification [C. Fisher]

Update on the offer from SAC via Audrey Gatt and David Porte on condition FSWCC takes on operating the board itself (opening, closing, changing notices) rather than full maintenance. Board to be aluminium, low-maintenance, headed with the Community Council's name. SAC

officer Audrey Gatt, present from this item onwards, confirmed she would liaise with C. Fisher to arrange access. FSWCC to proceed on the basis that we operate (not maintain) the board

Action: C. Fisher – continue progressing with SAC to obtain access (keys etc) to the Cutty Sark noticeboard.

11.2 Link Officer transition [SAC]

SAC Link Officer David Porte confirmed he is moving to a new posting; his last day in this role, pending a panel process for his successor. Members recorded formal thanks to David Porte, including for his role in securing FSWCC's current meeting venue (the Grain Exchange). No word yet on transition arrangements or a named successor.

Action: SAC Link Officer – D. Porte – to confirm successor arrangements in due course.

11.3 Community Led Action Plan (CAP)

Brief update only. A. Gatt (SAC officer) confirmed the CAP, previously agreed, runs for a period aligned with the current electoral cycle and most of the next (to approx. 2029/2030), allowing it to be monitored throughout and refreshed in due course. A. Gatt to publicise the draft via SAC website/social media for a public comment period ahead of finalisation, with FSWCC final approval targeted for October 2026.

Action: A. Gatt (SAC) – publicise draft CAP with view to FSWCC approval due October 2026.

12 Questions from the Public

Questions from the public were taken throughout the meeting as they arose, rather than reserved to this item. None further raised.

13 Any Other Competent Business

Two matters mentioned in passing, neither requiring formal action: (i) A. Roseweir raised concern about vacant ground near the rowing club on South Harbour Street, reportedly accumulating containers, stripped vehicles and waste; (ii) M. Hitchon flagged two sash windows left open at Houston's Building, risking pigeon damage. No formal action required.

14 Date of Next Meeting

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

Wednesday 9th September 2026, 18:30

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

Z. Private Business - (not on published agenda)

Members considered the Secretary vacancy and a co-option nomination for the Fort/Seafield ward vacancy.

Carol Fisher unanimously approved to take on the role of FSWCC Secretary, following Denise Sommerville's resignation from that role (D. Sommerville continues as an FSWCC member). Christine Tosh's co-option to the Fort/Seafield ward vacancy unanimously approved.

Action: Secretary (C. Fisher) – notify SAC of the co-option decision and await SAC's clarification on next steps.

Summary of Action Points

Ref	Category	Action	Owner
08.3	Licensing	Monitor SAC Licensing Board outcome (late Aug) re: Savoy 5 application.	F. Watson
08.4.3	Short Term Lets	Attend Regulatory Panel hearing 27 th August (Charlotte Street).	D. Sommerville / F. Watson
08.6.1	Roads	Obtain clarity from ARA (J. Corrie)/ SAC as to the consequences or not for funding the southern gateway barrier if alternative interim measures are implemented.	I. MacLeod
08.6.1	Roads	Contact Ayr community police team re: resources deployable to Blackburn Car Park; report back.	I. MacLeod / A. Roseweir
08.6.2	Roads	Monitor ARA's response on the likelihood/scheduling of a Dalblair Road vehicle-activated sign (VAS).	I. MacLeod
09.1	Town Centre Regeneration	Arrange publication of FSWCC's Burns Statue Square consultation response.	I. MacLeod
10	Other – Sand Ingress	Continue to press SAC for a substantive response/plan for mitigating the sand ingress.	Cllrs Shields / Weir
11.1	Other – Noticeboard	Continue progressing with SAC; arrange access (keys etc).	C. Fisher
11.2	Other – Link Officer	Confirm successor arrangements in due course.	D. Porte (SAC)
11.3	Other – CAP	Publicise draft for public comment; FSWCC approval due October 2026.	I. MacLeod
Z	Private Business	Notify SAC of co-option decision, await clarification on next steps.	Secretary (C. Fisher)