

FORT, SEAFIELD & WALLACETOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 9th September 2026, 18:30

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

Attendees:

voting members: Carol Fisher (secretary), Michael Hitchon, Ian MacLeod (chair; minutes), Christine Tosh, Forbes Watson

ex-officio members: Cllr Bob Shields, Cllr George Weir

SAC representatives: David Porte (SAC Link Officer)

public: two members of the public

01 Welcome and Introductions

Chair – I. MacLeod –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). No objection received to audio-recording the meeting.

Then, Chair welcomed all to the meeting, including Christine Tosh as a newly co-opted member. Chair noted that five voting members are present (Carol Fisher, Michael Hitchon, Ian MacLeod, Christine Tosh, Forbes Watson), therefore the meeting is quorate.

02 Apologies

Apologies received from voting members: M. Anderson, R. Singer, D. Sommerville. A. Roseweir's apology was given in advance at the August meeting.

03 Declarations of Interest

No declarations from voting members. Cllr Shields declared an interest in item 08.1 (Burns Statue Square) and recused himself from that item – see 08.1.

04 Approval of Minutes - Meeting of 12th August 2026

August draft minutes, circulated to voting and ex-officio members, presented.

Approved by members present at the August meeting as an accurate record.

05 Matters Arising

Action points from August reviewed – All within items on today's agenda.

06 Correspondence [C. Fisher]

Secretary reported correspondence that transpired to agenda items:

(a) SAC officer A. McMillan – Regulatory Panel notice for the Queen's Court short-term let (see 07.4.1 Short Term Lets);

(b) Ayr East Community Council emails on Burns Statue Square (see 08.1 Burns Statue Square redevelopment).

Separately, email from a member of the public continuing a matter involving allegations about a short-term let premises: Members' view was that this is primarily a police/enforcement matter and not suitable for consideration or discussion. Incidentally, Cllr Shields reported he had replied to the correspondent, undertaking to chase officers.

07 Reports

07.1 Treasurer – Monthly statement [M. Hitchon]

M. Hitchon distributed the monthly statement of account. A small sum was approved for a Remembrance wreath.

David Porte (SAC) asked for FSWCC's experience of online banking to help another community council he supports, although FSWCC retains a two-signature control.

Action: M. Hitchon – purchase and lay Remembrance wreath.

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

F. Watson had circulated list. 21A Burns Statue Square – planning application for change of use to short-term let: F. Watson has submitted objection on FSWCC's behalf. 161 High Street – change of use from retail to betting shop with signage: Members saw no reason to object.

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

Waterfront restaurant building reopened under new management, operating under an occasional licence pending full planning. Gaiety – minor change to hours. Public procession 16 September (cycle/triathlon event). No concerns raised.

07.3.2 Savoy 5 application: SAC Licensing Board outcome [F. Watson]

By way of recap, F. Watson had been informed by SAC Licensing that Savoy 5's long-running temporary licence would finally be addressed at the 20 August SAC Licensing Board. It was not – Yet again the temporary licence is being allowed to run, with Licensing dept. citing deferral until the planning process completes.

Chair noted Licensing officer's email that states SAC policy presumes against back-to-back occasional licences. Therefore, members think Savoy 5's long-running temporary licence is unfair to compliant licence holders, and that SAC appear to be lax to the point of dereliction of duty.

Action: Cllrs Shields / Weir – Ascertain timeline for planning/licensing departments to conclude this matter.

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

No new short-term let applications.

Queen's Court: Regulatory Panel on 24 September, 10:00. Chair recapped FSWCC's objection (initially rejected as a general dislike of short-term lets; accepted on reconsideration). Members noted FSWCC's objection stands; no volunteer available to attend.

Action: C. Fisher – inform SAC that FSWCC won't attend but trusts its objection is noted.

07.4.2 Short Term Lets – Charlotte Street: Regulatory Panel outcome (27 Aug) [D. Sommerville / F. Watson]

F. Watson reported: The property operated as a short-term let before the 2022 licensing scheme, and has done so for three years since. The objection concerned how the let is managed. The panel granted the licence by majority (one abstention), advising the operator to improve management and the neighbour to log and report incidents.

07.4.3 (Incidental) SAC STL policy review consultation: Policy expected Autumn 2026

Cllr Shields hopes SAC's short-term let policy review will show an intention to presume against awarding licences in shared-entrance buildings; policy expected this autumn.

Action: Cllr Shields – email FSWCC when the policy date consideration is confirmed.

07.5 Police – Monthly Report

Members acknowledged the report; no questions.

07.6.1 Roads [I. MacLeod] – Blackburn Car Park: update — ARA/SAC funding clarity for southern gateway barrier; community police resource

Police reply to FSWCC still awaited

Chair reported contacting local police per the August action; the reply has been delayed by staff sickness.

FSWCC left off the stakeholder group

Chair noted FSWCC was not invited to the recent Blackburn Car Park stakeholder group meeting; D. Porte explained an old invite list had been used. FSWCC is to be added.

Speed bumps and vehicle stops: funded and requested

Chair reported that J. Corrie (ARA) had informed him the stakeholder group had decided to fund speed bumps and vehicle stops. D. Porte confirmed the budget is in place and the work requested; some preparatory surface work may be needed. D. Porte characterised the measures as disruption rather than prevention.

Winter gate closure: possible but uncertain

D. Porte reported a security company quote to close the existing gates at 18:00 during the winter months from early November. He stressed SAC was not promising this, only that it is being re-considered by SAC.

Southern gateway barrier: technical feasibility continuing

D. Porte reported a willingness among partners to pursue a mechanical barrier, with ARA assessing its durability in a beach environment; spring 2027 was mentioned as a hope, not a commitment. Chair recalled August's clarification that SAC must fund any barrier – a decision for councillors in setting the 2027/28 budget, months away.

Policing

D. Porte reported police had increased attendance and leafleted car park users. Cllr Shields reported confirmation from a senior local police officer that police are actively enforcing antisocial behaviour measures, and that he has requested a deployable CCTV camera.

Cameras and noise monitoring: residents welcome to feed in

C. Tosh suggested noise-detecting cameras. The stakeholder group is aware, particularly D. Porte through his Community Safety Partnership role; he welcomes residents informing and participating in the stakeholder group.

Action: I. MacLeod – pursue police reply.

Action: D. Porte – add FSWCC to the Blackburn Car Park stakeholder group invite list.

07.6.2 Roads – Dalblair Road: ARA update on vehicle-activated signage (VAS)

Chair read ARA's reply: two vehicle-activated signs are being procured, made to order, with supply taking several weeks, then programmed for installation. Chair recapped ARA's escalating-response process (first-line measures failed; now second stage).

Action: I. MacLeod – monitor ARA's installation of vehicle-activated signs.

07.7 Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Shields is working to gain legitimate SAC assistance for the bowling club adjacent to County Buildings, which is scheduled to close as its membership is too small to continue operating. Cllr Shields reported that the Astoria cinema's internal, externally facing shop unit is set to operate as a shop again.

08 Ayr Town Centre Regeneration

08.1 Burns Statue Square redevelopment: FSWCC response publication update, ahead of South Ayrshire Council's anticipated September decision

Cllr Shields recuses himself over business interest in Burns Statue Square

Following a public query about his business interest adjacent to the Square, Cllr Shields took no part in discussion.

FSWCC rejects the scheme's rationale

FSWCC's published consultation response was neutral on aesthetics but disagreed with the rationale for the scheme.

Ayr East Community Council shares FSWCC's opposition

Ayr East Community Council's emails accord with FSWCC's stance that the rationale is unconvincing, and express dismay that councillors chose Burns Statue Square over prioritising the High Street.

No options appraisal; public free-text comments overwhelmingly critical

Chair noted that the briefing paper for Council's 10 September decision admits no options appraisal was conducted, and that where the consultation allowed free-text comment, the large majority were critical, seeing no benefits materialising.

"No alternative" funding claim rebutted: same fund previously secured funding for a new swimming pool on town centre location

Cllr Weir stated the funding could not be used elsewhere. Chair responded that the same funding stream had previously been secured for a new swimming pool and leisure centre at the Arran Mall site – the choice to spend it on Burns Statue Square is therefore councillors' alone.

Cllr Weir: plan fails to mitigate disruption to traders

Cllr Weir criticised the plan as it stands for not mitigating the likely disruption to traders during construction, implying that assurances of a phased, considerate build running to time offer little comfort.

Chair: a major project in our ward proceeds against clear community opposition

It is regrettable that a major infrastructure project in our ward is progressing despite clear opposition, demonstrated by FSWCC and shared by the neighbouring community council.

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

Cllr Shields reported sand and weeds cleared along most of the esplanade about a month ago. Chair proposed removing the standing item, with A. Roseweir to pursue the longer-term fix informally and bring it back if needed. Agreed – removed from future agendas.

Action: A. Roseweir – pursue long-term fix informally.

10 FSWCC Admin

10.1 Community Led Action Plan (CAP) (Ian MacLeod)

Public comment period on SAC website until end of September. A. Gatt (SAC) to present the final CAP in October, running to circa 2030, with an officer progress review in spring.

Action: A. Gatt (SAC) – present final CAP to FSWCC in October.

11 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.

12 Any Other Competent Business

The Air Show is always divisive: some aspects were well stewarded, some disappointing, e.g. litter. FSWCC trusts SAC's review will address deficiencies such as litter.

13 Date of Next Meeting

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

Wednesday 14th October 2026, 18:30

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

Summary of Action Points

Ref	Category	Action	Owner
07.1	Treasurer	Purchase and lay Remembrance wreath.	M. Hitchon
07.3.2	Licensing	Keep FSWCC informed of Savoy 5 planning/licensing progress.	Cllrs Shields / Weir
07.4.1	Short Term Lets	Inform SAC that FSWCC won't attend the Queen's Court Regulatory Panel (24 Sept) but trusts its objection is noted.	C. Fisher
07.4.3	Short Term Lets	Email FSWCC when SAC's STL policy date is confirmed.	Cllr Shields
07.6.1	Roads	Pursue police reply re resources deployable to Blackburn Car Park.	I. MacLeod
07.6.1	Roads	Add FSWCC to the Blackburn Car Park stakeholder group invite list.	D. Porte (SAC)
07.6.2	Roads	Monitor ARA's installation of Dalblair Road vehicle-activated signs.	I. MacLeod
09	Other – Sand Ingress	Pursue long-term fix informally; bring back if needed.	A. Roseweir
10.1	Other – CAP	Present final CAP to FSWCC in October.	A. Gatt (SAC)