

Symington Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 18th November 2025 at 7pm in the Hall for All, Symington.

Present: Dave Houfe (Acting Chair, Secretary and Vice Chair), Deborah Lochhead (Treasurer), John Mulholland, Julie Howie, Jillian Mulholland, Sharon Johnston

Apologies: Liz Kelly, Rhona Duncan, Gareth Lees

Declarations: none

In attendance: Jan McGarry

1.	<p>The Chair thanked David Currie for laying the remembrance wreath on behalf of the community. The Community Council were saddened to hear of the passing of Margaret Douglas, she was a huge supporter/attendee at CC Meetings.</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of previous meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2025 were proposed by DH, seconded by JM.</p>	
2.	<p>Matters arising and outstanding items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coopted members Sharon Johnstone and Gareth Lees were formally proposed to join the Community Council by John Mulholland and seconded by Deborah Lochhead .Local bus service tracker screen – On-going. JH advised that she had been pushing the planning department at SAC, but they are no further forward as they have been busy with the Townend issues. JH has been chasing resolution of this once or twice a month and it's become a point of principle. JH is waiting until the new Chief Executive of SAC is in post before bringing this and other planning issues up.ARA traffic calming – JH emailed ARA contact and they will come to look at Knockendale corner.Brewlands Drive overgrown hedge – carry forward in the absence of Councillors.Village Resilience Plan – Elena Whitham MSP is assisting with obtaining statements from the mobile phone service providers about their current coverage. We have the information from EE – a link is posed on the Community Council website. There is no 5G, 2 x 4G but most masts are only 2G or 3G. Need to push for better more reliable service from the providers.	<p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>Cllr JD</p> <p>Cllr JD/DH</p> <p>Cllrs. Dettbarn/Ferry</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward Capital Spend. No update due to lack of Councillors, but previously assured that the car park resurfacing in Shaw Park is proceeding. • Speed Limit Surveys. Most drivers are local, and we need a community led solution, like the childrens posters in Monkton. Keep monitoring especially once the electronic speed signs are up at entrances to the village. • Pathway to playpark at Shaw Park – C/F due to absence of Councillors 	<i>Cllr JD</i>
3.	<p>Police Report: Last month's report was sent but went into "junk" 1 x intoxicated male, 2 x road safety Nov report – warrant executed at address in Symington for drugs and cash, report of youths causing disturbance, 1 welfare concern, 1 driver without tax and insurance. Police Reports will be published separately on SCC website going forward.</p>	<i>DH</i>
4.	<p>Secretary's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Dettbarn's minutes of the Townend meeting with Enhance have not yet been circulated. • SPN Energy Network – new subsea electrical cable – link to consultation on website • Further Community Council scheme consultation – we should be compulsory consultees, not just be notified. JH to pursue • Message from "Scott" in the community looking for information on the recent Townend meeting – minutes of this were taken by Cllr Dettbarn, but have not been circulated 	<i>DH</i> <i>DH</i>
5.	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance is £2584.28 cr. • Minor expenditure items incurred (wreath and accountant0 	<i>DL</i>
6.	<p>Planning Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New application for a new build dwelling at the bottom end of Kerrix Road • Coodham – no further information to date. • Townend House – JH has continued to communicate with SAC. Retrospective planning applications for the car park and alterations to a listed building have been submitted and are available on SAC planning portal – All are encouraged to submit comments. JH has also written to Craig Iles (Head of Planning) but received no response. She has also been in 	<i>JH</i>

	<p>touch with Dave Clark, the planner due to the ongoing works despite no permission being granted. She has also written to Sneddon, acting head of SAC.</p> <p>There is a query about the change of use from category 8A to 8B, but apparently, there is no material change of use.</p> <p>The application is vague, and SAC have declined to halt works pending the application processing.</p>	
7.	<p>Elected members Reports:</p> <p>There were no elected members present, no apologies received and no reports available.</p>	
	<p>Townend House</p> <p>An attendee had made contact with the Care Inspectorate and sent the job adverts for roles within the facility on. Seemingly Enhance need to obtain a variation of use from the Care Inspectorate, so unlikely the facility will be able to operate until this is received, so won't take clients until this is done – probably not until Feb 26</p> <p>There has not yet been any feedback or minutes from the meeting held in County Buildings chaired by Elena Whitham MSP. Cllr Dettbarn undertook to take minutes and facilitate a meeting between Enhance representatives and householders within the Townend Estate, but this has not progressed.</p> <p>JH will submit an objection to the planning application on behalf the Community Council on 28th November, the deadline.</p> <p>It is felt that although the Class won't change, the actual use IS significantly changing from a care home to a rehabilitation centre.</p> <p>The meeting requested that the following be minuted and noted. The Government is going about the wrong way of funding drug issues and should instead provide better funding to the Police.</p> <p>It is disappointing that NO local councillors were present at the meeting especially as this is the biggest issue to affect Symington in decades.</p> <p>The CC agreed to push SAC Councillors for minutes and a date for the next meeting.</p>	

8.	<p>Pollinator Friendly Symington (PFS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School planting has gone quiet however we are looking to work with a local outdoor learning provider, Under Sky, and approach the primary school about a package of nature based learning activities that Under Sky could provide, which would also meet some of the school's related curricula needs. • SAC has suggested its intent to provide replacement tree saplings for those previously planted but moved down by SAC. 	DH
9.	<p>Community Action Plan:</p> <p>The draft CAP is nearly ready for circulation and comment by the community. Now attention turns to the Local Place Plan</p>	AG/SCC
10.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brewlands Drive – road closed sign to be removed by ARA • Stop Sign outside Wheatsheaf to be turned around the correct way • Christmas tree is up, waiting for the lights – JH will check • Path in Shaw Park is too narrow to cope with street sweeper 	
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday 20th January 2026 followed by Public Meeting in Hall 2 - Symington Community Hall 7pm</p>	