

Symington Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 18th August 2026 at 7pm in the Hall for All, Symington.

Present: Julie Howie (Chair & Planning), Gareth Lees (Vice Chair), Dave Houfe (Secretary), Deborah Lochhead (Treasurer), Liz Kelly, Sharon Johnston, Shelagh Millar,

In attendance: Cllr Julie Dettbarn

Apologies: Rhona Duncan, Jan McGarry

Noted:

There had been no communication from Cllrs Stephen Ferry or Duncan Townson

Declarations: None

1.	Approval of previous meeting An amendment was proposed re maintenance of an area of grass. The person who highlighted this has agreed to engage directly with ARA. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2026 were proposed by DH, seconded by JH.	
2.	Real-Time Bus Tracker • JH now engaging with Head of Planning. • 3 real-time bus trackers were previously agreed – a new application is to be submitted to amend this to 1 tracker. • Despite a deadline of 21 days for new application to be submitted, after 9 weeks there has still been no further action. • JD noted that Kevin Braidwood is the correct person to reach out to. • JH to escalate to Chef Executive of SAC/Kevin Braidwood. Results of Traffic Survey on Main St • Final results indicated the average speed on Main St following the traffic survey was 20.9 mph. • 0.2% of vehicles exceeded the limit. • No information on total no of cars was shared however this has been requested. • ARA will continue to monitor throughout the year. • The conclusion is the majority of drivers observe the limit and therefore it is the responsibility of Police Scotland to monitor further.	JH JH

	- It was suggested that additional 20mph signage would be useful, including a refresh of the SLOW sign at the bottom of Main St. A request to be submitted to ARA. Bus Stops - The two bus stops have been repainted (rather than one) - the Ayr side (decommissioned) stop is incorrect. - ARA has been contacted to remove the repainted sign from the decommissioned side. - A request to remove the apparently vacant pole at the end of Main St can't easily be achieved as the pole is the source of the Xmas light power. - Item to be marked as closed and removed from agenda. Electronic Signs at entrance to the village - Last update from ARA indicated budget has been approved and awaiting contractor. - JH chased for a confirmed date/update. - There has apparently been some confusion with one colleague stating everything was complete and in place. - JH agreed to write to Head of ARA (Jane Carey) for an update. ARA signs for Knockendale Corner - Signs have now been installed. - Item now closed. Memorial Garden Benches - Benches have now been cleaned. - It was suggested that the wider community take ownership of small areas within the village that could be kept tidy/clean as part of a general community welfare activity. - A volunteers WhatsApp group will be created to assist in the improvement of the village. - Item now closed. SPT Community Path Fund - Two emails have been received refer sharing correspondence with ARA and SAC requesting path widening opposite the Wheatsheaf and Shaw Park. - JH to request updates from ARA and SAC. - Issue reported by resident regarding weeds and mess at the back of shops and lane down the side of the shops. - SM to confirm who owns the land in order to pursue further.	<i>JH</i> <i>JH</i> <i>JH/SM</i>
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	X77 Bus Service • No progress to date. • Cllr JD confirmed request for update should be sent to SPT. • GL to action and Cllr JD to confirm correct point of contact. Overgrown Hedge at Brewlands Drive • 2 of the 3 hedges have been cut back. • The third hedge is responsibility of homeowner • JH to confirm if hedge still uncut and if so, will report to JD. Ward Capital Spend Update • ARA is still in the process of appointing a contractor for the resurfacing of the Bowling Club carpark. • JH spoke to Bowling Club who confirmed any time after 14th July would work for them. • Once contractor confirmed, Community Council will be notified and then will update Bowling Club. • Audrey Gatt, SAC is leaving her post for a new position on the Pride & Place Board. • Additional funds to be spent in Ayr Town Centre.	<i>GL/JD</i> <i>JH</i>
3.	Police Report: • The reports for July and August 2026 are available to download from the Community Council website however in summary: • Report for July 2026 ○ The report covering 13 June–18 July recorded one assault within a private home, one incident involving a child or young person, and one welfare concern. Two broken-down vehicles and one vehicle obstruction were reported. There were no reports of drug supply, antisocial behaviour, domestic abuse, hate crime, housebreaking, robbery, fraud or substance misuse. • Report for August 2026 ○ The report covering 18 July–15 August recorded one incident involving a child or young person and five welfare concerns. There were no reports of violence, drug supply, antisocial behaviour, domestic abuse, hate crime, housebreaking, robbery, fraud, substance misuse or road traffic incidents.	

4.	Secretary's Report: New Powers for Scotland's Community Councils: A survey asked whether Symington Community Council should have access to the same optional powers and associated budgets as England's parish councils, given the limited powers and funding currently available to Scotland's community councils. - Of the 11 respondents, 82% supported the proposal. - Road safety was the leading priority, followed by local planning decisions. - Respondents stressed that any additional powers must be properly resourced and focused on local community priorities. NHS Ayrshire & Arran: A communication was received highlighting a recent increase in drug-related harm, near-fatal overdoses and deaths across Ayrshire and Arran. Harm-reduction advice, including carrying naloxone, avoiding drug use alone and calling 999 immediately in the event of an overdose, was shared for wider circulation. National Conversation Survey: Information was received about the ICCC's National Conversation, a UK-wide survey seeking views and experiences of community life, cohesion and division. - Community members were encouraged to participate and share the survey through their networks to ensure Scottish perspectives are represented. SCCAN green energy initiative: Community Green-Energy Projects: SCCAN is seeking local organisations with large roof spaces and high electricity use to partner on solar-energy projects. - SCCAN would assess suitability, secure funding and install solar panels, providing partners with lower-cost electricity. - Profits would support a climate-action fund, including projects local to each installation. Interested organisations should contact craig@sccan.scot. VASA Christmas Day Referral Form: Christmas Day Support: Referral information was received for Christmas Day support available to people aged over 65 who live alone, are socially isolated and will have no visitors.	
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	○ Eligible residents can receive a delivered Christmas meal and gift bag or, if able to travel independently, attend a Christmas lunch and entertainment at Alloway Parish Church with shared transport provided. ○ The referral deadline is 1 December 2026.	
5.	Treasurer's Report: • Bank balance: £1,442.07 • Application for top up grant has been submitted.	
6.	Planning Report: 62 Main Street • The original application was refused and then went to Review Panel who carried out a site visit. • On the SAC Planning Portal it still shows as refused however the decision was overturned based on the documentation available on the portal. • SAC confirmed the portal will be updated. • Community Council were not informed and to date have not received formal notification about this application from SAC. Jeanfield Farm • The original application was removed from the Planning Portal in error. • Amendments are being made and will be re-submitted. Local Place Plans • JH in process of completing plan and will submit to SAC. • Deadline date is October 2026. • JD highlighted the importance of this plan. • JD has requested SAC to cut back the trees at Lawhill Avenue. • Damaged wall at 35 Brewlands Cres and drain at Lawhill Road also reported.	<i>JH</i>
7.	Elected members Reports: • SAC has a website for LDP3. • JD will share the link with Community Council.	<i>JD</i>
8.	Pollinator Friendly Symington (PFS): • Symington Primary School: Confirmation sought for Community Council funding/support for an Early Years outdoor and nature-based learning session in 2026/27, as agreed in principle in May.	

	• Pollinator-friendly trees: Engagement with SAC grass-cutting teams appears to have reduced accidental tree losses. Around 4–5 newly planted trees were lost during the dry June period; the remainder are doing well. • Pow Burn community engagement: Riverwoods was promoted at Symington Gala, with positive interest from visitors. The planned Prestwick Promenade stall was cancelled due to high winds. • Pow Burn history: Looking for local people with memories or historical knowledge of the Burn to take part in recorded interviews, with a view to sharing these online. • Landowners & surveys: The Farm Advisory Service continues to engage local farmers, with FAS and Ayrshire Rivers Trust surveys of the Burn planned over the coming months. • Natural Capital Tool: NatureScot's mapping tool is being explored for the Riverwoods project and could also help the Community Council assess and evidence the environmental impact of future development proposals.	
9.	AOCB Finger Posts Update • JD to request an update re village signage. EV Charging Cables • Some residents running cables across pavements. • ARA looking into it. Pavilion Update • It has been advertised for lease on SAC website. • Several offers received and meetings to take place to confirm Lease. • JH to contact Estates Department for update. Funding Opportunity • Funding between £500-£3,000 available from Locality Planning Partnership. • Applications must support social isolation/mental health and wellbeing. • Closing date is 28 August 2026. • Social Secretaries to consider application for community Xmas celebration.	JD JH SM/SJ

	Bus Stop • The plastic tree supports on the trees at the turning circle can be removed. • This could be picked up as part of a community village clean up. • DH to consider linking this to Pollinator Friendly activities. Transport Conversation • Any queries for Stagecoach, Mybus, SPT should be submitted to Community Council. • These will then be submitted on behalf of Symington village. Connect Website • This is a useful resource for local activities. • Agreement that this will be added to Community Council website. Locality Planning Partnership • Volunteers are sought to represent Symington as part of the LPP. • More information is available from LK.	DH
10.	Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15th September 2026, followed by Public Meeting in Hall 2 - Symington Community Hall 7pm.	