

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD/  
SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM**

Minutes of the meeting of South Ayrshire Licensing Board/Local Licensing Forum  
in County Buildings, Ayr on 27 August 2025 at 11.00 a.m.

**Licensing Board**

**Members Present:** Councillors William Grant (Chair), Laura Brennan-Whitefield and Martin Kilbride.

**Licensing Forum**

**Members Present:** C. Andrew – Licensing Standards Officer (Chair), David Cuthill, Janice Lindsay, Sandy Paton, Rachael Rennie, Sukhuinderjit Sangha and Paul Zive.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Kenneth Bell; Bob Pollock; Gavin Scott and Duncan Townson; Alex Kelly, Sergeant Kathryne Thornton and Sergeant David Markin.

**Attending:**

L. McChristie, Co-ordinator (Licensing); and J. Chapman Committee Services Officer.

**1. Welcome**

Councillor Grant, Chair of the Licensing Board, welcomed all present. It was then advised that the Licensing Standards Officer would Chair this meeting.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of South Ayrshire Licensing Board/Local Licensing Forum of 27 November 2025 were submitted and approved.

**3. Discussion between the Board and the Forum**

(i) **Beer Gardens and Entertainment**

There was discussion on the increased number of applications received in relation to Beer Gardens and Entertainment.

Following comments from Board and Forum Members it was noted that there should be consistent advice given with a clear and consistent application process.

The LSO advised that the information she gives to the trade is fully covered in the operating plan which gives the opportunity for consultation and makes the public aware of what is happening and enables them to speak about any concerns that they have in relation to noise etc.

The Chair advised the need for a robust application process and Members of the Forum advised that they understand why the Board takes that approach and fully support it.

(ii) **Press Coverage of Board Reports**

Members of the Board and Forum discussed the current issues with press coverage of Board Reports with Members commenting that the main issue is media reporting with lack of context and misinformation.

The Clerk to the Licensing Board advised Members that Licensing Board Papers along with an Operating Plan were published in line with Local Government Legislation and that discussions could be taken if there were ongoing Media reporting issues in relation to these.

Following discussions, it was noted that it would be beneficial for talks to take place between officers in the licensing and communication teams, to consider matters. The Chair advised that he was willing to discuss the best approach to deal with these issues at a future date.

(iii) **Alcohol in Football Stadiums**

There was a discussion in relation to the recent application that was submitted by Ayr United Football Club and subsequently withdrawn. It was noted that the application was not well presented and there was a total lack of communication resulting in an apology from Ayr United Directors. It was hoped that any future application would be dealt with by local agents due to their knowledge of the local application process.

It was agreed that a Site Visit would take place which Ayr United Football Club welcomed and any questions that the Board may wish to ask can be addressed at the visit as another application may be submitted in the future.

**4. Other Business**

Members of the Board and Forum had a discussion in relation to events being published and tickets on sale prior to licences being granted. The LSO advised that applicants need to engage as early as possible to ensure that work can be done to guarantee and give comfort to the applicant that the application will be granted.

The meeting ended at 12:00pm.