

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2021 **VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 7.30PM**

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING WAS HELD AS READ.

B. PRESENT	Mrs L Johnston Mr S Douglas	Mr C Clark Mr R Skinley	Mrs M Davis
EX OFFICIO	Mr R McGregor	Mr G Smith	Mr C Smith
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes	Mrs A Arnett	
CHAIRPERSON	Ms A Garrick-Wright		
APOLOGIES	Mr P Campbell	Mr M Duncan	Mr E MacPherson
NOT PRESENT	Mr A Duncan Ms A Hawick	Mrs S Wishart	Mr S Flaws

Information – due to the Covid-19 Virus pandemic meetings are being held online.

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 December were approved on the motion of Mrs M Davis and seconded by Mr C Clark.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTE

1. Radicle Road in Quarff

Residents have been in touch about the degradation of the road in Quarff. They say that it has been in a bad state for a number of years but it has deteriorated greatly now, meaning it is very unsafe to walk on when you meet traffic – the verges on both sides have deteriorated into the ditches meaning there is no safe place to stand.

An email was received from Neil Hutchison, SIC Road Engineer on November 18th explaining that several years ago there were initial proposals to widen the road and provide a passing place but attempts to acquire the land were unsuccessful. Since then, the Council has approved a medium-term financial plan that requires all capital monies to be spent on the maintenance of existing assets and not on the provision of new assets such as the work required on this road.

Members did feel that the matter should be pushed in the hope something could be done and Cllr R McGregor was to support this. There is no update at present but Cllr McGregor intends to bring it up at the SIC Road Safety meeting on Friday 15th and to talk it through at a meeting with officers the day before that.

ACTION: Cllr R McGregor to attend meetings and report back with any news.

2. Wooden Walkway near Gulberwick Hall

SIC Roads had said this will be completed before Christmas but it has not yet happened. It needs to be made safer as it becomes very slippery in wet or cold weather.

ACTION: Clerk to follow it up.

3. Dog Fouling in Gulberwick

After complaints of dog fouling in the Setter area of Gulberwick members were able to report that there was an issue in other areas of Gulberwick and it was clear that more than one dog was involved. Some people are picking up but leaving the bags, perhaps forgetting to pick them up again or doing it deliberately. Mr Skinley was able to report that he had not had any further discussion with Billy Mycock from SIC Environmental Health but after seeing the extent of the problem on his own walks, he felt it was time to think about a campaign perhaps with a bigger focus on public health and the anti-social nature of the issue.

Mrs A Arnett said other community councils had been told that more bins could not be supplied as there is not enough staff to empty them, but existing bins could be moved to other locations.

ACTION: Mr C Clark to add the issue to the list of projects being developed by the sub-group, Mr Skinley to talk to Environmental Health to ask for further support and advice, and the clerk to speak to Sandwick Community Council to see what their successful summer campaign consisted of and put a post on the Facebook page.

4. Overgrown Path between Central and North Heathery Park, Gulberwick

The clerk is trying to establish ownership of the path in the hope that the Community Justice Team can clear it when the weather improves. There was no update.

ACTION: Clerk to report back at next meeting.

5. Broken Pedestrian Gate at Gulberwick Beach

The clerk spoke to the landowner who says that not much work needs to be done to fix the gate but that heat may be required to loosen the bolts to do the work. She has not yet managed to take a photo of the gate to distribute amongst members in the hope that someone can do the work or know someone else who can.

ACTION: Clerk or member to take photo of broken gate and email to others.

6. Active Travel Strategy Consultation

The draft Shetland Active Travel Strategy 2020-2025 was launched for consultation last month, seeking the public's views on walking, cycling and wheeling, including wheelchair use, across the islands. <https://www.zettrans.org.uk/about/consultations> Mr Clark filled out the online consultation form, feeding back what members had discussed as minuted in the December meeting.

2. POLICE REPORT

No report available.

3. FINANCE

The bank statement on January 12th reads £8,323.32

There are only two payments since the last meeting which are outside our usual monthly outgoings: £500 for the Cunningsburgh Parent Council shed grant and £100 for the Cunningsburgh Under 5s grant. We received £500 from the RRR Fund which has been used to purchase grocery and fuel vouchers for Covid relief. The shops will be paid for these when their invoices come in.

We receive £12,923 in total from the SIC.

We have spent £8,110.72 so far (£2,573.87 in grants; wages; broadband; laminating pouches; stamps; accountancy fees; Covid-admin; a £10 overspend in the Covid-relief; road grant)

Our projected spend is £1,752 (wages, broadband, internet security, web hosting, VAS membership etc).

Our current spend and projected spend totals £9,862.72 leaving us with £3,060.28

We can retain £1,000 of our core grant balance without justification or adjustment to the next year's core grant so we have a buffer for any increases in subscription or IT costs or any last minute grants which come in.

This means we have **£2,060.28** to spend on grants for the remainder of the year.

The clerk has purchased £500 of grocery and fuel vouchers for our local shops using the grant we received from the Response Recovery and Resilience Fund and have already had a request for a voucher through a housing officer. We are hoping to go in as part of a bid for more money with VAS to allow us to start the hot meal scheme again. If VAS do not apply on our behalf we will do it ourselves.

There was discussion about whether purchasing extra devices or laptops for schools would be required but there have already been almost 500 devices purchased for Shetland using Scottish Government money. Cllr Ryan Thomson is also collecting obsolete laptops and iPads to be wiped and distributed. For many people it is the poor connectivity which is the issue, but there may be other issues which attendees are not aware of.

SIC Road Safety Officer Elaine Skinley also still has torches which we can gift to children through the schools but we can't do this while the schools are shut to pupils.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Early Help Team to find out if they have any ideas on how we can help further.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS

No applications received this month.

5. PLANNING

No applications this month.

6. CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS IN CUNNINGSBURGH AND QUARFF

An email from Dave Coupe, SIC Executive Manager – Roads was received on December 18th:

The temporary speed restrictions that have recently been approved by the Council have been put in place as trials to see if they can help with encouraging active travel choices. The areas targeted by the temporary trial limits are Tresta that currently has no speed limit and Sound Brae/Shurton Brae which is a recognised busy and unique transport corridor between the settlement of Gulberwick and Lerwick and takes recognition of the high level of traffic use and the level of active travel identified during lock-down.

The intention is that data will be gathered from the 2 trial schemes over the 18-month period of the temporary orders to determine the effect that a reduced speed limit may have on active travel. The data gathering requires monitoring equipment and staff time to analyse and the two schemes approved by Members are intended to provide a good basis for the effect that this type of intervention has.

Considering the two roads you mention, I would comment that the main road through Cunningsburgh, has both streetlights and footways, as well as an existing 50mph limit and as such already has provision for walking and good visibility with the added benefit of street lighting.

I appreciate that the A970 through Quarff has neither footways, streetlights or a reduced speed limit and that its physical characteristics are similar to the A970 over Shurton Brae. However, traffic volumes through Quarff are significantly lower at around 4000 vehicles per day as opposed to well over 6000vpd at Shurton Brae.

While the A971 at Tresta carries less traffic than the A970 at Quarff, the carriageway is narrower and the verges are mainly of raised grass as opposed to the flush hard verges that are provided along the A970 through Quarff. The lack of 'walkable' verges for active travel use was one of the factors considered when the Council decided to include Tresta as a trial area.

These temporary trial speed limits are an opportunity for us to gather evidence on the impacts/ benefits of speed limit reductions out with normal policy guidance. The number of areas that can be subject to trials at any given time is limited due to the resources required to properly survey and analyse usage patterns for any behavioural changes. This evidence will help to inform our approach to other areas in the future. There are therefore no plans at this time to include other areas within the trials.

Members were puzzled why Shurton Brae and the road into Gulberwick had been chosen as it was an area which residents had never expressed any concern about speeding at and they have been sustained campaigns due to issues in Cunningsburgh and Quarff. Everyone present was in agreement that they should continue to see if the speed limits could be introduced.

ACTION: Cllr McGregor is speaking to council officials and will report back when he has an update.

7. SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND UPDATE

The next meeting is not until tomorrow (Wednesday 13th) night so Mr Clark did not have as much to report as he would have liked. The situation is every changing and even the last email received has been superseded – they are now looking at all applications to go direct through the looked SCBF – the plan before had been to get Community Councils to administer the grants £500 and below but the SCBF has concerns about GDPR.

An admin officer has been appointed – Eleanor Gear and started the first week in January. Mr Clark said this should hopefully make a difference and help the scheme get up and running by mid-February as planned.

They have been in contact with other windfarm developments across the isles to see whether there is any possibility of working together.

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the February meeting

Members had concerns about how the scheme will work with so little involvement from Community Councils – how will they apply, will they get help, do Community Councils apply for them? If a summary is going to be provided to the Community Councils does that mean they have been whittled down already – by a group or individual who may not have as deep an understanding of the needs of our particular community?

ACTION: Mr Clark to email an update to everyone following the meeting.

8. PROJECT IDEAS FOR LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Mr Clark said they were hoping to meet up soon, even if only virtually. They've had a look at the project spreadsheet and highlighted three or four to get ready for the SCBF grant process. The next step is to set up a matrix which will assist in prioritising all the projects.

An idea for community fridges or larders is to be added to the list/spreadsheet.

Mrs Arnett spoke about a good online resource she had discovered which she feels would be of help to the group.

ACTION: Fridge/larder idea to be added to project list and Mr Clark to report back any progress at the February meeting. Mrs Arnett to send resource to Mr Clark.

9. ASCC AGENDA ITEMS

An Association of Shetland Community Councils meeting is to be held on 9th March 2021 and Michael Duncan has requested Community Councils send agenda items in ASAP. No members had any extra agenda items to add.

ACTION: If any agenda items crop up over the next few weeks members are to email the clerk so she can fill out the form to submit them. The deadline is January 21st.

---Mr S Douglas left the meeting due to technical issues – approximately 8.20pm ---

10. AOCB

1. Save the Date: R100 Roundtable

An event to discuss the Scottish Government's R100 rollout in Shetland has been organised by Beatrice Wishart and Alistair Carmichael. More information on the project to increase broadband connectivity can be found in news articles [here](#) and following the signing of the 'North Lot' (which includes Shetland) [here](#). The event will be held on the afternoon of Friday 5 February 2021 at 3pm – 4.30pm.

The email from Ms Wishart said: "The format will be different to the Digital Forum (which has taken place as in-person events in previous years), due to problems with hosting a digital event for people who struggle with their connectivity. Instead, the event will be an online discussion for local authority and community councillors hosted on Zoom and chaired by Beatrice and/or Alistair. There will be a monitored chat function, where detailed questions can be answered in full following the meeting if time runs out.

If anyone would like to attend they are asked to respond by emailing Richard Wood (Richard.wood@parliament.uk) alongside any questions you would be interested in asking. Further details and a link to the event will be provided in due course to those who have expressed an interest in attending.

ACTION: Anyone who wants to attend to email the address given. Clerk to email and express an interest in the hope that someone may be able to attend closer to the day.

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the February meeting

2. Annual Scottish Transport Conference – Thursday 14th January 2021

Michael Duncan sent details though of the sixth annual transport conference and details of how to take up one of the complimentary places reserved for Community Councillors. The email had already been distributed to members.

ACTION: Any member wishing to attend to follow the instructions on the email.

3. Triage Scotland

Emails from an organisation which helps to support unemployed people in the community have been received. A project called Fair Start Scotland may be of use to people in Shetland and the Delivery Manager for the project has requested an online meeting to see if he can offer support. Members were unsure whether it would be duplication of services and no one knew much about the organisation.

ACTION: Mrs Arnett to look into it and report back her thoughts and findings.

4. Broken Roundabout at Gulberwick Playpark

This has been reported as broken.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Magnus Malcolmson at the SIC.

5. Community Asset Transfer Training on Offer

An email from Michael Duncan sharing that Community Asset Transfer training is on offer has been sent to members already: COSS will be running two webinars providing an introduction to the Community Asset Transfer process this month. This is Module 1 of COSS 6-module programme 'Assets for People and Places'.

The first webinar will be held on Thursday 21st January from 10am to 12 noon. The second will be held on Thursday 28th January from 7pm to 9pm. Both webinars will be the same.

Further information about the webinars is available through this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/module-1-introduction-to-community-asset-transfer-presentation-tickets-133335651523>

ACTION: Anyone interested in attending to sign up.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16 February 2021.

Meeting Ends – 8.30pm

CHAIR

12. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

January 2021 - Torches for school children from Elaine Skinley, SIC Road Safety Officer. To be distributed when the schools open again.