

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7pm via WebEx. This minute is a draft until approved at the next meeting.

PRESENT:

Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) - Chair

Cllr John Dally (JD) – Vice Chair

Cllr Anne Huntley (AH)

Cllr Pete Gaines (PG)

Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)

Captain Greg Maitland, MNI – Harbour Master (GM)

Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr William Polson (WP)

Michael Duncan – External Funding Officer & Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)

Duncan Anderson – North Isles Councillor (DA)

MINUTE TAKER:

Rhea Kay – Clerk

WELCOME:

JL welcomed all in attendance and introduced GM to Cllrs.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were noted.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JL asked if everyone is happy with previous minute, MH approved and JD seconded.

MATTERS ARISING:

SYMBISTER HARBOUR - CRANE, OLD DOCK, DREDGING, REPLACING OF MARINA PONTOONS, NETTY PIER

JL informed GM on matters arising from CC meetings regarding Symbister Harbour.

GM gave updates on Harbour Crane. A redesign on the plinth meant a longer wait but it is now installed. Confirmation is now needed from engineers to schedule final part of installation. GM assured CC that the location of the crane was discussed with users and the best solution was reached.

Discussion was held on the Old Dock and the nature of the issues. JD pointed out that although previous remedial works were completed it is crumbling in parts and needs immediate attention. CC discussed potentially arranging a site visit. Discussion concluded appropriate works need to be carried out to preserve the structure and ensure safety, next step is for **clerk to chase up Amenity Trust**.

JL mentioned dredging for the Marina and that DA had been informed it potentially did not require any. GM explained that was what was understood, as a recent survey of the depths in the harbour met all requirements and the Marina also looked fine, but further questions had gone to engineers. GM informed CC that any required dredging would not begin until this summer. **GM to get further information and get back to CC**.

JL brought the road at the North breakwater to attention. Discussion highlighted that potholes have begun to form and it was previously understood that the road should have been tarred. GM explained it is not his area but can pass on information and chase up. **Clerk to monitor and potentially contact Roads**

MH highlighted problems at the Netty Pier, users cannot complete some essential tasks due to too many cars being parked. Discussion highlighted this as a serious issue as commuters are also having difficulty finding parking in at the pier. GM gave Andrew Inkster as the suitable contact for this issue. **Clerk to email Andrew Inkster**

More discussion was held on Symbister Harbour and it was highlighted there are many areas which could be improved for all users. Since parts of the harbour are owned by different bodies it makes it complicated to have a clear idea of who to contact and what works could be done. GM said he would be happy to discuss further and assist CC in finding the correct people to contact. **CC to discuss further**

GM offered to assist CC wherever possible and ensure progress is made on matters. JL thanked GM for his attendance and advice and welcomed him to attend future meetings as it would be great to keep in touch. GM left meeting as was on call.

CDF PROJECT

CC discussed updates on sign and latest quotation for the larger sign and clerk is awaiting quotation for installation. MH and JL highlighted that planning permission would need to be investigated as it is not clear on what body owns the land where the sign will be placed. Art Machine should have some knowledge on permissions but SIC should also be contacted to clarify information and permissions. CC discussed that Andrew Inkster should be first contact. **Clerk to contact Art Machine and Andrew Inkster.**

SKIP

JL mentioned the last Skip Hire was successful. CC discussed that if there is enough in the budget another Skip should be hired before year end as there seems to be consistent demand from the community. Hiring a Skip to the isle would also cut down on unnecessary travel. **Clerk to enquire about availability in late February.**

FENCE AT DUMP

No update obtained. **Clerk to chase up.**

EXTENDING SPEED LIMITS – MARRISTER, POWSTER & BROUGH LOOP

Clerk got in touch with Roads and read response to CC. National regulations stipulate that more houses and residents are necessary in each area before extending speed limits in the requested areas. MH updated CC that local residents have looked to resolve problem by placing their own 'Go Slow, Children at Play' signs. CC underlined that many residents in the same situation have done this in the past to encourage slower drivers.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The issue of the blind spot at a new house site has been resolved. **Clerk to ensure CC are kept up to date with future planning applications.**

SURFACE WATER ON ROADS

The issue at Gardentown is fixed. CC discussed recent hole that appeared on the pavement at a junction in Symbister and that works had commenced.

Water at Sandwick junction and Findlayille had been reported to roads, no further updates received but areas still have surface water. CC discussed further areas of road with surface water and highlighted that between Symbister and Saltness, around Symbister Hall and the Livister road all have issues with surface water. CC discussed how some of these areas may have natural springs and that Roads would need to investigate. **Clerk to report issues to roads and keep updated with progress**

PATH AT BACK OF HAMISTER BEACH/ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

RF mentioned a recent meeting with Robina Barton and received more information on how the strategy will be moving forward. Settlement audits in each area are necessary before the requests can be developed and funding can be sought. RF will keep informed and will update CC with any developments.

JD highlighted streetlighting issue at North Beach. The last street light is still not turned on and is a concern as the area is very dark. **Clerk to chase up**

WHALSAY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

JL mentioned WP had been in touch with a few people in community. CC discussed how to go forward and RF highlighted the importance of ensuring a Whalsay Development Group as opposed to a Harbour Development Group, as it will be much easier to secure funding for both the harbour and other projects throughout the isle. Discussion concluded it would need to be made more public to gain more discussion and feedback from community. **CC to discuss and outline next steps.** Discussion was had on similar groups in the past and highlighted that trusts are more complicated and would be best to avoid.

JIMMY ARTHUR ESTATE

JD has been in touch with various contacts and is making gradual progress despite difficulties in receiving responses at times. Suggestions had been made on developing a trust, but this is not ideal due to the legal obligations and complications that come with it. Getting professional legal advice could be most beneficial as things develop. **JD to get in touch with Kristen Johnston from Legal Services**

BROADBAND

JD mentioned R100 Roundtable meeting on the 5th February that could shed more light on improving Broadband in the isle. **JD to attend meeting if available.**

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF)

Clerk has been in contact with local groups and is filling in application form. Clerk will need further advice from RF to ensure application has been completed appropriately. RF highlighted it would be best to get application as soon as possible and ideally by the end of the week. **Clerk to complete application**

Discussion was had on potential funding opportunities for digital devices for the community, and if local organisations have enough devices or if they could benefit from more. There are funds that local organisations are either applying to or can apply to. **CC to consider submitting application to fund devices for wider use within the community.**

SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

JD updated CC on progress, and the Shetland Community Benefit Fund has now appointed an administrator. It is understood that different tiers of grants will be available for different areas. CC will have to plan projects and apply for funding annually as opposed to being issued with a full grant on an annual basis. JD mentioned that CC should be updated with more information soon.

HOULL LOCH

Improvement to path at Houll Loch was included in Active Travel Strategy response. It is also something to potentially enquire about to John Duncan at Roads. **Clerk to enquire.**

COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

CC discussed the continued irregular attendance of councillors. It has been noted that RT and has not attended any CC meetings. **Clerk to get in touch with councillors and encourage more feedback and regular attendance to meetings.**

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET EVENT

Clerk updated CC on progress with sending local groups applications and explained how to potentially hold the PB event online. Discussion concluded that holding a private Facebook event for Whalsay residents would be the easiest and most accessible option and all successful applicants can post a piece of content to be page or community to view and vote. CC highlighted that all applicants should be assured they can submit whatever they feel comfortable in submitting. CC and RF will be on hand to assist applicants wherever possible.

For voting, CC agreed a link to a SmartSurvey of Survey Monkey would work for residents to vote on favourite projects. RF mentioned that by requesting all voters to add their name and postcode to the survey CC could ensure that individuals do not submit multiple votes. Discussion emphasised support should be available to those who do not have Facebook, and a paper vote should also be available to those with no online access. Paper forms to be collected from a safe spot at Clerks address to ensure no contact. Applications to be reviewed on 2nd February, and event to run from 15th-21st February for enough time for residents to join, view projects and vote.

Clerk to remind groups to submit applications even if they have been successful before. Clerk to create posters and advertise event.

FINANCES

CC saw financial report before every meeting and JL ensured CC were happy with finances. **Clerk to continue to send financial reports before each meeting. Clerk to keep CC updated with progress of internet banking application.**

MAIN AGENDA

FERRY RESTRICTIONS

CC discussed the current ferry restrictions and how there are a number of people in the community aggrieved by the service. Points were made about other islands displaying dismay and how islanders' lifestyles are massively restricted. CC discussed the difficulties people in full time employment are facing and have been aware of some individuals having to wait a whole afternoon to get back to the island. Most commuters are having to wait until the 1830 ferry which has a negative impact lifestyle, and those who depend on the bus service have longer waiting times in public places which does not make sense from a safety perspective. CC compared the current lockdown to the previous one and emphasised that the single ferry service that ran previously was a much better option for islanders.

JL read out DA's Facebook update which informed CC of more information regarding SIC's decision to restrict the service. AH highlighted there is no clarity as to when a less restricted service will resume. CC discussed getting more information from SIC councillors as to how the SIC are liaising with the NHS to make decisions about the service, along with estimated time frames and conditions as to when a more regular service can resume. **CC to email SIC Councillors**

BROUGH AND CHALLISTER BUS SHELTERS FOR SCHOOL BAIRNS

MH has been notified that children in the Challister and Brough areas do not have any shelter while waiting for the school bus. CC discussed the issue and noted that requesting bus shelters to shelter the bairns from harsh weather for these areas would be a necessary improvement. **Clerk to email Transport and Planning to enquire about getting bus shelters in place**

CAR PARKING AT SYMBISTER PIER

Discussed in 'Symbister Harbour' matters arising while GM was in attendance to advise CC.

AOCB:

SPEEDING AT HILLHEAD

AH has received a complaint regarding cars speeding around the Hillhead. CC discussed the issue and highlighted that this has been problem in the area. **Clerk to contact Police Liaison regarding issue and invite to future meetings.** CC to ensure that matters arising that require the Police liaison is placed at the beginning of meeting.

CC discussed previous Police Reports that were sent on a regular basis to CC. **Clerk to enquire about receiving reports in future**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7pm via WebEx