

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
J Puckey
J Haswell
J Laing
L Moncrieff
Cllr T Smith
Cllr C Hughson
Cllr S Coutts

In Attendance: R Fraser, Miss E M Watson, Mr B Chittick, J MacBeath, Mr & Mrs A Cooper, D. Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

Mr M Duncan

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr T Smith declared an interest in Housing, should any matters pertaining to the Hjaltland Housing Association arise because he is a board member of the Association.

4. Walls Health Centre – Discussions with Ms E M Watson and Mr B Chittick

4.1 Rationale

I Walterson welcomed Ms E M Watson and Mr B Chittick who were representing NHS Shetland. I Walterson explained that they had been invited to attend to answer members' and attendees' questions relating to health care on the Westside.

4.2 Question 1 - Data Security

I Walterson raised the issue of data security when full patient information is shared between the Walls Health Centre and the Bixter Health Centre. He asked if patients would be able to opt out of having their data shared.

Mr Chittick answered this question. He began by stating that an Emergency Care Summery (ECS) was already available relating to every person registered with NHS Shetland. ECS is limited whilst the information it is intended to share when the data bases merge would provide a more holistic view of each patient to enable healthcare professionals to assess how best to care for that patient. He stressed that only healthcare professionals would be able to access the information and that patient confidentiality was paramount. As far as being able to opt out, Mr Chittick stated he would need to speak to the IT Department to find out if patients can opt out. He pointed out that the sharing of data would enable westside residents to be seen in either Walls or Bixter to equal effect.

The final point made on this matter was that there is a need to inform the community regarding what is taking place.

4.3 Question 2 – Practice Nurse Provision at Walls

I Sandison highlighted the fact that the current practice nurse is only available to see patients for one and a half days each week at the Walls Health Centre and for a further hour on a Friday at the Bixter Health Centre. She asked why this hour could not be spent at the Walls Health Centre.

Ms Watson replied that Nurse E MacLeod is also a practice nurse at the Walls Health Centre and that whilst she is isolating and working from home, she is available for remote consultations via a computer link or by telephone. She has been providing care throughout the pandemic. Ms Watson indicated that consultations

with healthcare professionals is moving more and more to remote access. On the specific question about the nurse being available to see Walls patients at Bixter on a Friday, Ms Watson stated that it gave Walls patients that option. When questioned about how limited the options were for a face-to-face consultation with the practice nurse, Ms Watson pointed out that the district nurse service was available at any time for home visits if a nurse was required.

B Chittick indicated that there is a bigger picture and that the cross covering between the two health Centres, including the GP, was necessary to ensure best use of the healthcare professionals.

4.4 Question 3 - Nurse Availability for Papa Stour Patients

J Puckey stated that access to the practice nurse for Papa Stour patients was inhibited by the ferry timetable. In order to reduce the amount of time a Papa Stour resident spent on the Mainland it was better for them to see the nurse on a Wednesday rather than a Friday.

Ms Watson noted this point and went on to state that the district nurses would visit the island if required.

4.5 Question 4 - Supply of Prescribed Medication to Papa Stour

J Puckey informed the meeting that since the pharmaceutical arrangements at the Walls Health Centre ceased, there have been problems relating to the delivery of prescriptions to Papa Stour. It concerned the postal service.

Ms Watson stated she would find out if it is possible to streamline the system.

4.6 Question 5 - The Medical Trolley on Papa Stour

J Puckey pointed out that the stock of emergency drugs which had been stored at a secure location on Papa Stour had to be withdrawn for legal reasons. Given that the island did not have a resident nurse, she asked if a way of reinstating a similar set up could be found.

Mr Chittick stated it would be necessary to consult Dr Hallam on this matter.

4.7 Points Raised by Dr Andrew Cooper

Dr Cooper pointed out that there used to be another practice nurse based in Bixter and also that the Walls practice nurse would prefer to spend part of a Friday at each Health Centre. He highlighted the need for time spent in consultation within the primary care team. Currently, the time available for this in Walls is inadequate. His final point was that he hoped that patients would be given the choice between remote and face-to-face consultations.

Ms Watson indicated that it will be necessary to review the current situation and to find ways to improve opportunities for the primary care team to liaise.

4.8 Points Raised by Mrs Susan Cooper

Mrs Cooper stated that a reduction in staffing had effectively reduced primary care availability at both Health Centres. She reiterated the point that the public needs to be aware that their medical data will be shared between the two Health Centres.

4.9 Long Term Strategy

The Chair asked about the long-term strategy in terms of healthcare provision on the Westside, given that the Bixter GP recently retired. Mr Chittick indicated that NHS Shetland were operating a variety of strategies throughout the County. In terms of the provision of GPs to practices, a system called *Rediscover the Joy* was being employed whereby a pool of GPs was being deployed on a short-term basis to vacant practices as an interim measure. This is how the Bixter vacancy is going to be addressed.

Improved mental health care and the deployment of physiotherapy staff to health centres is planned.

An online service called 'Ask my GP' is being used in Lerwick. The way it works is that people leave a message for their GP who then deals with their concern remotely as soon as he or she starts work of a morning. To date, it has had a 90% approval rating. Consideration is being given as to how both primary and hospital care will be provided over the next five to ten years. This will inform the design of the replacement hospital for the GBH.

There being no further questions, the Chair thanked Ms Watson and Mr Chittick for attending the meeting.

(Draft minutes of February 2021 S&WCC meeting subject to approval at next meeting.)

(Ms Watson Mr Chittick, Dr A Cooper and Mrs S Cooper left the meeting.)

5. Police Report

No report was available for this meeting.

6. Minutes from 5.1.21

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of the 5th January 2021 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by J Puckey.

7. Matters Arising

Re: 15.1 of 12/20 Item for Happyhansel Sensory Area

In response to a question from I Sandison, the Clerk stated that money had been set aside for this item and that he was awaiting an invoice from the school.

8. Housing

Re: PLANNING CONSULTATION Ref 2020/194/PPF

The Clerk indicated that an email had been received from the Planning Department stating the proposed electric car charging point at the Walls Health Centre was for public use.

9. Roads

A road safety concern was discussed regarding vehicles failing to give way at the junction where the road from the care centre/ marina joins the main road. It was decided that the issue was not one the Community Council could address.

10. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

The Chair welcomed Mr J MacBeath to speak on this subject. He made the following points:

- The Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement have been distributed to Community Councils.
- Tier 1 grants to the value of £500 will apply to a maximum of 33% of the total fund.
- Tier 2 grants up to the value of £50000 will apply to the remainder.
- The application process for Tier 2 funding is quite onerous.

(Draft minutes of February 2021 S&WCC meeting subject to approval at next meeting.)

- An administrative officer has now been appointed.
- Grants to go live later this month.
- The first years are seen as a learning curve.

The Chair thanked Jamie for his work to date and asked the members if they had any objections to him signing the necessary documentation. This was approved.

Action: The Chair to sign the Community Benefit Fund Documentation of behalf of the Sandness and Walls Community Council.

11. Communities Recovery Fund

R Fraser informed members that the survey had been completed and the data collated. This will help in the task of making an application to the fund. She went on to state that the Foula Electricity Trust would be seeking additional funding through the Voluntary Action Shetland application.

Action: R Fraser to assist Clerk to submit an application for funding from the Communities Recovery Fund.

12. Financial Update

The Clerk provided a verbal financial update and indicated how much money needed to be spent before the end of the financial year.

13. Correspondence (including Emails)

The Clerk referred to the emailed letter that had been received from Mr P Bardell concerning the Papa Stour defibrillator and the progress to date on the work on the Papa Stour Church

14. AOCB

The clerk informed the members that he had been approached by a member of the public requesting dog poo bins. After some discussion during which it was pointed out that the Council would not be responsible for emptying them and that they would not provide any new bins, it was agreed that a poster be placed in the Shop window with a suitable illustration and caption. It was also suggested that the school children be invited to draw up suitable posters when they had returned to class.

(Draft minutes of February 2021 S&WCC meeting subject to approval at next meeting.)

Action: Clerk to liaise with I Sandison to create a suitable poster to place in the Walls Shop window.

15. Date of Next Meeting

This was set for Tuesday 2nd March via Zoom.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.