

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2021 **VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 7.30PM**

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

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

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

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As members of the SIC Planning Board both Cllr C Smith and Cllr R McGregor declared an interest in agenda item 5 – planning applications. It will be moved to the end of the meeting to allow for both of them to more easily attend the rest of the meeting.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 January were approved on the motion of Mrs L Johnston and seconded by Mr C Clark.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTE

1. Dog Fouling

After reports of dog fouling in various areas in Gulberwick, and assistance from Environmental Health it was decided that a campaign might be the way forward. Advice was sought from Sandwick Community Council as to what they did and the clerk, Sally Sanford emailed with the steps they had taken –

So, here's a run down of the Sandwick Antifouling campaign

1. Had meeting with proposed subgroup of me + 2 Community Councillors. They helped generate ideas.
2. Got supplies from amazon & local vets (poo bags & dispensers, spray paint).
3. Took loads of photos within Sandwick - of nice views, local examples of fouling, & clean up (spray painted where it was & bagged evidence).
4. Created 4 weeks posters - posted them on Facebook & local noticeboards each week
5. Distributed poo bag dispensers to 7 local bins (and am still monitoring these & replacing as used up - almost at end of supplies purchased).
6. Got SIC to come down & spray paint signs on roads - and they gave me other posters to put up on bins.
7. Publicity & engagement - social media, in person, local SIC Councillors (Da Flea has been very supportive).

8. When we've had complaints about specifics, I have gone out and cleared up/checked area.

She explained that the majority of the work had fallen to her so the clerk voiced concerns that this may happen in Gulberwick, although hoped that it wouldn't be the case due to the fact that there are more members on the G,Q&C Community Council.

ACTION: It was decided that a Spring Campaign would be a good idea, in April or May. It should be broken down into areas as it is not just Gulberwick which is having issues. Facebook and social media will be used to help.

2. Help Needed in the Community

The clerk had been tasked with contacting the Early Help Team to find out what issues the community was facing which the Community Council may be able to help with. The following replies were received from Sandra Summers and Linsey Hall:

Re; issues that are coming up with families I would say it is as you would expect – financial problems (debt, energy issues), relationship breakdowns, stress and anxiety because of the virus and the pressure of home-schooling. We are still delivering foodparcels through the schools and the need for these doesn't seem to be waning. We are currently phoning all Head Teachers individually to get an idea of issues their families are facing so we may be able to highlight a bit more once we've spoken to them all.

I think again some folk don't have access to right clothing for being outdoors. I've given out a few jackets this week but also we don't have everything in all sizes. Rubber boots in particular, I was going to contact Wendy Hand (at VAS) and see if there's any money available if we can't source second hand.

ACTION: Clerk to keep in contact with the EH Team. If help can be given then the CC will do what it can.

3. Broken Pedestrian Gate at Gulberwick Beach

Photos of the broken gate were taken by both the clerk and Mr Clark. Mr Clark agreed that a heat torch would probably be required and said that it was the fact that two different metals were used – aluminium gate and iron hinge pins – which was the problem. It is hoped that a volunteer who has the tools could be found and the community council would be happy to pay for materials.

ACTION: Clerk to phone around some suggested people.

4. Broken Roundabout in Gulberwick Playpark

The roundabout was checked by SIC staff and found to be working fine. It is suspected that it was just frozen with the cold weather. Staff are to keep an eye on it.

5. Wooden Walkway near Gulberwick Hall

SIC Roads had hoped to complete this by Christmas but Covid and the inclement weather means it has not yet happened. It needs to be made safer as it becomes very slippery in wet or cold weather. Barrie Scobie, Team Leader, SIC Roads Maintenance South and West said that they hoped to start the work next week. The wire mesh to be fixed to the surface has been ordered and the foreman for the area is aware that it is high priority.

ACTION: Keep an eye on the walkway and report to social media when then work has been completed.

2. POLICE REPORT

No report available.

ACTION – Clerk to contact police to ask if they could send it out.

3. FINANCE

The bank statement on February 16th reads £7,689.46

There was only one payment since the last meeting which is outside our usual monthly outgoings: £100 to Mackenzie's Farm Shop and Café for payment for vouchers which we purchased from them using the £500 we received from the RRR Fund through VAS. The clerk is chasing up an invoice from Sound Service Station for the remaining £400.

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

We have spent £8,629.59 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 £1,233.13 (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 Cunningsburgh School Parent Council could be granted more money and there may be a few more applicants coming in but the last meeting members can award money is next month.

VAS have applied to the Response Recovery and Resilience Fund for £3,000 for us to start up the hot meal scheme again. The clerk has also put in a bid to the Shetland Charitable Trust Small Grant Scheme for £5,000 for the same project. If we do not get the money through VAS we may not receive the SCT grant as 20% of a project needs to be funded from elsewhere before they award money.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS

There was only one grant application this month – a road grant from a group of houses who are paying to get tarring done. Members were agreeable to awarding them a small sum towards the cost of the work as they had done so on a previous occasion for a group of houses in Quarff. They believe the requirement for tarring will remove all future requirements for material for the road upkeep, therefore be saving against future costs in the long term. It was decided to delay the decision until next month – the last meeting in which grants can be allocated this financial year – to see what other grants come in too.

ACTION: Clerk to let the applicants know what has been decided. Clerk to place advert in paper inviting grant applications.

5. PLANNING

This item has been moved to the end of the meeting.

6. CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS IN CUNNINGSBURGH AND QUARFF

Cllr McGregor emailed on January 15th:

I raised this matter at the Road Safety Advisory Committee meeting this morning. The position at the moment is that a decision has been made to have a trial based on 'Active Travel' considerations at Tresta and Sound to Gulberwick road. This will give data representing a country and a town area. Officers do not have sufficient personnel resources to carry out further trials so we will have to await results if we are to pursue this particular avenue of approach. The national guidance for implementing a permanent speed limit for both these areas as advised in previous correspondence make this approach also difficult.

I intend to discuss this matter further with Ryan Thomson (Chair of Environment and Transport) and other council members to see what other courses of action might be open to us.

Cllr McGregor said he was disappointed but said they would just have to wait. He doesn't intend to let the matter drop. Members were also disappointed but thanked him for his efforts. They are still keen for the speed limits to be introduced and agreed that the issue should be kept on the agenda.

Cllr McGregor's email also explained his efforts to look at a solution for the Radicle Road in Quarff. Residents 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. Cllr McGregor explained:

I also flagged this up as a safety issue at the Road Safety meeting. You will recall the letter which Neil Hutchison wrote to you regarding the policy of the council not spending money on new assets. This precludes the possibility of upgrading the road with passing places or paths. It was also pointed out to me that this is a Shetland wide issue and it would take huge sums of money to fix the matter in all our islands.

Neil has however undertaken to get the Roads Engineer to have another look at the verges to see if any maintenance work might be possible to improve the situation.

Members again thanked him for his help with the issue.

The last part of his email explained that there is now an otter crossing at the road at Henry's Loch:

I am very pleased to advise that a trial of a system to warn otters of approaching traffic is to be implemented at Henry's loch at the beginning of Quarff. Several residents have raised the issue of otters being killed as they try to cross the road to reach fresh water. Officers at Roads have moved very speedily to order the reflector alarms which are required to make the crossing safe. I am most grateful to Dave Coupe and his staff for the speed at which this matter has been arranged.

ACTION: Cllr McGregor will continue to keep in touch with council officials and will report back when there is any news. The issue is to be kept on the agenda.

7. SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND UPDATE

The SCBF have sent through several documents to read through and to sign to progress the fund to the next stage where groups can start to apply for money. After reading the Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement documents, Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan has advised Community Councils to wait before signing anything – he is seeking advice from his colleagues at Corporate Services on several points and issues within the documents. These range from concerns about the timescale, about how Community Councils will be signing up to making decisions within six weeks (which may not always be possible so extra meetings may have to be called) to issues surrounding Freedom of Information and Data Protection. Mr Duncan said the information has taken longer to come back than he had hoped but he was meeting with them this week and hoped to have some news for everyone soon.

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the March meeting

The chair and clerk were invited to attend an online meeting to ask questions and share concerns but they were unable to attend the dates offered. Eleanor Gear, SCBF administration officer replied to the apology and said that following the meeting, a FAQ document would be circulated.

The next meeting of the SCBF is not until tomorrow night (Wednesday 17th) so Mr Clark will report back after that.

Members still had concerns about how Community Councils are to be as effective as they would like to be now they seem to be less involved in the decision making process but agreed that not every clerk or community council could give equal time and effort.

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

8. PROJECT IDEAS FOR LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Mr Clark said that Mrs Arnett had emailed through details of a good resource which has been helpful. They are working on matrix to help prioritise their core current objectives and the next step will be to score them after they have heard from everyone.

They will add two new project ideas to the list following this meeting - the dog fouling campaign, and changing areas/huts for surfers, swimmers and families at our beaches.

Information emailed through from Transition Turrieffield, regarding funding they have got to help set up and support local growers' groups is also of interest as this is already on the list. Mrs Johnston said she is going to contact Transition Turrieffield about a Cunningsburgh Growers Group and Mr Clark said they would support the group and any others through the Local Place Plan as much as they could. Allotments and Growers Groups are already on the list but the extra information from Turrieffield would be added. Mr Duncan gave more details about the scheme, explaining they had got three years of funding from the Crown Estate to develop resources and training packs and to support groups.

Mr Clark said he had spoken to the SIC about outdoor sports equipment but they had not been keen – the hydraulics don't do well in the Shetland environment so they would not be willing to get involved in the installation and upkeep of it. Members wondered whether more static equipment might be an option.

ACTION: New ideas to be added to project list and Mr Clark to report back any progress at the February meeting. Mrs Johnston to fill out form and contact Transition Turrieffield. Clerk to share details of help available from Transition Turrieffield.

9. OIL TANKERS 'PARKING' OF THE COAST OF THE COMMUNITY

Mr MacPherson had emailed his concerns about the subject of oil tankers using the coastline off the Community Council area as a parking lot for laden vessels. He said it had been going on for more than five years, on a fairly regular basis, with up to four tankers laying off at one time. He had concerns that it was an accident waiting to happen. He has heard voices from the tankers, music blaring out and machinery being operated – all indications how close to shore the tankers can be.

He had said that a simple solution would be for Shetland Islands Council as owners of the port of Sullom Voe, to ban the tankers from future visits to the port if they persist in laying offshore with full cargos. They could be removed from the list of approved vessels to the port.

Cllr G Smith raised the issue with SIC Chief Executive Maggie Sandison prior to the meeting and she emailed a response yesterday:

The tankers which have frequently laid-by off Gulberwick over recent years have been shuttle tankers waiting to go to Foinaven / Glen Lyon to offshore load, particularly the Orange Petroatlantic, Petronordic etc.

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the March meeting

Teekay fleet. They are usually empty, although we believe that from time to time there probably has been part loaded vessels who have had to come off station WoS because of weather before returning to load.

They are not using Sullom Voe so the Council can't use any sanction around access to the Port of Sullom Voe to influence them. Even for the tankers that are using Sullom Voe we can only apply sanctions with proper cause, as no-one is breaking the law at the moment or breaching MCA rules we have to reach an agreement with the industry to achieve a change in practice.

There was significant discussions about the shuttle tankers presence off Gulberwick in 2010. However it was accepted that the Council doesn't have jurisdiction or leverage to do anything about their practice and after conducting a joint exercise with Coastguard / LPA / Council the risks to Shetland were felt to be understood by all parties and manageable. Our focus at the moment has been very much around stopping the new practice, 4 occasions so far, of loaded SVT tankers breaking their departure journey to "park" south of Lerwick

I hope this email explains that the tankers that are regularly visible from Gulberwick are not accessing Sullom Voe so the Council, as port operator, cannot act in the way that Ewen is seeking to stop their presence off shore.

Members thanked Cllr G Smith for his help with the issue and were pleased with the quick response from the Chief Executive, who had explained the situation well. It was agreed that contacting Alistair Carmichael MP for him to raise the issue in parliament should be the next response.

ACTION – Clerk to contact Alistair Carmichael to ask him to raise the issue in parliament.

10. **ASCC MEETING – 9th March 2021**

An Association of Shetland Community Councils meeting is to be held on 9th March 2021 and Michael Duncan has requested that a volunteer from the Community Council attends. Colin Clark volunteered and Mr Duncan noted this.

ACTION: Mr Clark to attend the ASCC meeting and report back to members at the March meeting.

11. **AOCB**

New Outdoor Code Leaflet

Mrs Arnett shared details of a new Outdoor Code leaflet which has been produced.

ACTION: Clerk to share details of the leaflet on social media.

--- Cllr C Smith and Cllr R McGregor left meeting 8.20pm ---

5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were five planning applications this month, four of which members were required to comment on:

[2021/022/PPF](#) – Erect house with garage and air source heat pump, Site 1, Lower Setter, Gulberwick

[2021/004/PPF](#) – Erect house with air source heat pump, Plot, Lower Hillside, Gulberwick

[2021/036/PPF](#) – Proposed placement of static caravan with existing porch extension, north of Nisthouse, Cunningsburgh, Shetland, ZE2 9HF.

Members had no objections or comments to return.

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the March meeting

[2020/276/PPF](#) – Proposed installation of telecommunications equipment including 15m high lattice tower, ancillary equipment, construction of access and laydown area, on land at Rees, Quarff, ZE2 9EY

This application had come up before and neighbours were unhappy with the location of the equipment so members had returned a comment in support of the neighbours. The clerk had been in contact with the neighbours after receiving the new application and they report that the developers had met with them and this was the new location which had been agreed. On that basis, members were pleased to support the application, mindful of the fact that it is to help improve reception in the area for emergency calls.

One other planning application was submitted which required no comment:

[2021/063/PN](#) – Prior notification for farm-related building works (non-residential), Hollanders Shed, Mucklegarth Croft, Gulberwick, Shetland.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 23 March 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.

January 2021 - Overgrown path between Central and North Heathery Park, Gulberwick. Awaiting clarification from Community Justice Team whether they can do the work.

February 2021 – Anti dog-fouling campaign to be done in the spring – April or May. Focus on areas in Gulberwick with other areas added if needed.

February 2021 – Radicle Road – an SIC Roads engineer is to look at the road to see if any maintenance work can be done to the verges to improve the road for all users.