

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 March 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
J Haswell
J Gear
J Laing
L Moncrieff
G Jamieson
Cllr T Smith
Cllr S Coutts

In Attendance: J MacBeath, D. Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

Mr M Duncan, J Puckey, R Fraser, Cllr C Hughson

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. Police Report

No report was available for this meeting.

5. Minutes from 2nd February 2021

With the addition of J Gear to the list of those present for the meeting of 2nd February, the adoption of the minutes was proposed by J Gear and seconded by M Forrest.

6. Matters Arising

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

The Clerk indicated that he had heard from the Acting Headteacher that they were experiencing difficulties in sourcing the soft play equipment but were exploring alternative suppliers. Funding has been set aside for this.

7. Housing

Members were informed that planning consent and a building warrant has been granted for the Hjaltland housing scheme in Walls. It is hoped that site work will commence in early summer subject to the availability of the necessary tradesmen.

8. Roads

8.1 Frost Damage to Roads in Walls Area

M Forrest reported damage to the road surface on the Stennestwatt Road and on the A971 adjacent to Da Punds.

Action: The Clerk was asked to contact the Roads Department to inform them of this matter.

8.2 Dale of Walls Beach Track

The Chair stated he had visited this area recently and that piles of gravel had been left along the side of the track to fill in potholes. He requested that Ms Julie Halcrow be contacted to ask if those carrying out community service orders could be called on to do the work.

Action: The Clerk to email Ms Halcrow to request Community Service personnel to fill in the potholes on the Dale of Walls Beach Track.

9. Matters Relating to Walls Health Centre

9.1 Mr B Chittick's Email of 25.2.21

Members discussed the information provided by Mr Chittick in his email of 25th February which was in response to questions that had been raised at the February meeting. After some discussion it was accepted that the database merger connecting the Health Centres at Walls and Bixter did not require either the consent of the patients or a requirement on the part of NHS Shetland to inform them. Members did feel that it would have been courtesy to have let those registered with both practices know that their medical records were being shared.

9.2 The Walls Practice Nurse Base on Fridays

The fact that the Walls Practice Nurse has time allocated at the Bixter Health Centre to see Walls patients was raised. The reasons for this, as provided by Miss E M Watson, were not considered satisfactory by members. It was decided to pursue this matter.

Actions: 1. Clerk to email Miss Watson to request that the time allocated for the Walls Practice Nurse to see Walls patients on Friday mornings be made available at the Walls Health Centre.

2. Mr Chittick and Miss Watson to be invited to attend a future meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council.

10. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

10.1 Re-election of Mr J MacBeath to the SCBF Board

The Chair thanked Mr MacBeath for agreeing to continue as the Sandness and Walls Community Council's representative on the Shetland Community Benefit Fund Board.

10.2 SCBF Documents

J MacBeath indicated that the documents that Community Council Chairs had been advised not to sign until legal advice had been sought have now been amended and the amended versions will be circulated very soon. Members were asked to contact the SCBF if they have any concerns regarding the revised documents.

10.3 SCBF Progress Update

J MacBeath reported that considerable interest had been shown in the fund and that several high value grant applications have been received.

11. Communities Recovery Fund

It was acknowledged that a grant of £14,708 has been awarded to the Sandness and Walls Community Council from the Communities Recovery Fund. The Clerk is in the process of completing the necessary documentation but indicated that the signature on one of the forms needed to be witnessed.

Action: J Haswell to witness the signature.

12. Financial Update

12.1 Update

The Clerk provided an update on the Community Council's current financial status. It was decided to award grants totalling £1000 prior to the end of the financial year.

12.2 Dog Waste Bins

Discussion followed concerning the possibility of acquiring dog waste bins, but this was rejected on the grounds that it could become the Community Council's responsibility to empty them regularly. Instead, it was decided to request additional signs and to encourage members of the public to contact Environmental Health with their concerns.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Environmental Health Department to request additional signs regarding dog fouling.

12.3 Allocation of Funds

After some discussion, it was agreed to allocate the £1000 as follows:

Westside Sharks – towards cost of a future trip to Orkney - £400

1st Walls Brownies – for ongoing expenses - £300

Gruting Community Centre – for ongoing expenses - £300

Action: The Clerk to distribute these funds.

13. Correspondence (including emails)

All correspondence has been circulated via email.

14. AOCB

14.1 Re: 8 of 12/20 Roads

I Sandison indicated that it had been some time since she had been informed by Mr Magnus Malcolmson that the issue of parking at the Walls Play Area would be looked at. She asked for an update on the matter.

Action: The Clerk to email Mr Malcolmson to request an update on progress relating to this matter.

14.2 Replacement plaque for bench in Walls Play Area

I Sandison indicated that she had been informed some time ago that a plaque to replace the one that had been on the bench in the Walls Play Area would be in Shetland in the near future. She asked for an update on this matter.

Action: Clerk to email Mr Malcolmson to request an update on the replacement plaque.

14.3 Attendees at Association of Shetland Community Councils March Meeting

The Chair informed members that he would be attending the March meeting of the ASCC in his capacity as Vice Chair and that I Sandison would attend as the representative for the Sandness and Walls Community Council.

15. Date of Next Meeting

This was set for Tuesday 6th April via Zoom.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Draft minutes of S&WCC March meeting, subject to approval at next meeting