



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Video Conference meeting held on Wednesday 17th February 2021 at 7.00pm

1.0 Present: Andrew Archer - chair
Linda Tulloch
Dilys Evans
Angela Sutherland
Neil Leask
Karl Mills - clerk

Catherine Hughson
Moraig Lyall
Ian Scott
Davie Sandison
Michael Duncan

1.1 By invitation: Jamie Watt, Gerry Hamill, Ryan MacLean, Andrew Smith

2.0 Apologies: Roselyn Fraser
Steven Coutts

Theo Smith

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Linda Tulloch declared an interest in item 11 – Viking Energy.

Moraig Lyall declared an interest in item 14 – planning.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Linda Tulloch and seconded by Neil Leask the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

1. The Community Council sent a letter to Maggie Sandison, Chief Executive SIC requesting an explanation of why Viking wind farm construction was allowed to start before the Decommissioning Bond had been agreed and approved. No reply had been received by the date of this meeting, so the community council will ask Steven Coutts to request a reply.
2. The community council requested data from SSE regarding the strength of electrical and magnetic fields in the vicinity of the high-voltage cable. No data has been presented yet, but Sharon Powell (SSEN) has agreed to chase this for us.
3. The community council has also requested information regarding the width of the 'dead zone' on either side of the cable, in which any future building or development work would not be permitted.
4. An item has been added to the agenda of the next Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) meeting to ask whether the other community councils feel it would be worth asking somebody from SIC to give an update to the ASCC on the future financing of roads projects.
5. A presentation on the Orion Project will be arranged for a future meeting.

6.0 Decisions taken since the last meeting

Three decisions were made by e-mail vote since the last meeting:

1. Decision 018 – to donate £750 to the local Macmillan Nurses.
2. Decision 019 – to send a letter to John Holden, SIC Planning, objecting to SSE's request to extend their working hours.
3. Decision 020 – to send a letter to SCBF, concerning the poor manner in which community councils have been treated in regard to the M.o.U.

7.0 Police Report

There was no Police Report submitted this month.

8.0 Finance

The latest Finance Report, dated 9th February 2021, was circulated to community councillors prior to the meeting.

It was decided to defer a decision on the two current grant applications - Whiteness School Wendy house and Tingwall Hall windows, pending another application anticipated from Tingwall Primary School for the setting up of a Sensory Room. These grant applications will be considered at our March meeting.

9.0 Correspondence

The Community Council received an e-mail from Diane Tait regarding essential workers off-island travel, specifically expressing her dismay at the regular movement of SSE contractors between Shetland and the UK mainland. Andrew Archer had a telephone conversation with her to explain that the community council had already done all that it reasonably could to influence SSE's policy on the movement and control of its contractors, and that, realistically, nothing more was likely to be achieved.

10.0 COVID activities

Following some discussion, it was agreed that Whiteness Hall would receive the balance of our remaining CRF fund (£2,369.39) towards the cost of a new dishwasher.

11.0 Viking Energy

Representatives from SSE and RJ McLeod had asked to attend the meeting following TWWCC's objection to the proposed concrete batching plant at Kergord. SSE stated that they hoped to allay the community council's concerns so that it would withdraw its objection. SSE explained that the concrete batching plants had originally been planned to be located next to the work compounds and that this had been approved in the government consent. Now that the contractor, RJ McLeod was on board, they believed that they could achieve greater operational efficiency, shorter on-site transport movements, shorter road transport routes, less noise and use of smaller vehicles if the western batching plant was located at Kergord rather than the Scord of Sound. It was also stated that, as the mixing would be carried out with materials in a 'wet' condition, dust pollution was not expected to be an issue. On matters of ground and water pollution it was stated that measures were in place for their prevention. Members asked lots of questions about how the concrete would be transported, how the turbine foundations would be poured (e.g. would all the concrete come from one batching plant) and how spills would be handled.

Community council members took the opportunity to ask SSE about their application to be allowed to work 7 days a week. The reasons given for this proposal were: reduced employee fatigue, reduced employee travel, better operational consistency, use of cheaper charter flights for travel and quicker completion of project.

Questions from community councillors resulted in the statements given above being re-iterated in various forms and it seemed apparent that a desire for greater efficiency was the primary motivation.

The visitors left the meeting, and there followed a discussion by the community council on what steps to take next. The following proposals were agreed upon:

1. TWWCC's objection to the batching plants at Kergord will be maintained.
2. Letters will be written to John Holden, Neil Grant and Environmental Health Department - SIC, stating our objection to SSE's planning application to extend working hours to include Sunday working of 'nuisance-making' activities. A note will also be sent to all the councillors asking them to bring whatever influence they can to reject the application.

12.0 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Angela Sutherland gave an update on the fund:

SCBF had circulated various documents to community councils about a week prior to the launch of their grant scheme, allowing very little time for review and feedback. This included the Memorandum of Understanding (M.o.U.), which is the main document defining how the SCBF and community councils are expected to work together. The community council's feedback indicated that it considered its wording to be rather terse and in places to take on the form of an ultimatum. Angela explained that some community councils have not engaged actively with SCBF and that the intention of the wording was to ensure that all communities would receive the support of the fund, even if this support had to come directly from SCBF rather than via their community council.

Angela said that the SCBF would shortly be issuing a document of 'Frequently-Asked Questions' to help potential applicants have a clearer understanding of the operation of the fund, and GDPR training would soon be available for Chairs and Clerks of community councils.

Regarding SCBF meetings, Angela said that the AGM would be held in May and some Directors would need to be re-elected as one third of them are up for re-election each year. She also advised that the minutes of SCBF meetings can be accessed via their website.

SCBF is now preparing a new M.o.U. document to be used when the main core fund is in operation.

13.0 Roads

There were no new roads issues to discuss this month.

14.0 Planning

The following planning applications were discussed:

- 2020-278-PPF - installation of telecommunications equipment including 17.5m high lattice tower, ancillary equipment, construction of access area.
- 2021-040-PPF - construction of two extensions and internal alterations to existing dwelling house at Hylendal, Veensgarth.
- 2021-013-PPF - extension to existing workshop to create new storage annex at Ballister, Gott.
- 2021-024-PPF - erect dwelling-house with associated services, septic tank, air source heat pump, detached garage and access track, north of Hjoglen, Whiteness.

The clerk will send responses of 'No comment' to SIC Planning in respect of each of these four applications.

15.0 Councillors' Reports

Catherine Hughson reported there were some planning issues to be resolved, but that the two main issues at present were the deteriorating condition of roads throughout Shetland and the budget which is due in March. The other councillors all agreed that the roads and the budget were the major issues at the present time.

16.0 AOCB

The 'Grow Shetland' campaign was discussed, and it was decided that TWWCC would try to support it by posting some information on Facebook.

Linda Tulloch reported that the opportunities for young people to accrue volunteering hours was very limited at the moment and suggested that the community council could become a registered body for the Saltire Awards Scheme. This would allow young people to do Redd Up type activities through the CC and accrue hours for their awards. Members agreed that it would be a good scheme to try to support. Linda Tulloch indicated that she was happy to get involved with this and make an initial contact.

Permission has been granted for a new campsite at Asta, but it was decided that it would not be appropriate for TWWCC to support this venture financially as it is not located within our area of responsibility.

17.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17th March 2021