

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a WebEx meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held on Monday 8 February 2021 at 7.30pm. 0800 051 3810 128 782 5247

Present: J Priest Ms D Nicolson
G Morrison J D Garrick
Mrs S Deyell M Bennett
Mrs J Fraser A Johnston
Ex officio: Cllr C Hughson Cllr T Smith
Cllr S Coutts
In attendance: Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker.
Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a roll call so that everyone knew who was there no matter in which order they signed in.
All members and SIC Councillors were present so there were no apologies.

MINUTES & HEADLINES: The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mr G Morrison, seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Coronavirus:** The members are pleased that the roll out of the vaccines is progressing well.

Marine Litter: Nothing to report on this matter.

Broadband: The Chairman had attended the Reaching 100% (R100) event which was held to discuss the Scottish Government's R100 rollout programme in Shetland. He said that he had been quite disappointed as he had found that there was not much information available. He had expected to hear much more detail and had asked whether the provision in the Reawick/Skeld area would benefit from the fibre optic cable which has been provided near to the Reawick exchange but had not received confirmation. He felt that the representative from BT had not been very well briefed. The people in this area are having ongoing issues with their broadband which, at times, can be ridiculously slow.

Mrs J Fraser said that, in order to do home working and home schooling, her family are having to work to a strict timetable which is adding pressure to them all in an already stressful time.

The Chairman urged everyone who is experiencing this problem to complain to Openreach.

Mr A Johnston asked what strength of signal they were receiving.

The Chairman informed him that it is very variable and can be from 6mb to under 1mb and that does not even support a speed test.

Mr A Johnston explained that the speed can be affected by electrical items in the vicinity.

Mrs J Fraser said the the speed had improved during July and August but since the run up to Christmas, it has become very inconsistent.

Mobile phone coverage: Unsure whether the Culswick mast is live yet.

The Chairman had been informed that the Reawick mast is connected by fibre optic cable but that the Culswick one and the other EE masts are connected by radio link giving a poorer signal.

Cllr C Hughson agreed to contact Ms B Wishart, MSP for clarification on this subject.

Road Matters: **Road past Garderhouse:** No further correspondence.

Mr G Morrison expressed concern about the state of this stretch of road as it is noticeably worse since the frosty weather arrived. He has to travel over it a few times per day as he provides the school service and also the feeder service to Bixter.

The Chairman agreed and said he felt that the southmost part is the worst.

The Roads Dept will be informed and asked when work is scheduled for this stretch of road.

Roads Reports: The Roads Reports have been received each week and circulated to the members. However, at present they are not carrying out any substantial works. Due to the increase in Covid cases, they are working in small gritting bubbles comprising of the driver and second man. Other works include general maintenance works and they will be filling grit bins and replacing salt piles. They will still carry out emergency works where and when required if safe to do so.

Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction: Nothing further to report.

Sign on Parkhall/Skeld road: Signs not yet provided.

Viking Energy Wind Farm: The Joint Liaison Group meeting had been held on 19 January. A copy of the draft minutes had been received and circulated to the members. Approximately 50 questions had been received from members of the public and had been put to the meeting. Answers to 9 were included in the minutes and the remainder will be answered separately this month. The members were pleased to see that robust checks are to be put in place by the developers to restrict the chances of the virus being spread by the men working on this project.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): The SCBF Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) is set to be oened from 14 February and will last until the construction of the Wind Farm has been completed.. An Administrative Officer has been appointed who will handle all the applications for funding. She will check that they meet the stated criteria for support and will then send a list of them to the Community Council for a decision on whether to support them. A Data Sharing Agreement and a Memorandum of Understnding between Shetland Community Benefit Fund and Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council were received and the members agreed that this should be signed by the Chairman. Up to one third of the £50,000 annual grant can be used for applications up to £500 and the remaining two thirds will be put towards larger grants. Up to 5% of an annual allocation can be used by the Community Council to promote the scheme. If all funds are not distributed within each year of the fund, the balance of funds can be carried forward to support projects the following year. The Community Council may also request SCBF to advance funds from the following year's allocation and this can be added to the current year's allocation.

Mr J D Garrick said that the bigger grants will be carefully looked at.

The Chairman and Clerk have been invited to attend a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 10 February to discuss any queries they may have relating to the Advance Grant Scheme.

They hope to take part.

Update on grants: **Investing in Communities Fund:** Still on hold.

Mrs R Fraser informed the members that Whalsay Community Council are trying to hold their Participatory Budgeting event on line. The members will be pleased to hear how it works and hope that our 'Investing in Communities' event may also be done on line. Mrs R Fraser will keep us informed.

Community Development Fund – Distribution: 6 applications were received following our contact with the voluntary groups. The finance will be distributed as follows:-

Aith Hall	£800.00
Reawick & District Boating Club for toilets	£250.00

Walls Brownies (incl S&A)	£440.00
Aith J H School Parent Council	£1040.00
Skeld Hall	£ 400.00
Aith Church	<u>£70.00</u>
	£3000.00

Community Development Fund – Project: Details of any project will need to be available for early March for the first round of applications for the 2021/22 financial year.

Community Recovery Fund: Mrs S Deyell has been liaising with Ms W Hand at Voluntary Action Shetland regarding this fund. Ms W Hand has applied to this fund on behalf of some Community Councils. Mrs S Deyell and Ms W Hand will keep us informed.

Financial Spreadsheet: The up-to-date spreadsheet was circulated to the members.

Bin at Burn of Lunklet: Bigger bin not yet provided. Cllr C Hughson agreed to enquire when it will be provided.

Funding: Various information received from Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

Association: The next meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils will be held on 9th March. Ms D Nicolson and Mr J D Garrick agreed to represent this Community Council.

The problem with walkers will be an item on the agenda.

Copy of a letter which the ASCC Chairman had sent to Mr Matheson MSP/Mr Wheelhouse MSP regarding Inter-Island Transport Provision – Shetland was received. The members were surprised as they did not know that it had been agreed that the Chairman had been asked to send a letter regarding this item.

Clousta and Culswick phone boxes: No further details of how these items are progressing.

A Skeld resident has expressed an interest in the Skeld phone box. The Clerk had sent her the number of Mr John Holden's direct line at the Planning Dept and suggested that she should contact him to discuss this.

Data Protection: A receipt, along with the Data Protection Certificate, was received.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: The following planning applications were considered and approved:-

2021/011/PPF – Erect dwellinghouse with attached garage, Plot, Scarvister, Westerskeld by Mr John Couper.

2021/004/MAR –To develop a new mussel farm comprising of 2 x 245m twin-headline longlines, Northra Voe Swarbacks by Mr Richard Tait.

MAINTENANCE GRANTS: The following maintenance grants were agreed:-

Bixter, Skeld and Aith Halls - £600.00 each

Aith and Skeld Pier Trusts - £300 each

Tresta Boating & Fishing Club - £300.00

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK: An email was received from Mr M Duncan attaching an update re National Planning Framework 4. It asks for comments on the current thinking and comments should be sent through the Government's consultation hub by 19 February.

ISLAND EQUIVALENT PAYMENT: Message received from Mr M Duncan with an update on the Island Equivalent Payment details.

NATIONAL CLINICAL STRATEGY: A further email was received from Mr M Duncan with a message from Ms June Porter, Team Leader – Community Development, in connection with the NHS Shetland Clinical Strategy – engagement. NHS Shetland are currently refreshing the Clinical Strategy for Shetland and are keen to find out about the community's experience of using their health and wellbeing services, identify areas for improvement and to help keep the vision a people centred one. She attached a tool designed to capture

experiences of health, care and wellbeing in Shetland. Completed forms should be saved on the computer and emailed to:- insights@dhi-scotland.com.

NEXT MEETING: The next WebEx meeting will be held on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm