

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A REMOTE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2021 AT 7PM

PRESENT

Murray Cooper
Mike Fogarty, Vice Chair
Julie Maguire
James Rendall, Chair
Tom Thomason

IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Allen, Co-opted Additional Member
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Roy Buckland, Co-opted Additional Member
Brian Chittick, NHS Shetland
Ivor Jarmson, SIC
Drew Mayhew, Scottish Ambulance Service
Carl Symons, SIC Environment & Estate Operations
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk
Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor
Edna Mary Watson, NHS Shetland

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from - Duncan Anderson, Michael Duncan, PC Angela Manson, Alec Priest and James Smythe.

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 15th December 2020 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mike Fogarty had declared an interest ahead of the Meeting in relation to Agenda Item 4.1 Nursing Models/Recruitment and did not join the Meeting until discussions had concluded.

Agenda Items 4.1 Nursing models/recruitment, 4.1 Community Maintenance Post and 5.2 Additional Co-opted Members were discussed first on the Agenda.

Drew Mayhew joined the Meeting at 7.30pm with Tom Allen, Carl Symons and Ivor Jarmson joining at 8.30pm following discussions on Nursing Models/Recruitment.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

Nursing Models/Recruitment

Ms Edna Mary Watson, Chief Community Nurse, NHS Shetland had been contacted in October regarding nursing provision following the nurse resigning from her post. A circular had then been sent to every household on the island asking for comments, views and feedback on nursing and recruitment, with responses collated and forwarded onto the NHS ahead of the November Meeting. The responses were unanimous in that there should be a full time resident nurse.

The November Meeting had discussed in detail the potential future service models and planned care with issues and challenges discussed in detail and Members had agreed that the option of a rotational resident model of nursing provision, whilst not ideal and very different to the service provided historically, could help alleviate some of the issues which have arisen in the past, with due consideration given to how this model can be rolled out effectively going forward, whilst bearing in mind all of the issues and challenges discussed.

Ms Watson had provided a further update and circular for residents in early December on what the NHS had been doing and the next steps and had advised that to progress objectively for all areas, she felt that when models had been drafted, they would be sent out to each of the island groups with further discussions organised to establish what might be the best fit for each area and to consider any other suggestions.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

Nursing Models/Recruitment

Copies of the Draft Non Doctor Island Nursing Options Appraisal had been circulated ahead of the January Meeting. The NHS had also asked if the discussion surrounding nursing could be discussed initially with FCC, so that options could be discussed and any further amendments considered which could possibly make a better fit in reaching a more definitive nursing model, before giving residents the opportunity to comment further and feedback on proposals.

Ms Watson outlined the 4 nursing model options in detail alongside the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within each model whilst noting that the previous nursing service on Fetlar which had a resident nurse with 24/7 on call commitment is no longer compliant with the Working Time Directive/Regulations with a need now to create working conditions and patterns that provide a legally compliant work/life balance for post holders

With the need for 24/7, 365 days resident cover previously agreed by the community, Members felt that the rotational model which would provide resident nursing cover working 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off (based on NHS Orkney's Advanced Nurse Practitioner outer island service) could best meet the needs of the island. Members agreed it would therefore be useful to circulate the nursing models onto the community for further comment and a remote Public Meeting is to be held on the 2nd March to discuss this further.

Ms Watson had also forwarded "Show you Care – Prepare", which is part of the Winter Campaign run by NHS24. The flyer provided details of medicines which people might have in their home cupboard which the Clerk confirmed had been circulated to all households.

Action – Ms Watson to forward on the Nursing Options Appraisals, Clerk to circulate to every household on the island with comments and feedback forwarded onto the NHS ahead of the Public Meeting.

Community Maintenance Post

At the September Meeting it had been agreed to contact Carl Symons, SIC Environment & Estate Operations to enquire if it could be possible for the Community Maintenance Person (CMP) to keep an eye on the state of the roads on the island as part of their duties. Some cross drains that need to be cleared and ditching had been previously highlighted and it was felt it would be useful to have someone look at these locally especially following periods of heavy rain and then report back to the Roads squad.

Mr Symons had previously advised that there was capacity for additional work to be undertaken by the CMP to meet the needs of the community. Ivor Jarmson, SIC had also been discussing statutory duties that could be undertaken at the school, such as:

- Legionella checks
- Fire alarms
- Emergency lighting (function test)
- Guttering
- Windows and doors
- School ground works to include grass and play areas
- Seasonal cemetery grass cutting – with any additional items added and scheduled as necessary

Members had identified other duties which could be undertaken such as carrying out minor repairs and maintenance at the Stakkafletts houses and general grounds maintenance around the housing estate such as removal of weeds from pathways, kerbs and paving slabs and for example, if a door handle needs replaced or other minor repairs reported to Housing, it would be useful if the CMP could undertake these repairs.

Ivor Jarmson advised that the CMP is currently working in the region of around 25hrs per month undertaking refuse collection duties. Carl Symons reiterated that this could be increased as the job evolves and is keen to explore additional tasks and services which could be undertaken by the CMP

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

Community Maintenance Post

whilst allowing for flexibility within the role with a range of tasks being seasonal, ie, annualised hours whereby working time is reduced in the winter. It was agreed to ask the CMP what duties they felt they could undertake which can then be discussed in more detail at the next Meeting alongside the above suggestions which can then be prioritised into what the community values the most. With regard to the minor repairs and maintenance tasks at the Stakkafletts, Mr Symons agreed to discuss this further with Housing and report back at the next Meeting.

Discussion on checks to the mast were also raised although concern was expressed surrounding health and safety aspects which would need to be explored further with adequate training in place before any work of this nature is undertaken.

It was also suggested that a work phone for the CMP would be useful for taking photos of any roads issues and Mr Symon agreed to look into this further.

Action – Mr Rendall to ask the CMP and Clerk to then circulate a task list of duties ahead of the next Meeting when this is received.

Waste Collection

Following a query regarding waste collection on the island, Brydon Sinclair, SIC Environmental Services had provided a calendar specific to Fetlar which the Clerk confirmed had been circulated to the email list.

Ferry/Ambulance Integration

Earlier in December, FCC had been made aware that the ambulance had called the ferry to delay the vessel leaving from Ulsta to Toft, which unfortunately had not happened resulting in the patient having to spend nearly an hour at Ulsta, with the ambulance crew then having to put the patient on a drip because of their condition.

As no previous issues had been experienced with either of the ferry crews on Yell or Bluemull Sound or with the ambulance previously, Members agreed that SIC, Ferries should be contacted in the first instance to establish what potentially went wrong with the initial communications. Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries had advised that the Acting Route Master had confirmed that no call was received by the Yell Sound crew to alert them of this emergency and they were therefore unaware of the situation. Further, that there are procedures that are followed by all ferry crews in the event of an emergency callout, however, on this occasion it would seem that the initial communications from the Shetland Coastguard to the ferry did not happen which resulted in the delay with the patient transfer.

Drew Mayhew, Scottish Ambulance Service had advised in late January that the patient had been a walking patient who walked onto the Fetlar ferry with an Emergency Responder Escort as the Fetlar ambulance was having issues starting. The patient was then met at Gutcher by the Yell responders and taken to Toft. The call was put in by the Yell GP as an urgent call not an emergency; therefore there is no requirement for ferries to be held for the ambulance. This had no bearing on the patient according to the crews patient report form, and at no point was the patient put on a drip during the transfer, the patient walked from the Yell Responder vehicle at Toft into one of the Lerwick vehicles.

Members agreed the Yell Health Centre should be contacted regarding patient transfers and asked that if it is an urgent call for the GP to contact the ferry crew to wait as ferry crews on both Yell and Bluemull Sound have been more than willing to wait when a patient is being transferred off the isle whether it be an emergency or urgent call.

Action – Clerk to contact Yell Health Centre and request that the above be actioned in the future to avoid a situation like this happening again.

Fetlar Ferry Succession Planning

Kevin Main, SIC Ferries had discussed ferry succession planning with Members at the September Meeting (4.1/09/20 refers). In the short term, Mr Main had explained that existing staff on both Yell and

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

Fetlar Ferry Succession Planning

Bluemull Sound are to be used as a stop gap and when the skipper retires, essentially there would then be a post to be filled and an opportunity for staff to act up, with a replacement then only coming into post following the usual recruitment process. Mr Main had also reiterated that it was worth acknowledging that there could therefore be a couple of months of sporadic crewing from Yell or Bluemull Sound, whilst at the same time considering and planning ahead to meet the longer term goals of filling a permanent post, ie, short term disruption with medium to longer term gains and benefits.

Mr Main had also been keen to look at a wider package and in encompassing the community element which ties in with the IWSP priorities, notably with the ferry being a lifeline service, which provides employment, attractive salaries and career graded posts with training and support to staff to progress through. With material gains and investment also needing consideration in the longer term for apprenticeships and such like, all of which require resources and time, which are deliverable, but requires deliberation and approval by the SIC in the first instance.

With the job now advertised, Members agreed this Agenda item could be deferred for the time being.

Strategic Delivery Group – Remote Meeting – 17th December 2020

Emma Perring, Project Leader, IWSP had advised that they had set up a Strategic Delivery Group to oversee progress on the project and that Steven Coutts as leader of the Council was also very keen on taking this forward and being involved. The terms of reference for the group had been included in the correspondence which included details of Membership, Directors of Service from public agencies alongside 2 representatives from each island.

Ms Perring had explained that the role of the island representatives would be to feedback progress from their perspective and equally to feedback information to the community. The group is to meet 4 times per annum with the first Meeting held in December. Murray Cooper and Juliet Bellis had both agreed to join in the Strategic Delivery Group Meetings and the Clerk confirmed that the Minutes had been distributed to the email list.

Councillor Thomson noted that with priorities identified and approved within the IWSP Locality Plan, there is a need to look at ways at addressing the issues and find tangible outcomes.

Fetlar Priorities

The approved priorities for Fetlar included in the IWSP Locality Plan, with the following 8 actions in order of priority as follows:

- Ferry Succession Planning
- Resolve outstanding NHS Actions
- Attract new residents
- Explore commuter ticket on the ferry
- Community Growing Project
- Understand potential of Local Lettings Policy
- Tourism - links with other Isles and “North Isles Golden Triangle”
- Decentralise office based posts

4.2 Energy Isles Statkraft

A Meeting had taken place in 2019 with the 5 development groups in the North Isles which had agreed that Unst Partnership would be the community body who would proceed with a bid for the Enablement Grant for a study into Shared Ownership in the Energy Isles Statkraft (EIS) project at that time. The full planning application had been submitted by EIS, which if successful, should see the project delivered by 2026.

Mr Cooper had joined in the remote Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting held on the 26th January which had discussed planning and timing alongside a wider discussion on the Community Benefit Fund with the Shetland Community Benefit Fund.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.3 Broadband Update and Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme (4.4/11/20)

Marvin Smith, Shetland Telecom had been invited to join the November Meeting for an update on broadband and to provide further information on the Scottish Governments Voucher Scheme (SBVS). The SBVS will provide grants to broadband customers in both residential and business premises, offering support to customers to ensure they can access superfast broadband of at least 30 Megabits per second (Mbps). The scheme was launched in September 2020 and anyone whose home or business broadband speed is less than 30 Mbps and where there are no plans to bring superfast broadband to their address by the end of 2021, will be eligible for a voucher.

The SBVS will feature two distinct levels of subsidy and vouchers, which can be used to cover the cost of installation associated with securing a service across a range of superfast-capable technologies, including fibre, fixed wireless, mobile broadband and satellite. The online checker to ascertain eligibility for SBVS will provide information on the premises within the scope of signed R100 contracts and planned commercial roll-outs.

Mr Smith had explained that British Telecom would be issuing a list of where they intend to roll out superfast broadband to premises hopefully in February 2021 and once the outcome of that had been made clear, if Fetlar had not been included in the list then a collective approach for the SBVS could then be considered further.

Mr Smith had also noted that the North Isles project currently being developed by the SIC would provide infrastructure and fibre connection points for other networks, which in turn would allow more residents to access faster broadband. The network route would extend the SIC's existing network from Graven to Mossbank/Toft and onwards to Yell and Unst. The eventual route would then connect to all public buildings and major settlements in Yell and Unst with Gigabit capable fibre optic connections, which will then allow a microwave link, bigger back haul and technical solutions to improve the council's existing broadband links to Fetlar.

Mr Smith felt that the main issues with the SBVS would not be in accessing plant; it would be in establishing the microwave links coming into the island if it should be the case that BT does not intend to provide fibre on the island. An organisation such as Shetland Broadband for example, could be in a position to assist with a collective approach and Mr Smith offered to provide a further update when BT's intentions have been made clear.

4.4 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (4.5/11/20)

Shetland Community Benefit Fund had provided an update in December to changes SCBF had agreed on the Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) as follows:

- Two tiers of funding instead of three tiers - Tier One up to £500 and Tier Two over £500
- Tier One applications will go directly to CC's who will inform SCBF if the project is supported
- Tier 2 applications will go to SCBF and will be dealt with 'in-house' - project details will then be sent to CC's for a decision on whether to support

It is hoped the AGS will be open to applications in February and guidelines are to be circulated to CC's beforehand and guidance published on their website. SCBF will ask CC's to accept an agreement with SCBF on running the scheme.

The important points regarding the AGS are:

- An annual allocation of £50,000 for Nesting and Lunnasting; Tingwall Whiteness and Weisdale; Delting; Sandsting and Aithsting
- An annual allocation of £10,000 for each of the other 14 community councils
- Up to 5% of the allocation can be used for promoting the scheme or organising events
- Up to a maximum of a third can be for Tier One projects
- A rolling programme of applications - although a CC can ring-fence part of its allocation for later in the year, for example for a planned participatory event or if it's known a large project is expected

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.4 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (4.5/11/20)

- A rolling four-year funding programme starting from 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021
- AGS will run for four years or until the Viking windfarm becomes operational
- Any funds not used by a CC will be carried over to the following year
- CC's can request that funds are held back for another year, if intended for a particular project, or they can drawdown future allocations early to finance a project
- 'Virtual' or typed signatures on forms will be acceptable during the current health emergency

4.5 Roads (6.3/12/20)

John Duncan, SIC Roads had advised that the North Isles Squad had been in and patched what they could with tar tubs on the Houbie to Tresta road and cut a few offlets to help with the drainage, with more patching intended in the spring of the year as well as some ditching on the section. Owing to Covid restrictions, SIC Roads are not currently carrying out any large jobs with having to work in small bubbles of two.

Members therefore agreed this item could now be taken off the Agenda.

5. FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Financial update, core funding and administration

The Clerk summarised FCC's current restricted funds as circulated via e-mail in between Meetings - FCC's Core Running budget and Community Development Fund was also discussed in detail.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Voluntary Action Shetland – Independent Examination of Accounts to 31st March 20 - £70.00 (fps)

Bridgette Thomason – Clerk's salary – December & January - £540.40 (fps)

Bridgette Thomason – Telephone and internet allowance – October, November, December - £30.00 (fps)

5.2 Additional Co-opted Members

Following enquiries from residents wishing to be Members of FCC, Anne Cogle, SIC Governance & Law had advised that the SIC are hoping to hold By-Elections later in 2021. Mrs Cogle had confirmed that in the meantime, FCC can co-opt Additional Members and although they won't have voting rights, can participate fully at Meetings.

Members formally co-opted Tom Allen, Roy Buckland and James Smythe as Additional Co-opted Members of FCC and Mr Rendall as Chair duly signed the Additional Co-opted Member Appointment declarations for each.

Action – Clerk to forward on the forms to the Returning Officer, SIC.

5.3 ASCC Meeting – 9th March

The ASCC had requested Agenda items for the forthcoming Meeting on the 9th March and working papers are to be circulated ahead of the Meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Covid Vaccinations

FCC had received concerns from within the community regarding COVID vaccinations and the Yell Health Centre had been contacted to see if the whole of the island can be vaccinated, with the information then circulated locally to keep folk up to date and help alleviate concerns and provide reassurance to those feeling particularly vulnerable at the moment. Yell Health Centre had advised that they had passed this onto the Covid Co-ordinator who is to contact FCC shortly to discuss arrangements for Fetlar residents.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Community Development – various updates and guidance on funding, third sector support/service delivery

7.2 NHS Shetland – Clinical Strategy Engagement

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.3 Planning Applications:
2020/287/PPF

Funzie - installation of a donation box which will reach a height of 1000mm above the ground and will be 101.6mm square

All other correspondence had been circulated in between Meetings.

8. MEETING DATES

Date of next Meeting

- Public Meeting Tuesday, 2nd March at 7pm

6 weekly 2021 Meeting dates

- Tuesday, 20th April at 7pm
- Tuesday, 1st June at 7pm
- Tuesday, 13th July at 7pm
- Tuesday, 24th August at 7pm
- Tuesday, 5th October at 7pm
- Tuesday, 16th November at 7pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for joining in the Meeting and since there was no further business the Meeting was brought to a close.