

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7pm via WebEx. This minute is a draft until approved at the next meeting.

PRESENT:

Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair

Cllr John Dally (JD) – Vice Chair

Cllr William Polson (WP)

Cllr Anne Huntley (AH)

Cllr Pete Gaines (PG)

Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)

Duncan Anderson – North Isles Councillor (DA)

APOLOGIES RECEIVED:

Michael Duncan – External Funding Officer
& Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)

Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement &
Development Officer (RF)

Ryan Thomson – North Isles Councillor (RT)

MINUTE TAKER:

Rhea Kay – Clerk

WELCOME:

JL welcomed all to meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies noted. RF to possibly join meeting later. DA informed CC AP had another meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

JL asked JD to declare his interest as SCBF Director/Vice Chair and also Vice Chair of WCC. JD said he could but did not feel it necessary as SCBF provided no financial benefit to him personally. JL believed this constitutes as a conflict of interest. There were differing opinions which resulted in the Chair having to agree to disagree with JD for the meeting to proceed.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JL asked if all are happy with previous minute. AH requested an amendment on discussion regarding the Wild Garden path - to note that a proper pedestrian path around the exterior of the garden and by the road is made, not through the garden. CC supported change. MH approved minutes, PG seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

CC happy with latest monthly finance report received.

MATTERS ARISING:

SYMBISTER HARBOUR - CRANE, OLD DOCK, DREDGING, REPLACING OF MARINA PONTOONS, NETTY PIER

Latest updates shared lights at Outer Pier were to be fixed and CC later noted they had been. Additionally, SIC could not proceed with dredging of the marina until the Old Dock is declared structurally sound, and all ownership/dredging lines are clear between SIC and Amenity Trust. Amenity Trust informed CC certain assets would be transferred to SIC, **clerk to get more clarification and information on matter.**

WP and JD will share photographs of Old Dock with Clerk. WP is working on information of the Old Dock and is waiting on further information from History group which should be received in the coming week. The Old Dock is thought to be around 200 years old. Other other places in Shetland seem to be getting support in preserving historical structures, CC agreed it should also be looked after and maintained. **Clerk to send photos and information to Amenity Trust and/or SIC**

WP queried why crane had not been bolted down yet **DA and/or Clerk to enquire**

JL mentioned parking at Netty Pier and other points raised is also among things to get back to Ports and Harbours on.

CDF PROJECT

Rough timescales were shared with Art Teacher and Clerk offered technical assistance with artwork. Art teacher to get back to Clerk on arranging meeting to look through work before proceeding with design. MH offered assistance where possible.

Latest information from Art Machine was shared - the sign will take 2 weeks to reach Shetland once ordered and around 1 week for Art Machine to turn around. Sign could be ordered in advance so it is ready to be made once artwork is ready.

A new installation quotation was received, CC compared to budget.

No new updates on progress with planning consents or agreement with Assets. **Clerk to make progress**

SKIP

JL asked WP if skip was reasonably full – it was about three quarters full. It was suggested a longer time between skips would have been better, but it was also understood it was booked earlier than usual to clear before financial year end.

FENCE AT DUMP

Amenity Trust have found no contractual obligations to maintain fence. CC discussed history of fence and importance of maintaining it to discourage fly tipping. **Clerk to email SIC to enquire about ownership and maintenance.**

ROADS AND STREETLIGHTS

SIC will investigate and switch on streetlight at North Beach once works is complete in South Mainland.

CC highlighted draining issue on the road between Symbister and Saltness and how it is still slippy, **Clerk to email Roads**

A rough outline of issues regarding the school routes were passed on to Roads by Clerk, but more thorough information will need to be passed on. WP and AH discussed video which showed nature of roads which could be beneficial to share with SIC.

WP highlighted the need for a path around North Beach and queried why this could not be done now having researched previous reports. CC discussed danger of area and questioned whether the Active Travel Strategy would be best solution of if there were any other potential solutions. **DA to look into further and discuss with RT**

DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Clerk updated CC with group responses. JL said it would be important to start advertising on Facebook and through posters now. CC discussed importance of getting as many people interested and involved as possible. WCC to highlight funding opportunities and how it could benefit the whole isle – individuals, groups and businesses included. **Clerk to gather more group responses and start advertising on Facebook and through posters**

CC discussed distributing newsletters through community as a way of sharing more information on funding opportunities and potential projects.

JIMMY ARTHUR ESTATE

JD updated CC with progress. CC discussed how to get further legal advice and concluded that any progress made should be kept as close to Jimmy Arthurs wishes as possible. Contacting local crofters could be best way forward as they would be benefitting from funds. WCC and Crofters Commission could work together to proceed with legal advice and getting access to funds. **JD to contact Jamie Stewart**

BROADBAND

JD could not attend R100 meeting so submitted questions but had not yet received a response. CC questioned why mast at Harbison Park could not be shared between different providers as that seems to have a huge effect on what coverage folk get. It was noted the new mast at Huxter was being built which will hopefully provide a better service.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF)

Application was in review from CRF who requested additional information before finalising decision. Response on outcome should be received shortly. **Clerk to keep CC updated**

SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

CC discussed latest emails and JD updated CC from SCBF perspective. CC asked questions and learned that the SCBF was now gradually being advertised publicly and that both groups and individuals can put in bids fund providing their project meets criteria. Funding could also be rolled over to the next year - if a project comes forward that needs more than the allocated funding then Whalsay can access more from the following year. AH asked JD if a path around the Wild Garden could be funded even though area is owned by SIC, **JD to look into.**

Discussion was had as CC raised concerns over certain aspects of paperwork and noted additional responsibilities and liabilities CC would have. It was highlighted how no additional funding would be available to cover extra administration hours. JL expressed concern over certain points in the initial MoU and Data Agreement and asked if the revised paperwork would have changes. JD explained the revised paperwork is expected to be circulated in the following week. The paperwork is not legal documents but instead define responsibilities between SCBF and CC.

JL queried the need for CC to be involved between groups/individuals placing bids to SCBF as paperwork noted SCBF as the deciding body. JD explained SCBF are interested in working with CC's and communities to ensure CC has say on how communities benefit. JL requested clarification on whether community could still benefit from funds without CC being involved. Discussion concluded that JD would circulate draft letter to CC before sending to SCBF to get clarification on points raised. JD also noted points could be discussed in SCBF meeting on 17th March.

JL advised CC would not be able to make any final decisions until new paperwork is circulated and further clarification is received, JL noted it would be beneficial to see what MD advises. CC mentioned new meetings coming up with SCBF, JD encouraged those interested to attend. Discussion concluded CC would continue to review matter as it progresses.

HOULL LOCH

Roads not able to improve path. CC to look into other opportunities. Potentially a project for WCDG when set up.

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

JL and DA discussed SIC CCLrs availability - multiple meetings have been around the same time. Given busy schedules, JL asked if it would be better for SIC CCLrs to liaise with each other before each meeting to ensure one is available to attend rather than CC expecting all three each month. DA explained they liaise each week to try make sure at least one attends so confirming this format would work well. JL mentioned CC would appreciate if it varied evenly so CC get equal support from each CCLr.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET EVENT

JL shared outcome of event and noted its success having had to adapt to an online event due to Covid-19. JL expressed the fantastic effort all local groups put in to sharing projects with community. CC pleased more groups had applied than the previous year. 202 initial votes were received and after filtering through invalid votes a final total of 165 valid votes were received. CC thankful to how groups and community responded as an online event could have been difficult to carry out.

Given the positive outcome and ease/safety for the community to take part, JL suggested this as something to consider for future PB events. To improve it for future, CC suggested providing paper voting slips in shops to get more votes. CC recognised this wasn't possible this year due to Covid-19, but worth considering in future - a box could be made for voting slips.

JL thanked Clerk for setting up event and explained WCC was the first known group to have hosted the event in this way. All feedback had been sent to RF to pass on to other CC's.

FERRIES

CC discussed upcoming plans for maintenance work at Vidlin linkspan in April. CC awaiting feedback on contingency plans to ensure any issues with bad weather and/or issues with Laxo linkspan are covered. DA assured CC that if bad weather was foreseen then works on linkspan would be postponed. CC agreed it would be good to see full contingency plan before following up with any further queries.

BROUGH AND CHALLISTER BUS SHELTERS FOR SCHOOL BAIRNS

CC are able to move three unused bus shelters to other areas in isle where school bairns are in need of shelter from bad weather. JL highlighted 3 possible unused shelters around Hamister and North Park that could be moved and DA confirmed that as correct from a previous conversation.

CC agreed Brough and Challister are in need. MH mentioned importance of looking to areas where more bairns will need the bus for school in future. CC to also consider Powster as third location.

JL suggested speaking with school bus driver who would be able to give more advice and insight before CC get back to SIC. **Clerk to discuss with bus driver**

CC queried if bus shelter at Huxter could also be moved in the road which would then mean the bairns at Huxter could benefit from the bus service. **Clerk to enquire**

POLICE MATTERS

CC noted Police had been in isle regarding speeding at Hillhead and would await any updates.

JD noted on social media further problems are being caused by what sounded like a quad making noise in the middle of night. Others in area had also been aware of this. CC discussed recent issues in area with the quad ripping up the bin and ground at the secondary school. JL noted that unless it is reported there is not much CC can do.

UNADOPTED ROADS APPLICATIONS

CC allocated gravel grants to 12 successful households. 2020-2021 gravel grants complete.

CC ACCESS TO ELECTORAL ROLL

No further update

AOCB:

LETTER OF COMPLAINT

CC discussed recent letter of complaint submitted and the response received. CC highlighted importance of ensuring all correspondence was approached in the correct manner and a paper trail of communication is kept throughout. To ensure appropriate support and advice is in place, CC to request letter is shared with WCC's SIC Cllrs.

LOCAL ENQUIRY

WCC received an email and letter detailing a current issue which requested CC's support. CC discussed matter and concluded that it was out of WCC jurisdiction. CC recommended the group contact SIC and another body who could be able to resolve issue.

CHARLESTOWN PLAYPARK AND WILD GARDEN

WP highlighted the dyke along Charlestown play park had still not been blocked up and stones were loose. CC expressed it is a safety concern. **Clerk liaise with SIC**

Further discussion was had on the need for a path around the Wild Garden area. CC noted it is between two junctions in one of the busiest places on the isle leading to the Leisure Centre, Nursery, Primary School, Harbison Park, Charlestown Playpark. It is also a main road that leads from many areas of the isle to Symbister so needs to be made safer. CC to raise the issue as a pedestrian safety issue with Roads/SIC and to request that a path around Wild Garden area is made. CC to also enquire about extending path to Saeter junction to make the walk to school safer for the many bairns in area. **Clerk to email SIC**

SWAN TRUST

CC discussed email JD shared with CC regarding Swan Trust. The trust is potentially changing to a SCIO. CC noted it would be good to be kept in the loop with the difference between how it would operate whether a trust or a SCIO as trusts have liability and SCIO are simpler in that regard. One of the trustees wondered if CC wants to get anyone else from Whalsay involved. CC would not want to change its connection with Whalsay. WP suggested Joe Kay as an ideal representative from Whalsay, CC to approach. JD notified CC that a letter was to be sent to Clerk in the coming week and that a swift reply was required from CC.

ICO LETTER

JD received another letter from ICO. **Clerk to ensure contact details are updated.**

Meeting closed at 9.38pm

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7pm via WebEx