

**GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15th JUNE 2021
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 7.30PM**

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING WAS HELD AND READ BY THE CLERK.

Nominations for chair were called for but none were forthcoming and no members volunteered. Mr C Clark agreed to stand in as interim chairperson for one meeting.

- B. PRESENT** Mrs L Johnston Ms A Garrick-Wright Mrs M Davis
- EX OFFICIO** Mr R McGregor Mr G Smith Mr A Duncan
- IN ATTENDANCE** Mrs K Geddes
- CHAIRPERSON** Mr C Clark (interim)
- APOLOGIES** Mrs S Wishart Mr M Duncan Mr E MacPherson
Mrs A Arnett Mr C Smith Mr R Skinley
Mr P Campbell PC Alan Patrick
- NOT PRESENT** Ms A Hawick Mr S Douglas Mr S Flaws

Information – due to the Covid-19 Virus pandemic meetings are being held online.

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As a member of the SIC Planning Board Cllr R McGregor declared an interest in agenda item 9 – planning applications. It will be moved to the end of the meeting to allow Cllr McGregor to attend the rest of the meeting more easily.

Cllr McGregor also declared an interest in the SCBF grant application as he is a director and committee member of Dogs Against Drugs.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27 April were approved on the motion of Mrs L Johnston and seconded by Mrs M Davis.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTE

Possible Flytipping at Cunningburgh Industrial Estate

Following information shared by the Community Council, SIC Environmental Health were able to speak to the company who had been depositing the building material at the industrial estate. Officers were able to confirm that they had permission from the site owner to do so and that the material was to be used to bring up the levels of the site for the purpose of constructing a shed.

The email from Ian Taylor, Assistant Environmental Health Officer dated May 27th explained:

The materials that have been built up of the last number of months are to be used to bring up levels on the site for the construction of a steel frame shed, this development has received planning permission and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer.

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the August meeting

I can confirm that the reuse of suitable building rubble is common practice within the construction industry and as such depositing such material on this site for the purposes stated above does not constitute fly tipping. With this in mind our department will not be taking any further action in relation to the incident reported this morning.

ACTION: Members to keep an eye on the site and ensure that the shed is up by the end of the summer.

2. POLICE REPORT

A bi-monthly police report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. There were nine incidents for the period – with the only detail being on one incident which was described as 'fraud ongoing'.

Various safety and community campaigns were shared – a motorcycle campaign, a national operation called Close Pass (close passing of cyclists) as well as Pedal Protect which had a number of initiatives aimed to reduce the number of bike thefts.

Members were pleased to see details of the Close Pass campaign as there are so many more cyclists on the roads and members agreed that it can be dangerous and scary when vehicles overtake someone on a bike.

PC Alan Patrick was able to attend the previous meeting but had to send apologies for tonight as all officers were tied up with other meetings or in other duties. He said that if any issues came up we were to get in touch.

Cllr Duncan explained that he had spoken to the new Chief Inspector to ask if the monthly reports could be brought back and he has had a positive response. It may be a while before any action is taken as there are issues relating to Covid which could hold things up, as well as the need for the new CI to get settled into his post, but the news was welcomed by members and they thanked Cllr Duncan for his support.

3. FINANCE

The bank statement on June 15th reads £18,396.44

We have received the core funding of £9,923 from the SIC and the £5,000 grant from the Shetland Charitable Trust. We received the invoices from Mackenzie's for the hot meals for the past seven weeks and these have been paid – they totalled £1,310 and meant almost 100 meals went out to people over that period. The only other payment outside the usual expenses this month was the annual Zoom subscription – hopefully our last one – which was £143.88.

The clerk has applied for the £3,000 Community Development Fund Distribution Fund from the SIC.

Covid Relief Fund

The £3,000 which we received from VAS from the Response Recovery and Resilience Fund is in the bank as is the £5,000 from the Shetland Charitable Trust Small Grants Scheme now. Up to sixteen people a week are currently receiving meals. We still have a few grocery vouchers left for Mackenzie's and Sound.

ACTION: All to share information about the vouchers and hot meals as well as let community groups know that grant applications will be accepted at the next meeting.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND UPDATE

Shetland Community Benefit Fund

A letter was received on April 26th from the Royal Voluntary Service to say thank you for the support of the Community Council in helping them access the SCBF grant. It totalled £500.

The SCBF application from Dogs Against Drugs for £1,000 was unanimously agreed and the clerk is to fill out and return the paperwork confirming this.

The SCBF grant from the GQC Community Council for the anti dog-fouling campaign was granted by the fund and the full £400 was awarded. Members of the small group who are working on the local place plan are to discuss taking it forward and will use the Sandwick project as a model.

There is £8,100 left which GQC CC can access this year.

Mr Clark reported that progress had been made on the orca beach sculpture/recycling bin. An excellent builder had been identified and has drawn up plans which come in almost half the price of previous quotes. It is still likely to be in the region of £7,000 but as it is hoped that the orca can be transported around other beaches, it was suggested that other areas/Community Councils could also be applied to as part of the SCBF scheme. SIC Waste Management have also been approached for advice about how to take the project forward.

Mr Clark gave an update on the SCBF and said that now it is up and running and the administration officer is in place it is running smoothly and the meetings are not so complicated. The next step is to put the tender out for the business plan in preparation for the big fund starting. This will happen in the next few months. Not all Community Councils have signed up to the fund yet but projects in these communities can still apply for grants though it will be the SCBF itself who will vet the applications. Another windfarm company – Shetland Aerogenerators have also signed up to the SCBF so it is hoped that others will also do so.

A press release is issued every month detailing the successful applications which the clerk has not been sending on as the details are in the local media. Some members said they may be interested in seeing it so she will send it out.

ACTION: Clerk to send out SCBF press releases to members.

Grant Applications

No grant applications are being considered this month though members should hopefully have some to review in August. The new grant form has been distributed through Ana Arnett and using the South Notes column.

ACTION: Everyone to share the word that grant applications are available and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

5. ROAD ISSUES/CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS

Mr Clark was able to share that SIC Road Engineer Neil Hutcheson was at the ASCC meeting this month and gave a presentation about the roads and road budgets. Many Community Councils are frustrated that they are constantly passing on concerns about lack of verges, too few passing places and unsafe roads for pedestrians and that nothing can ever be done due to budgets.

Mr Hutcheson confirmed that it is unlikely that many of these roads will see any improvements – approximately 70% of Shetland's roads are single track and to upgrade them all to the standard that their local communities would like would cost multi-millions. Some of the roads which are in more densely populated areas may be able to benefit from

the Active Travel funding, and settlement audits are the next step in the Active Travel Strategy. There were no other updates.

6. ASSOCIATION OF SHETLAND COMMUNITY COUNCILS MEETING

Mr Clark attended the meeting on June 8th.

He has already reported back on one of the big agenda items – roads, but said that the issue of fixed links was also discussed. SIC Head of Transport Michael Craigie gave a presentation and Mr Clark said that they seemed to be back at square one again and were now looking at fixed links and were trying to convince the Scottish Government to help fund tunnels. The Islands Connectivity Plan seems to be the way forward.

The issue of fuel poverty and the possibility of a Shetland Energy Trust was discussed and received a lot of support. Hjalmland Chief Executive Bryan Leask has been raising the issue recently and due to his experience and expertise it was decided to invite him to the next meeting of the ASCC. Someone from Shetland Charitable Trust is also to be invited. One in three people in Shetland are living in fuel poverty and one in five are living in extreme fuel poverty with the figures likely to be higher due to Covid and furlough. Cllr Duncan again took the opportunity to remind everyone of the work that Shetland CAB has been doing, saying we all have a duty to signpost people towards help if we know they are needing it. He has had feedback from folk who he directed towards CAB who were all able to access more benefits and/or support as a result of speaking to CAB so he knows they are doing an outstanding job.

Mr Clark said that the problem of recruiting community councillors was also discussed. Michael Duncan is looking for someone who would be willing to support him with a campaign.

ACTION: Everyone to share details of the support CAB can offer to people, signposting individuals or families directly if we feel it would be helpful. The clerk has already shared information on the Facebook page and will continue to do so. If anyone is interested in supporting Michael Duncan with a publicity campaign for Community Councils they should get in touch with him. Any ideas or suggestions on how to encourage folk should also be directed to Mr Duncan.

7. WATER SUPPLY IN GULBERWICK

There have been occasions where the water supply has been off in Gulberwick but no information was shared about the disruption to service or the reason why. Mr Skinley contacted Jim Anderson Customer Services Team Leader at Scottish Water who explained that on that occasion the work was planned but it had unforeseen consequences meaning there was no information on the website. He also said that the recent couple of occasions when there has been planned work and folk haven't been informed of the water being off was down to DITT carrying out work on the new Heathery Park houses and it was down to them to keep local folk informed and he would be taking this up with them.

Mr Anderson was also able to give an update on the new sewage works at Gulberwick. It has now been handed over formally to the main contractor and we should start to see things happening soon, i.e. planning consents etc and some initial work on the existing sewer system. He was hoping to have an update for tonight's meeting and had planned to be in touch with us soon.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Anderson for an update on the new sewage works.

8. CONSULTATIONS

Two consultations have been shared with members via email prior to the meeting:

[Consultation on impact of free bus travel for under 22s](#) in island communities
[Consultation](#) and papers of interest on support for Local Place Plan Developments.

ACTION: Members are to fill in the consultations and read the papers if they would like to make a comment.

9. PLANNING

This item has been moved to the end of the meeting so that Cllr McGregor can more easily attend the full meeting.

10. AOCB

1. Training Needs Questionnaire

A questionnaire has been sent to all community councillors asking for information on their training needs.

ACTION: Those members who have not filled it in to do so and send back to the clerk ASAP.

2. Connecting Scotland Fast Track Programme Launch

An email forwarded via Michael Duncan from SIC Team Leader – Community Development June Porter was received today. Shetland has been allocated 50 devices to help tackle digital exclusion during the coronavirus crisis. Fast track applications are now invited from organisations working with people at risk of social isolation and loneliness.

ACTION: Everyone to share information of the scheme. If anyone knows of an individual or family who could benefit from a device the clerk can either help identify a group who could apply for a device, or perhaps apply on their behalf through the Community Council if appropriate.

3. Update from MP Alistair Carmichael

Mr Ewen MacPherson emailed the clerk on June 4th. He has had a meeting with Mr Carmichael to go over his proposal for the elimination of fuel poverty in Shetland and he has agreed to discuss the idea with Chris Bunyan from the SCBF.

Mr MacPherson also enquired about the issue of tankers laying of the coast of Shetland and was able to report that it is on Mr Carmichael's 'to do list' but it was very complicated.

Members were pleased to hear that the fuel poverty idea was being progressed and were thankful to Mr MacPherson for pursuing the idea and getting an update on the tanker situation too.

4. Heritage Sign for Cunningsburgh

A Lerwick resident who came up with idea of the installation of the Old Norse signs for Lerwick (aka Muddy Bay) has approached the Community Council about the possibility of installing similar ones on the approach into Cunningsburgh too. Lerwick Community Council progressed Mr Paul Moar's initial idea so it was agreed to speak to the LCC to find out what they had done. Mr Moar believes that Cunningsburgh derives from the Old Norse Konungsborg and means the kings broch or fortress. Members wondered about the possibility of signs in other locations in the Community Council area.

ACTION: Clerk to contact LCC to ask for advice on how to progress the idea and also to contact Mr Moar to thank him for his suggestion. The idea can also be shared in South Notes in the Shetland Times and Community Councillors are to ask members of the public for their thoughts on the idea. A decision on next steps can be taken at the August meeting.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were four planning applications this month, all of which members were required to comment on:

[2021/156/PPF](#) – erect new dwelling housed with decking, Plot 2, Aisterlea, Cunningsburgh, Shetland, ZE2 9HB.

[2021/141/PPF](#) – Erect dwelling house with foul water pumping station to sewer, surface soakaway, air source heat pump and extend existing road, Plot 8, Aithsetter, Cunningsburgh, Shetland, ZE2 9HG

[2021/188/PPF](#) – New single storey timber framed dwelling house with attached garage, Plot 4, Aisterlea, Cunningsburgh, Shetland, ZE2 9HG

Members had no comments or objections to return on any of the houses.

The final application was:

[2021/136/PPF](#) – install three wind turbines, 67m high with associated works, including renovation of existing building to be used as control room, Culterfield, Cunningsburgh, Shetland, ZE2 9HB.

Members discussed the application and decided to return the following comments –

Siting the turbines further from houses would be preferable for the community.

Members could not find any information on what the applicants decommissioning plans for the site are and are keen to have details on this.

They would also like to know what benefit, if any, the turbines will bring to the community, as there are no details of this either. Schemes where a small portion of the profits are fed back into the community where the turbines are sited are already a well-established practice in developments such as these and members hope that the developers have considered this.

While there was community engagement when the plans first went in several years ago, members were a little disappointed this has not happened at this stage. The Community Council intends to invite the applicants to our next meeting and look forward to being able to discuss their plans at that time.

An update from Planning on their Duty Officer availability was received via email on May 21st. The temporary suspension of the free Planning Duty Officer and Pre-Application Enquiry services which began on 22nd February has been extended until 28th June. At present they have 47 applications still to be allocated to an officer and the timescale they can be expected to be so following validation has remained at 8 weeks, down from 12 weeks when the service was first cutback. Since the services were suspended 126 applications have been determined. The Building Standards Team are fully staffed and will continue to offer a Duty Officer Service.

ACTION: Clerk to return comments to the planning department. Clerk to contact the windfarm developer and invite them to the August meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24th August 2021.

Meeting Ends – 8.30pm.

CHAIR

12. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

January 2021 - Torches for school children from Elaine Skinley, SIC Road Safety Officer. To be distributed when the schools open again.

January 2021 - Overgrown path between Central and North Heathery Park, Gulberwick. Awaiting clarification from Community Justice Team whether they can do the work.

February 2021 – Radicle Road – an SIC Roads engineer is to look at the road to see if any maintenance work can be done to the verges to improve the road for all users.