

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
L Moncrieff
J Gear
J Puckey
J Laing
G Jamieson,
Cllr S Coutts

In Attendance: R Fraser, D. Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

M Duncan, J Haswell, M Forrest, Cllr T Smith, Cllr C Hughson

(J Gear and R Fraser entered the meeting.)

3. Declarations of Interest

L Moncrieff declared an interest in item 9 – Shetland Community Benefit Fund (Application from the Sandness History Group because he is a member of that group)

4. Police Report

No report was available for this meeting.

5. Minutes from 6th April 2021

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 6th April 2021 was proposed by J Gear and seconded by J Puckey.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 15 of 4/21 Possible Skip for Walls

I Sandison informed members that a skip had been provided in Walls on the morning of Saturday 8th May and that it been appreciated by the community. It had been almost filled in the two hours that it had been available. The Chair asked if a skip was required in Sandness in the near future.

Action: G Jamieson is to enquire if one is needed and report back.

Re: 20.2 of 4/21 Grass Cutting

I Sandison indicated that the area in front of the Walls War Memorial had yet to be added to the grass cutting map. However, she had spoken to the operative who is going to look into the matter, and it is hoped this patch of grass will be included next time the grass in Walls is cut.

Re: 8.1 of 3/21 Frost Damage to Roads in Walls Area

The Clerk informed the members that tarring had taken place on the Stennestwatt road.

7. Housing

The fact that work on the proposed housing development in the Forratwatt area of Walls has not commenced was noted. It was pointed out that there is currently a Shetland wide shortage of plumbers and electricians as well as some building materials.

Action: The Clerk was asked to contact E&H, contractors, to find out when this work is due to start.

8. Roads

Re: 8.1 of 4/21 Road from the Murrister Quarry to Walls

It was noted that Cllr Hughson has not yet reported back on the status of the plans for improvements to the road from the Murrister Quarry to Walls.

Action: The Clerk to seek an update from Cllr Hughson.

8.1 Large stones on the Sandness Road

G Jamieson expressed concerns about the grade of the material that had been used for verging in recent repairs to the Sandness Road. He pointed out some of them were fairly large stones and being dragged onto the road surface and of how this was dangerous for motorcyclists in particular.

Action: The Clerk to email B Scobie to request that these stones be replaced by finer grade material.

9. Shetland Community Benefit Fund (including application from the Sandness History Group)

9.1 Grant Application by the Sandness History Group

L Moncrieff declared an interest in this item.

Eligible members approved the grant request unanimously.

Action: Clerk to complete the application form and return it to the SCBF Admin Officer.

9.2 Community Council Application for a Grant for a Picnic Table for the Walls Breakwater Site.

The Clerk explained that the application had to be accompanied by the most recent set of audited accounts and that these were currently with the independent examiner at VAS.

Action: The Clerk to complete the grant application form when the statement of accounts becomes available.

10. Walls Health Centre Practice Nurse (Location on Fridays)

The Clerk indicated that he had still not received a response from Edna Mary Watson on this matter. R Fraser informed the members that she had had a conversation with Ms Watson and had clarified the nature of the request in that the members were seeking to have the Practice Nurse in Walls for her allotted time on Friday mornings. Ms Watson stated that she was happy to comply with this request but has yet to inform the Community Council of this decision. A brief discussion followed as regards whether or not it mattered if it was mornings or afternoons. L Moncrieff pointed out that Friday mornings would be much better from the point of view of Sandness residents because it coincided with the Sandness Shopper Bus to Walls.

Action: The Clerk to draft a letter to Ms Watson making the case for the Practice Nurse to be available at the Walls Health Centre on Friday mornings. This letter to be circulated to the members for comment before being sent to Ms Watson.

11. Financial Update + Revised Grant Application Forms

11.1 Revised Grant Application Forms

A brief discussion took place on this matter. R Fraser stated that Mr Duncan had sent an email to the effect that use of the new format application forms is mandatory.

11.2 Financial Update

The Clerk provided a verbal report on the Community Council's current financial position indicating that the application for a £3000 CDF grant had been approved. The Chair pointed out that Community Councils have been subject to a standstill budget for many years.

12. Correspondence (including Emails)

The Clerk indicated that he had received thank you letters from the Walls Regatta Club and the Swimming Pool Association for their Community Recovery Fund grants.

13. AOCB

13.1 Invest in the West

R Fraser informed the members that the participatory budgeting event was due to take place virtually commencing on the 21st June. She requested that members promote this event and encourage as much participation as possible. The Chair thanked R Fraser and the respective Clerks for their work to date.

13.2 G Jamieson's continued attendance at meetings

G Jamieson asked if he should continue to attend meetings now that L Moncrieff was able to participate again. Members expressed their appreciation of G Jamieson's input.

Action: I Walterson to discuss this with M Duncan and report back.

(Draft minutes of June 2021 S&WCC meeting, subject to approval at next meeting.)

14. Date of Next Meeting.

This was set for Tuesday 6th July via Zoom. (It was decided to have the summer break in August.)

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.