

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a WebEx meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.30pm. 0800 051 3810 128 346 0325

Present:	J Priest	Ms D Nicolson
	G Morrison	J D Garrick
	Mrs S Deyell	A Johnston
	Mrs J Fraser	
Ex officio:	Cllr C Hughson	Cllr T Smith
In attendance:	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.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mr M Bennett, Cllr S Coutts and Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker.

MINUTES & HEADLINES: The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Ms D Nicolson, seconded by Mr A Johnston.

BUSINESS ARISING: Coronavirus: The roll out of the vaccines is progressing very well. Cllr C Hughson said that consideration of testing of those coming into Shetland is being looked at to see how it could work but she felt it may be some way off yet.

Broadband: The broadband speed has not improved in the Reawick/Skeld area. The Chairman has suggested that the areas with the slowest broadband speed should get priority ahead of the areas where green cabinets have been provided. People are to be encouraged to lobby Openreach to get this area further up the list.

Mobile phone coverage: Still unsure whether the Culswick mast is live.

Cllr C Hughson had received an email from Ms Beatrice Wishart, MSP, giving some information about the masts.

She then received an email from Mr J Buron at the Digital Connectivity Division of the Scottish Office confirming that it is only EE customers who can benefit from the Reawick mast at present. All four mobile network operators (EE, Vodafone, O2 and Three) were offered the opportunity to have a presence on all S4GI sites. On Reawick, only EE committed to using the site – and this is common with other masts in the programme. The Scottish Government is not able to compel mobile operators to use the S4GI sites – however all sites have been built to accommodate multi-operator use, should other operators wish to use the site in the future.

Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse: A reply was received from Mr Neil Hutcheson, Roads Engineer, saying that Covid restrictions have resulted in less resurfacing and road reconstruction work being done this financial year. The resulting underspend is being carried forward into 2021/22 which now gives them the opportunity to undertake larger

maintenance schemes. The two phases of the B9071 Sand to Garderhouse works are both programmed to be resurfaced at the end of October this year meaning the bulk of the earthworks would be done toward the end of the summer. The safety barrier would be installed after the resurfacing is done.

The members were very pleased to receive this information and look forward to the work being done on this stretch of road later this year.

Roads Reports: The Roads Reports have been received each week and circulated to the members.

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: Another Joint Liaison Group meeting is to be held in April. Answers had been received to all the questions we sent to the Group, except for one when a photo which was referred to but had not been included. The question, along with the photo, had been sent again and a reply is expected soon.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): Under the SCBF rules, a third of their directors must retire each year. The Community Council can nominate someone else or they can nominate the same person again. If elected at the AGM the nominated person will serve as a director for three years. This year our representative, Mr J D Garrick, must stand down at the AGM, scheduled for May. He was again nominated by our Chairman, seconded by Mrs J Fraser. No other nominations were received. Mr J D Garrick thanked the members for asking him and said he would do his best. The Chairman said he has every confidence in our member and thanked him for the time he has spent on this.

The SCBF Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) is now open. The Memorandum of Understanding and the Data Sharing Document have been revised following comments by some Community Councils. It was unanimously agreed that it should now be signed by the Chairman.

Another Zoom meeting to explain the scheme has been organised by SCBF and will be attended by the Chairman and Clerk.

Mrs S Deyell asked if she should advertise the Scheme on Facebook.

The Chairman felt we should wait until after the meeting on 10 March to check that all the Community Councils, SIC lawyers and Mr M Duncan are now happy with the documents. It is hoped that people in the area will apply for the funding. All the details of the scheme are on the SCBF website under Advance Grant Scheme. Grants are available in two tiers – Tier one for small projects £50 to £500 and Tier two – projects over £500.

All the admin work is being carried out by SCBF except for making the decision on which schemes are to be awarded grants. This will be done by the Community Councillors.

It is recognised that some people in this area are not in favour of the Viking Energy Windfarm but the Windfarm is being built and this grant scheme will bring some benefit to the area. We should try to get everything out of it that we possibly can.

The scheme this year is a trial and, if anything does not work, they will look at changing it.

Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund: It was agreed that, in order to get this grant money spread throughout the area, a bidding round should be organised. Mrs R Fraser had informed the members that the event recently held in Whalsay had been successful and that they had learned some lessons from it. She will be able to assist us in organising an event in this area.

The Clerk proposed that, due to her vast knowledge about the community groups etc, Mrs S Deyell should be invited to join the 'Invest in the West' group. This was unanimously agreed. All details of how this system may work will yet have to be agreed.

Community Development Fund – Distribution: The Clerk has not yet disbursed the funds but will do so soon.

Community Development Fund – Project: Mrs S Deyell to check up on the project which had been brought to her attention and to get information ready for whenever the application has to be submitted to Mr M Duncan.

Community Recovery Fund: Mrs S Deyell has been liaising with Ms W Hand at Voluntary Action Shetland regarding this fund and had been informed that a grant has been awarded. Groups in this area will have to contact Ms W Hand to seek funds.

Financial Spreadsheet: The spreadsheet was unchanged from last month.

Bin at Burn of Lunklet: Cllr C Hughson had enquired about the provision of this bin and had been informed that a double bin had been installed. However, one of our members had checked the site and did not think that this information was correct. Cllr C Hughson agreed to enquire again about it.

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 9 March. Ms D Nicolson and Mr J D Garrick will represent this Community Council.

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

Funding: Maintenance grants: The grants to the halls and piers have not yet been paid. The Clerk will do so within the next few days.

Aith Community Association was awarded a maintenance grant of up to £400.00 towards the upkeep of the Aith public toilets.

Path in Aith: Last financial year Mr Barry Henry applied for and was awarded the sum of £300.00 towards the cost of the work he was carrying out on the path from the main road near Wirliegert to the Aith marina. He had been unable to finish the work before the end of that financial year and the sum was carried forward. He sent an email saying that he has now completed the work on the path. Mr A Johnston inspected the area and confirmed that this is the case. Mr B Henry will now be paid his grant.

NEW POLICE CONTACT: An email was received from PC Carol Robertson NO401 introducing herself as our new Police point of contact. She is based at Lerwick Police Office and asks, if there are any issues where she can be of assistance, that we contact her.

ORION PROJECT: Following a request from Ms D Nicolson this link had been circulated to the members:- <https://www.offshorewindscotland.org.uk/deepwind-downloads-page>. She also asked that the item be discussed at our meeting.

The Chairman said that he had opened the link and that this is a big project to do with renewables and hydrogen production at Sullom Voe.

Ms D Nicolson warned that this is going to affect the whole of Shetland and felt that everyone should start discussing it.

The Chairman said he felt that the main aim is to extend the life of Sullom Voe. However the offshore wind farm east of Shetland may be the last one to be developed due to the location. He added that there may be a cable to Norway linked into the one from Shetland to the mainland.

Cllr T Smith thought it may be some time away but none of the other members had any comment.

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN PLANNING: An email was received from Mr Iain McDiarmid, Executive Manager – Planning saying there is a temporary suspension of the free SIC Planning Duty Officer and Pre-Application Enquiry services from 22 February to 29 March. He apologises for having to take this step but they are focusing on legislative requirements. During this time they will focus on the statutory function of processing applications. This will give the Team a better chance of success in tackling the backlog of planning applications. He added that there are lots of on-line resources on the Planning service website and the Scottish Government website which may help to answer queries:-

Planning Service Website: <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/planning-applications>

Scottish Government Website: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture>.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY IN PLANNING: When asked to give information about Delegated Authority in Planning, Cllr T Smith explained that it is impossible to put every application before the Planning Committee. The Planning Officers are given delegated authority to approve straightforward applications but anything major or more complicated must be discussed or may be called in by the Scottish Government. There is a lack of planning staff, not just in Shetland but also nationally. He does not feel that the officers overstep their authority. Due to Covid, the vast majority of staff are working from home and some of their jobs cannot be carried out in the meantime. They work under the Scottish Planning System but one size does not fit all. He feels that Shetland should be able to come up with its own legislation.

Ms D Nicolson said that she now understands this system much better.

The Chairman thanked Cllr T Smith for his explanation.

GROW SHETLAND PROJECT: An email was received from Transition Turrieffield providing information on the Grow Shetland project which they feel might be useful for individuals or groups in our community which have set up, or would like to set up, a food growing project.

None of the members had heard of anyone who has expressed an interest in this.

More information about the project can be found on their website.

NEXT MEETING: The next WebEx meeting will be held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm