

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7pm via WebEx. This minute is a draft until approved at the next meeting.

PRESENT:

Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair
Cllr William Polson (WP)
Cllr Anne Huntley (AH)
Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)
Cllr Pete Gaines (PG)

Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)
Alec Priest - North Isles Cllr (AP)
Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)
David Marsh – Team Leader, Trading Standards (DM)

APOLOGIES:

Michael Duncan – External Funding Officer
& Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)
Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)

MINUTE TAKER:

Rhea Kay – Clerk

WELCOME:

JL welcomed all to meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies noted.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JL asked if all are happy with previous minute. WP approved, MH seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

CC to think about changing headings in future but happy at the moment.

MATTERS ARISING:

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

CC discussed crane – it is fitted but potentially not working. **DA to enquire and keep CC updated.**

WP has been creating Dock document and is ensuring final permissions are in place before sharing. JL noted it is a really good document. **CC to send to SIC Cllrs and Amenity Trust when completed.**

JL listed issues to send to Ports & Harbours and noted problem with Netty Pier – users cannot work with gear for parked cars. Public toilets and waiting room desperately need upgraded - Whalsay does not have public toilets with disabled access. CC agreed this is a serious issue and needs to be resolved as soon as possible. CC discussed bruck around harbour and possible SIC service that advertises when harbour will be cleared so folk have time to remove/claim items. CC decided to send Dock document to Ports & Harbours too so they are also aware of its importance. **Clerk to draft list to send to Ports & Harbours and send Dock document when ready**

CDF PROJECT

Clerk to continue planning application and administration requirements.

CC now have access to view bairns artwork and agree on idea for it to be collaged together.

JL said it would be beneficial to get plywood mock-up made. This could be laid on floor and bairns artwork laid out to get a better idea of outcome. It would be useful to get the mock-up placed at Symbister to confirm if CC is happy with size and take photographs to support application. **WP to arrange**

CC discussed planning application and confirmed the £101.00 application cost, CC to be thorough in application. JL wondered if CC would be happy in contacting local member of community who could help with planning advice.

Clerk to contact

FENCE AT DUMP

Enquiry has been passed on to Building Services who will be getting in touch to confirm if SIC is responsible for maintenance.

ROADS AND STREETLIGHTS

Local contractor will be looking at slippery area around Symbister/Saltness shortly and will be monitoring hole at Symbister Junction. SIC planning to look at ditching from Sandwick to Symbister road.

WP and DA discussed document hindering linking the paths at North Beach. DA has since been in contact with SIC and the document has been amended with work now on priority list. DA explained list is large and only a certain amount of work can be done each year, but assured CC progress is being made. JL requested more information on position on list and potential timescales. **DA to find out**

WHALSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (WCDG)

No further updates from Clerk. JL interested in setting up first meeting soon. JL suggested advertising WCDG in the upcoming WCC newsletter then set on meeting date. CC agreed a face-to-face meeting would be best but queried when this would be possible given Covid-19 guidelines. Discussion concluded to wait until feedback from newsletter and assess situation in line with restrictions.

NEWSLETTER

JL discussed newsletter and asked CC for feedback from first draft. AH suggested the WCDG, CRF funding, and the Dock. Discussion also highlighted Welcome to Whalsay sign and how it is important to share what WCC has been doing. It was agreed to keep the information refined and spread news between the two newsletters.

JIMMY ARTHUR ESTATE

Clerk to email contact to make sure correspondence is now emailed directly to Clerk.

CC considered how to progress. It was agreed Clerk would find out latest updates and contact local crofters to enquire about working with the Crofters Commission to seek legal advice.

BROADBAND

JL asked DA for updates. No further updates through SIC, but R100 updates show Whalsay is on list.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF)

Clerk is working through administration and updated CC. JL asked CC what PPE stock is left. CC discussed what to order - masks and sanitiser are priority. **Clerk to get prices from Shetland Janitorial and order more stock**

SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

JL informed CC correspondence is complete. AH suggested ensuring community is aware of fund so that they can benefit. JL agreed and is happy to share any updates from SCBF on WCC Facebook page.

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

JL is really happy with attendance and looks forward to seeing how Cllrs arrange attendance between them in future.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET EVENT

JL noted WCC has applied for CDF fund again this year.

FERRIES

Work at Vidlin linkspan complete. Works due for Symbister linkspan in September 2021 which will run a passenger only service until complete. RT explained that any time of the year is a major convenience but this time of year was chosen as best option.

BUS SHELTERS FOR SCHOOL BAIRNS

MH has discussed best places for bus shelters with local bus driver and CC is happy with locations. **Clerk to send email to Transport**

Questions were raised by CC to Cllrs regarding school bus service and the distancing rules. CC to get clarification on Huxter area and whether the reasons the bairns cannot use bus is because of distance or capacity issue. Clarification also needed on Winter rules for different areas.

WP explained unsafe nature of walk from Huxter to school and how that is another reason for bus service and for paths to be made. WP raised Sandwick road as safety issue and need for paths – land owners are willing to allow space. Cllrs advised contacting people in both Transport and School Transport, **DA to email and enquire about making improvements to these areas**

WP further explained concern over safety as in some areas as bairns have to step off road into ditch or on to steep broo when vehicles pass. JL agreed this needs to be investigated, asked about the photos and videos that WP has that can be shared to Cllrs – shows the blind corners, lack of verges etc.

Conversation continued to cycle tracks and complications around UK road safety standards. Cycle tracks could significantly improve isle but the width required makes it unrealistic for island roads.

POLICE MATTERS

JL addressed recent issues within community and suggested requesting more Police presence in isle. With drinking venues open again this makes it even more important. **Clerk to email**

CC discussed issue Police face as it is often known when they are crossing sound. Discussion concluded an email is to be sent to Ferry Operations to make them aware of issue. **Clerk to send email to Andrew Inkster and Cc Cllrs**

CHARLESTOWN PLAYPARK

Play Park wall appears to be fixed.

WILD GARDEN PATH

CC highlighted this as another area that needs to be investigated from a safety perspective – busy junction and no path. JL said this could be added to DA's email to Transport and Schools. RT suggested inviting Dave Coupe to next meeting to discuss issues/improvements and could also enquire about arranging a meeting in the isle to discuss issues in person. CC really happy with suggestion. Cllrs discussed potentially getting it organised before next meeting and CC agreed to make sure someone attends.

SWAN TRUST REPRESENTATIVE

First contact not able to commit. CC to think of other members of community who could be interested.

TRANSPORT

JL asked RT if he had any further updates from Active Travel Strategy. No further updates but will keep CC informed.

JL asked RT for updates on possible extra summer runs, RT will email CC once concrete plans are in place.

Cllrs are encouraged by progress made in fixed link discussions. RT explained the ferry funding campaign had been successful in bringing more attention to unique needs of Shetland, and something can be learned from that in supporting fixed links also. Discussions are ongoing but Cllrs are cautiously optimistic for progress.

WP mentioned two documents, one that details Transport costings in Shetland and the other with data from Norway. Transport document shows Whalsay has lowest cost per head of population throughout Shetland, WP suggested figures could support the case to increase ferry runs. RT keen to review document.

Discussion continued to ferry finances and how Whalsay needs an improved service. RT explained short and medium term solutions to improve ferry service should be made, but fixed links need to be long term solution. WP emphasised correct figures must be represented to Scottish government regarding fixed links and expressed previously presented figures were inaccurate and unacceptable. RT highlighted there is now a strong case for fixed links and the democratic decision has been made to make progress. Cllrs agreed a realistic and accurate case to the supporting bodies will be essential in choosing it as best and most cost-effective option for isles.

WP said constantly increasing costs for new ferry vessels should be monitored and regularly updated as costs for sea vessels are always increasing. DA shared doubts over purchasing new fossil fuel vessel as it would not be supported in the new green agenda. WP added that green vessels would be vastly more expensive and suggested the vessel costs and operational costs should also be considered when comparing to fixed link costs.

JL thanked all for discussion and looks forward to hearing more updates as matters progress.

SPEEDING AT BROUGH

Clerk to email Roads regarding issue

FERRY HIRES

JL asked for updates regarding weddings being included in allocated community hires. RT is awaiting a response. All three Cllrs are in support and will relay back information to CC.

MAIN AGENDA:

SCAMBUSTERS

[Item discussed at beginning of meeting to allow DM to leave when presentation complete]

JL introduced DM and let him know he is welcome to leave meeting when finished presentation. DM explained role in Trading Standards and the aims of Shetland Scambusters project. They aim to meet with groups and members within of Shetland community hope to raise awareness, help people to recognise scams, and inform them how to take action and report it.

DM explained although Shetland is considered safe in many ways people are still affected by scams. Bank fraud calls have been a problem and Whalsay has recently been affected. Scams are defined by being tricked into giving money away. Scams can come through the post, emails, and by people coming door-to-door. DM shared the warning signs and how people can respond.

For calls, keep calm and hang up if you are confident it is a scam. If you are unsure take 5 minutes, don't respond immediately and ask someone else for their opinion. If someone is pretending to be from a bank then hang up, call someone you know, then call your bank to make sure you line is clear. If you have lost money phone the police on 101 as well as your bank.

If it is an email forward it to report@phising.gov.uk who will deal with it automatically. If it is a text message you can forward it to 7726 to report it.

If you are looking for advice or support you can contact Trading Standards or Citizens Advice Bureau. If you are embarrassed to contact somewhere local you can get in touch with advice.scot to report incidents or get advice.

If you are a carer for someone at risk then keep watch for unusual mail, catalogs etc. If they are receiving unwanted calls, unusual bank payments, unusual cash withdrawals, then contact duty social work if you are worried. Call blocking technology can be fit free of charge if they get in touch with Trading Standards.

There are free Scambusters advice packs – this can be gotten by call or email. Scam bulletins are also shared periodically. For extra information there are online training programmes with the National Scams Team, and various banks offer good advice.

DM concluded presentation and asked if there were questions. JL asked to be added to email list and will ensure WCC Facebook page is updated with latest bulletins, and is happy to put posters in shops. **Clerk to keep updated**

JL thanked DM for presentation and explained importance of keeping community aware. JL welcomed DM to future meetings to share new information. DM thanked CC for time and left meeting at 7.30pm.

APPOINTING NEW VICE CHAIR

CC members voted via email to Clerk to appoint new Vice Chair. Votes to be counted and anonymously shared with Chair immediately after meeting.

NEW MEETING DATES

JL asked CC on views on altering meeting schedule to every 6 weeks. All Cllrs agreed. Next proposed meeting dates are therefore: 22nd June, 3rd August, 14th September, 26th October, 7th December, 18th January and 1st March.

JL hoped this would be better for everyone's schedules including Clerk and Cllrs.

AOCB:

AH explained recent fly tipping issue has been resolved – post can be removed from Facebook. JL said it would be beneficial to look at the budget heading for the skip at some point and enquire about getting one for June booked.

Clerk to look into

WP raised an additional point relating to the fixed links, and expressed concern over possibility of shortest routes being prioritised as a report detailed the Bressay Sound has unsuitable rock structure. DA did not recognise statement in recent report but Cllrs would review. It was noted fixed links should not be prioritised over distance and cost.

JL thanked all for their attendance and contribution.

Meeting closed at 21:47

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 22nd June 2021