

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A REMOTE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH JUNE AT 7PM

PRESENT

Murray Cooper
James Rendall, Chair
Tom Thomason

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries
Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Roy Buckland, Mike Fogarty, James Smythe and Councillor Ryan Thomson.

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 21st April 2021 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

Agenda items 4.1/6, 4.1/7 and 4.2 were discussed first on the Agenda.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/1 Nursing Recruitment

The Public Meeting held earlier in March had agreed on 24/7, 365 days resident nursing cover on a rotational basis working 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off (2 x Band 6 District Nurse).

Ms Watson had advised ahead of the April Meeting that an advert had been drafted and information had been received regarding the “Welcome Pack”. As a Directorate, the NHS had been in discussions with NB Communications under the Promote Shetland banner to look at how the NHS advertise posts and Promote Shetland had been assisting in ways to promote an entire package, ie, live, work, study and such like.

Ms Watson had circulated the draft advert and job description for the Fetlar posts in early June and Members were happy with both documents and felt it would be advantageous to include the availability of accommodation at the Nurses house within the advert and improvements being done to support the delivery of the service.

FCC had also been asked if they could raise accommodation being provided as part of the package/rent free for making the post more attractive.

Action - Clerk to contact Ms Watson for her thoughts on the above.

4.1/2 Nursing Issues/Visiting Nursing Service

Jayne Stopher-Walker, Clinical Team Leader, NHS had provided an update regarding the visiting nurse service. As a result of staffing issues and the preference to send a Band 6 nurse, the visiting nursing service days had changed to a Monday and Wednesday each week. Meaning that should it be required, bloods can be taken on both days rather than the previous service. In addition, should a patient require a GP visit, the nurse can also organise this quickly on a day when the ferries are more accessible, rather than a weekend when ferries are more infrequent.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/2 Nursing Issues/Visiting Nursing Service

Appointments are to continue being booked through the Yell surgery, who are triaging patients to ensure that they are referred to the correct service, be that a GP telephone call, Practice Nurse call/appointment or face to face consultation with the District Nurse at the clinic.

Owing to a recent family bereavement, the NHS had been unable to provide nursing cover earlier in June and the Unst Community Team had also been unable to assist due to only having 1 staff member on the isle, with the 2nd staff member assisting in the mass vaccination clinic in Lerwick.

The Clerk confirmed the update had been circulated to the email list.

FCC had been concerned to learn that a patient who had broken their hip and been in severe pain, uncontrolled for a period of time, until the GP came over to meet them on the ferry to administer morphine pain relief.

The First Responder (FR) on duty had taken the patient off island: owing to issues with cover, the Yell FR's had been unable to come in to meet the Fetlar ambulance at Hamars Ness, leaving the island totally uncovered, without emergency equipment which is held in the ambulance. There had also been instances lately where more than one emergency had occurred at the same time.

Frances Browne confirmed she would add the above points to the Strategic Issues Log within the IWSP Locality Plan.

Action - Clerk to contact the Scottish Ambulance Service, Ms Watson, Ms Walker and the Yell Surgery for their thoughts on the above concerns and ways in which situations such as the above patient transfer could be overcome and worked around in the future to avoid similar situations happening again.

4.1/3 Health Care Provision – Joint Meeting – Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula & Skerries

A Meeting had been arranged on the 6th May for the 4 isles to discuss health care provision. The Clerk advised she had been unable to join on that occasion.

The Chair and Clerk are to join a further Meeting which has been arranged for the 28th June.

4.1/4 Ferry/Ambulance Integration

In December, FCC had been made aware of issues with a patient transfer from Ulsta to Toft. SIC Ferries had been contacted in the first instance and had advised that no call had been received by the Yell Sound crew to alert them and they were therefore unaware of the situation.

Drew Mayhew, Scottish Ambulance Service had further advised in late January, that the patient had been a walking patient who had walked onto the Fetlar ferry with an Emergency Responder Escort as the Fetlar ambulance was having issues starting. The patient was then met at Gutcher by the Yell responders and taken to Toft. The call was put in by the Yell GP as an urgent call not an emergency; therefore there was no requirement for ferries to be held for the ambulance. This had no bearing on the patient according to the crews patient report form, and at no point was the patient put on a drip during the transfer, the patient walked from the Yell Responder vehicle at Toft into one of the Lerwick vehicles.

The Yell Health Centre had then been contacted and had confirmed that during office hours, the Booking Office is contacted to ask them to get in touch with the skipper to wait for the ambulance. Out of office hours, the Coastguard is called and they then contact the ferry crew and ask them to hold the ferry until the ambulance gets there. On this occasion however, this had not happened and Mrs Guthrie had confirmed that future doctors/locums would be advised that when organising an ambulance transfer during the day, that they should ask if the ferry crew can wait or put on an extra run to take the ambulance across and out of office hours contact the Coastguard to ask them to contact the crew to go immediately.

Members therefore agreed this item could be taken off the Agenda.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/5 Community Maintenance Post

Carl Symons had previously advised that there was capacity for additional work to be undertaken by the Community Maintenance Person (CMP) and had been keen to explore additional tasks and services which could be undertaken by the CMP whilst allowing for flexibility within the role. Mr Symons had also explained that the planned for role of this post had been curtailed by COVID related restrictions, in particular relating to training to progress a number of the tasks within the role, which had led to a reduction in the number of hours worked.

A task list of duties which could be undertaken by the CMP had been discussed at the April Meeting and actions/tasks to be explored further agreed as follows:

- Grass mowing - Kirk, Stakkafletts, School & Fire station – Shetland Amenity Trust are currently contracted, although tasks such as these could be undertaken by the CMP in the future
- Clean toilets & waiting room plus any maintenance (work required at the waiting room in the first instance)
- Gritting - roads & pathways – undertaken by an independent contractor currently
- Weed control - School, Stakkafletts & Kirk
- Check ditches, verges, cattle-grids – monthly inspections can be set up
- Small maintenance jobs - tap washers, isolate leaks, assess jobs + school – check water temperature, security, maintenance and statutory duties – training and risk assessments are required along with further discussions with SIC Housing
- Wellness checks - over 80's/people living on their own and Sheltered Housing Warden role – could be rolled out in the future with collaboration with Health & Social Care following training
- Checking lighting - Hamars Ness & Stakkafletts - monthly inspections can be set up
- Old vehicles, guidance and advice on disposal of waste/reporting any environmental issues that may arise – is doable and needs to be explored further
- Annual/Bi-Annual collection of white goods, explore skips/use of caged van to uplift bulky items
- Roads - report to roads squad with any minor repairs that may arise

4.1/6 Fetlar Ferry Succession Planning

Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries had been invited to join the Meeting to discuss ferry succession planning, such as apprenticeships and/or some form of training programme which would also create employment locally.

Mr Inkster had advised that all vacant posts had now been successfully recruited into. SIC Ferries also now have a better understanding of the intentions of their current staff in terms of their positions within the organisation. This will provide a sustainable crewing model which can be aligned with age demographics, staff needs and aspirations alongside the intentions of staff.

Mr Inkster had explained the current difficulties SIC Ferries are facing with training engineers as a pose to training requirements for deckhands, which is not proving so challenging, this is mainly owing to a review of the engineering qualification requirements and in resourcing vessels. Mr Inkster advised that SIC Ferries were being proactive in their approach and once engineering qualification requirements are finalised, they would be in a better position from an engineering perspective. Mr Inkster concluded that they remain keen to work with the community to identify any potential candidates for both deckhands and engineers.

4.1/7 Saturday Ferry Timetable

Owing to a considerable wait for ferry users on a Saturday, the following changes had previously been proposed by FCC to help overcome this:

Current timetable:
Depart Hamars Ness 10.50
Depart Ulsta 11.30
Depart Toft 12.00
Depart Ulsta 12.45

Proposed changes:
Depart Hamars Ness 10.50
Depart Ulsta 11.35
Depart Toft 12.05
Depart Ulsta 12.45

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/7 Saturday Ferry Timetable

Mr Inkster had advised in May that the timetable is based on a vessel journey time and safe road travel time from Gutcher to Belmont, both of which is 25 minutes, with vehicles arriving 5 minutes before departure to ensure a safe and unhurried loading procedure as follows:

- Depart Hamars Ness 10.50 - 25 minute journey time will get ferry users to Gutcher at 11.15
- Depart Ulsta 11.35 – 25 minute travel time from Gutcher to Ulsta will get ferry users to Ulsta at 11.40

Therefore, on the basis of the existing timetable criteria, the initial request would be difficult to accommodate and whilst Mr Inkster had been appreciative of the frustration that this causes the Fetlar community, and that in good weather, the above stated travel times could be marginally quicker, SIC Ferries could not support the request with the ferry timetable based on safe assumptions to cover all aspects of their operations. Following further discussion, Mr Inkster agreed to consider the following proposals:

Current timetable:

Depart Hamars Ness 10.50
Depart Ulsta 11.30
Depart Toft 12.00
Depart Ulsta 12.45

Further proposed changes:

Depart Hamars Ness 10.50
Depart Ulsta 11.45
Depart Toft 12.15
Depart Ulsta 12.45 (Depart Gutcher 13.00)

Mr Inkster left the Meeting at this point and Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom joined.

4.1/8 Strategic Delivery Group – Remote Meetings

The Minutes of the May Meeting had been circulated to the email list with the next Meeting proposed for August.

Frances Brown also advised that as part of the IWSP Locality Plan, 3 community representatives are to be invited to attend a virtual meeting with Anita Jamieson, Executive Manager, SIC Housing and Neil Grant, Director SIC Development (which Housing sits within). The meeting is to be broad ranging initially, with all the different islands involved having different needs and ideas around housing. As the housing priority for Fetlar identified investigating a 'Local Lettings Policy' enabling the community to set their own criteria for how social housing in Fetlar could be let, Ms Brown felt it would be useful for anyone interested to join.

Action – Ms Browne is to send on further details and the Clerk will then circulate to the email list.

4.1/9 Communication List

At the Strategic Meeting of the Locality Plan, developing a communication document had been discussed and Ms Browne had kindly drafted a communication list for Fetlar.

Action – Ms Browne to finalise and Clerk can then circulate to the email list.

4.1/10 Community Conversations Invite

Details of the second round of Community Conversations scheduled to take place on the 15th June had been circulated to the email list. Ms Browne explained that the focus this time would be on community resilience, as Shetland moves through the Government Covid tiers and as communities start to think about opening up buildings and activities, the SIC wish to provide a forum for communities to share any worries, learn from each other and enable communities to explore what they can do themselves and what they want help with from within the public sector.

No one from Fetlar had been able to join and Ms Browne noted that the discussion had covered halls and community venues opening up. It was agreed that the recent teas in the hall and caravan hook up facilities had been a very positive development and "good news story" for Fetlar.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

At the April Meeting the priorities for Fetlar had been reviewed and revised as follows:

- Broadband and connectivity (which impacts and has knock on effects on all of the priorities below)
- Resolve outstanding NHS Actions – this is still ongoing with nursing recruitment
- Ferry Succession Planning - ongoing
- Attract new residents – marketing & promotion - Tourism Group/Welcome Pack
- Understand potential of Local Lettings Policy – consider setting up a working group
- Community Growing Project – land purchase agreed with the SIC and grant applications being worked up
- Explore commuter ticket on the ferry – fares need to be equitable/considered within current “Fares Review”
- Tourism - link with other Isles and “North Isles Golden Triangle”
- Decentralise office based posts – Covid has seen a huge shift with a considerable amount of folk now working from home/remotely

4.2 Broadband

4.2/1 Broadband Issues

Ian Brown, Shetland Broadband had been in regular contact regarding recent broadband outage which had been caused by interference coming from both of the Community Broadband Project (CBP) access points. The fix had seen a frequency adjustment and considerable power reduction on the CBP radios, which had resulted in slightly reduced capabilities of both the stations and performance, however, had seen the service back up and running.

Mr Brown had also confirmed that the data feed from Mid Yell is very similar to that to the community hall, with the link only now capable of 40 Mbps (a 20% reduction) and had funded upgrades on the on-island network which he stated could do with further upgrading. Further, in using the Fetlar mast and re-providing with better kit could see a capability of 60 Mbps - this will prove to be very expensive and he therefore felt that efforts and financial cash injections be directed into getting a proper high speed data link in.

4.2/2 Community Broadband Scheme/Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme (SBVS)

Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom had offered to join the Meeting to discuss the current community broadband scheme which as noted previously has seen a number of issues of late and either needs renewing or closing down.

Both Mr Brown and Smith are keen to see a full refresh and utilise a better microwave link back to Mid Yell now that there is fibre there.

Following a detailed discussion on the current issues being faced it was agreed in the first instance, that Mr Smith would undertake a 4G survey on the isle as there are now (at least some) good 4G services available and although there is still the prospect of R100 upgrades, this will be several years down the line. Once the results of the survey are back in, the community are to be involved in considering the best options and solutions for broadband for the isle going forward, which could involve a new community broadband project.

4.3 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

4.3/1 Annual Allocation of Advanced Grant Scheme (AGS) Funds

Shetland Community Benefit Fund had advised that for the lifetime of the AGS, CC's will receive the same allocation as they have for this year, ie, with Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale, Nesting and Lunnasting, Sandsting, Aithsting and Delting receiving £50,000 and all other CC's receiving £10,000.

4.3/2 Director/Observer Nomination

The AGM had been held in May and SCBF had invited representation from Fetlar by means of either a Director or Observer. No one from FCC had been able to join the Meeting and apologies had been forwarded.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.3/3 Tier 2 Grant Application

A Tier 2 grant application from Dogs Against Drugs had been received from SCBF requesting funding to cover core costs of the organisation and delivery of education and awareness raising programmes to children, young people and adults – project cost £50,000, amount requested £1,000.

Members discussed the grant application and agreed they would like to defer the application for a later decision when the next tranche of funding becomes available in September.

Action – Clerk to advise SCBF and forward on the completed application feedback and summary.

5. FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Financial update, core funding and administration

The Clerk summarised FCC's current restricted funds to 16th June 2021 as circulated via e-mail in between Meetings - FCC's Core Running budget and Community Development Fund were also discussed in detail.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Bridgette Thomason – Clerk's salary – April & May - £540.40 (fps)

SIC Community Development had forwarded on details of training for Community Councillors and Clerks which had been circulated to Members.

5.2 ASCC Meeting – 8th June

The ASCC had requested Agenda items for the Meeting held on the 8th June and working papers had been circulated outlining office bearers, CC By-Elections, CC grant form alongside correspondence to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport on Inter-Island Transport Provision. Apologies had been forwarded on behalf of FCC on this occasion.

5.3 Community Development Fund (5.4/04/21)

An application had been submitted to the SIC's, Community Development Fund for £3,000 fund distribution to local groups and organisations, the grant offer had been duly signed in between Meetings and an email sent asking for applications from local groups and organisations to be submitted as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Action – Clerk to send a reminder to the email list ahead of the July Meeting.

5.4 Community Hires Allocation 2021-2022

SIC Transport Planning had confirmed FCC's Community Ferry Hires Allocation for 2021-2022, being 4 hires for both Bluemull and Yell Sound.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Unst Partnership – Recycling Shop

Ms Browne had spoken with UP should anyone from Fetlar wish to purchase goods from the shop and they had intimated that they would be able to arrange delivery to Belmont for larger items. The UP shop had also offered to advertise for people if they are searching for certain goods, eg, cookers and fridges.

UP also run a community skip scheme, although it was felt this might not be feasible for Fetlar residents, as they are finding that their skips are full and managing waste from another island in that context could prove tricky. The service has a one off fee of £20 or a membership fee of £45 per year attached to it, so could appeal to Fetlar residents to join.

Action – Ms Browne offered to write this up and the Clerk can then circulate to the email list.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.2 Shetland Space Project

SIC Development had highlighted local efforts to develop the space industry in Shetland, with working groups established to take forward a local space project. One of these is related to the economy, community and environment and following an initial Meeting in April, it had been suggested that both Yell and Fetlar Community Councils should be represented.

No one had been able to join the Meeting arranged for the 8th June and apologies had been sent on.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 SIC, Planning – Development Management Update & Meeting Presentations
- 7.2 Shetland Tourism Association – Accessible Public Toilets
- 7.3 Fetlar Community Association – Fetlar Hall Sunday Teas
- 7.4 Voluntary Action Shetland – Community Benefits Portal Launch
- 7.5 SIC Marine Planning – Local Place Plan Regulations Consultation
- 7.6 SSEN Transmission – Shetland Renewable Connections – Virtual Consultation
- 7.7 Transport Scotland – Under 22s Free Bus Travel Consultation
- 7.8 Biosecurity for Life – Biosecurity Visit to Fetlar
- 7.9 SIC, Ferries – Essential Maintenance Hamars Ness Linkspan June 2021
- 7.10 Shetland Citizens Advice Bureau – Energy Advice Clinics – 23rd & 24th June 2021
- 7.11 Planning Application:
2021/174/PPF
Adjacent Stakkafletts – Erect 4 Polycrubs

All other correspondence had been circulated in between Meetings.

8. MEETING DATES

8. Dates of next Meetings:
 - Tuesday, 20th July at 7pm
 - Tuesday, 24th August at 7pm
 - Tuesday, 5th October at 7pm
 - Tuesday, 16th November at 7pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for joining the Meeting and since there was no further business the Meeting was brought to a close.