

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A REMOTE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 20TH JULY 2021 AT 7PM

PRESENT

Tom Allen, Co-opted Member
Murray Cooper
Julie Maguire
James Rendall, Chair
Tom Thomason

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group
Ian Brown, Shetland Broadband
Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Frances Browne, Roy Buckland, Michael Duncan, Mike Fogarty and James Smythe.

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 16th June 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 item 4.2 was 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 posts).

Ms Watson had advised ahead of the April Meeting that an advert had been drafted and information had been received regarding the “Welcome Pack”. 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, which had been forwarded onto Ms Watson.

Nursing and healthcare concerns had also been raised by residents at the recent visit by MSP Beatrice Wishart and MP Alastair Carmichael.

With Covid restrictions now easing, it was agreed that the Yell Health Centre should be contacted about fortnightly GP visits starting again.

The 4 day course had been completed by the new First Responders, who now need manual handling training and a driving assessment which will provide a more sustainable level of cover on the isle. The positive benefits to having a pool of FR's on the isles was discussed and it was felt that whilst they played an important role, that owing to the lack of nursing cover over the last year, had resulted in FR's having to undertake more responsibility and be the first point of call as a pose to previously being available to assist the nurse in an emergency situation.

Action - Clerk to contact Ms Watson and ask when the post is going to be advertised following no response to emails previously sent in June and July and the Yell Health Centre regarding GP visits.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1.2 Health Care Provision – Joint Meeting – Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula & Skerries (4.1.3/06/21)

A Meeting had been arranged on the 6th May for the 4 isles to discuss health care provision, with a further Meeting due to take place on the 28th June. Owing to an NHS Meeting with Foula on the 27th June, the joint Meeting is to be rescheduled for another date.

4.1.3 Patient Transfer Concerns (4.1.2/06/21)

At the June Meeting, 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 such time as 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 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 following no response to emails sent previously in June and July regarding the matter.

4.1/4 Proposed visit – Michael Dickson, NHS- 14th August

Michael Dickson, Chief Executive of NHS Shetland had advised that with Covid restrictions now easing, he would like to meet with the communities on the outer isles by conducting some informal island visits, by way of a Drop In Session followed by a Meeting with FCC afterwards.

Following guidance from the Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) that CC's should continue to meet remotely for the time being, it was agreed that a Drop in Session allowing residents to express their views and any concerns surrounding health and social care to the NHS should go ahead.

Action - Clerk to help facilitate the Drop in Session and send details to every household.

4.1.5 Saturday Ferry Timetable (4.1.7/06/21)

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

Current timetable:	Proposed changes:
Depart Hamars Ness 10.50	Depart Hamars Ness 10.50
Depart Ulsta 11.30	Depart Ulsta 11.35
Depart Toft 12.00	Depart Toft 12.05
Depart Ulsta 12.45	Depart Ulsta 12.45

Mr Inkster had advised in May that the ferry 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 April 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.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1.5 Saturday Ferry Timetable (4.1.7/06/21)

Following further discussion at the May Meeting, Mr Inkster had agreed to consider the following proposals:

Current timetable:	Revised changes:
Depart Hamars Ness 10.50	Depart Hamars Ness 10.50
Depart Ulsta 11.30	Depart Ulsta 11.45
Depart Toft 12.00	Depart Toft 12.15
Depart Ulsta 12.45	Depart Ulsta 12.45 (Depart Gutcher 13.00)

Action - Clerk to contact SIC Ferries for their thoughts on the revised proposals following Mr Inkster's return from annual leave at the end of July as no response had been received to date.

4.1.6 Housing Meeting – Fetlar Volunteers

Frances Browne, SIC Community Development had sent on the following details which had been circulated to the email contact list asking for folks interested to contact Ms Browne by the 7th July:

As part of the Islands with Small Populations Locality Plan, 3 community representatives are invited to attend a virtual meeting with Anita Jamieson, Executive Manager, SIC Housing and Neil Grant, Director, SIC Development (which SIC Housing sits within). The initial meeting will be wide-ranging, with all the different islands involved having different needs and ideas around housing. One of the priorities previously identified for Fetlar was to investigate the possibility of a 'Local Lettings Policy', enabling the community to set their own criteria for how social housing in Fetlar could be let.

Juliet Bellis, who attends the Strategic Meeting for the Islands with Small Populations Locality Plan had already agreed to attend, leaving a further 2 volunteers from Fetlar should anyone be interested.

4.1.7 Shetland CLD Partnership – Engagement on Draft Priorities 2021-2024

Every three years, the SIC develop and publish a plan, which sets out how community learning and development activity will be coordinated and delivered with partners across the authority area. FCC had responded to the questions via their SmartSurvey in between Meetings on the information provided on the draft priorities to help inform the development of their next plan, which is due for publication in September.

Being mindful of the impact of COVID-19, there is a need to ensure future activities meet the existing and emerging priorities for young people, adults, families and communities, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged individuals and communities. A range of information and evidence from partners, learners and the community, including the impact of their current CLD plan had therefore been reviewed, which has led to a need for CLD activity to focus on priorities over the next 3 years.

4.1.8 Islands with Small Populations Project – Fetlar Priorities

The April Meeting had reviewed and agreed on the priorities for Fetlar 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. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.2 Broadband

4.2.1 Broadband Issues

Ian Brown, Shetland Broadband and Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom had been in regular contact regarding recent broadband outages which had been caused in the first instance by interference coming from both of the Community Broadband Project (CBP) access points, with the equipment cabinet refurbished following further issues on the network. Following these improvements and alterations to the existing kit, Mr Brown had advised that the system is now very close to the technical limit of 45 Mbps, with local service being delivered as a headline of 30 Mbps down and 10 Mbps up, which will result in busier times being less than that.

4.2.2 Community Broadband Scheme

Both Mr Smith & Brown 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 are keen to see a full refresh and utilise a better microwave link back to Mid Yell now that there is fibre there and work with the community to explore options available, as although there is still the prospect of R100 upgrades, this will be several years down the line.

4.2.3 4G Survey

Mr Smith had undertaken a 4G survey on the isle and shared the document with those present. The survey had established quite good 4G coverage across most of the island.

Whilst there are some suitable “off the shelf” solutions for the community, the requirements which would enable a new CBS to be viable and sustainable in the long term were discussed in detail alongside potential costs, financial support which is available, potential sponsorship options and the advantages of having a local point of contact should any broadband issues arise.

It was agreed that a survey would be circulated to all households to gauge interest in a new CBS and then the best options and solutions for broadband can then be discussed further. Ms Browne offered to help with drafting the survey on her return from annual leave.

Mr Smith and Mr Brown left the Meeting following discussion on Agenda items 4.2.

Action - Clerk and Ms Browne to draft a survey for approval before circulating to residents.

5. FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Financial update, core funding and administration

The Clerk summarised FCC's current restricted funds to 20th July 2021 as circulated in between Meetings, with FCC's Core Running budget and Community Development Fund discussed in detail.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Bridgette Thomason – Clerk's salary – Jun & Jul - £540.40 (fps)

Bridgette Thomason – Telephone and internet allowance – Apr, May, Jun - £30.00 (fps)

Bridgette Thomason – out of pocket expenses – Viking – inks, paper, USB key - £147.23

5.2 FCC Constitution

SIC Governance & Law had forwarded on the updated Constitution following approval of the agreed amendments by the Council in June. The Chair duly signed the Constitution, with the date of adoption noted as the 21st April when FCC formally agreed the amendments.

Action - Clerk to forward on the Constitution to Governance & Law.

5.3 Community Development Fund

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

5. FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION

5.3 Community Development Fund

The following grant requests had been received and were duly considered and approved as follows:

- Fetlar Community Association – commercial fryer, electronic till, club room curtains, wooden caravan signs, place settings 160, step ladder, colour printer & ink, table cloths – project cost - £3213, with £3,000 awarded. Proposed – James Rendall, Seconded – Murray Cooper
- Brough Lodge Trust – video pitch by JJ Jamieson for gaining a philanthropist – project cost £2000. Owing to limited funding, Members agreed they were unable to fund this grant on this occasion

Action – Clerk to administer grant payments to FCA and advise Brough Lodge Trust on the outcome of their grant application.

5.4 ASCC Meeting – 14th September

The ASCC had requested Agenda items for the Meeting proposed for the 14th September and working papers had been circulated.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business to consider.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 Shetland Citizens Advice – North Isles Energy Advice – 23rd & 24th June
- 7.2 Beatrice Wishart – UK Government Broadband Survey
- 7.3 Biosecurity for Life – Presentation – 1st July
- 7.4 SIC Planning – June Update
- 7.5 SIC Ferries – Changes to Ulsta Booking Office Hours
- 7.6 SIC Ferries/Roads – Resurfacing Work in Unst
- 7.7 Beatrice Wishart – Constituency Advice Surgeries – 9th July
- 7.8 SIC – Draft Sullom Voe Harbour Area Masterplan & SEA Public Consultation
- 7.9 Scottish Fuels – July Fetlar Delivery

All other correspondence had been circulated in between Meetings.

8. MEETING DATES

8. Dates of next Meetings:

- Tuesday, 31st August at 7pm
- Tuesday, 12th October at 7pm
- Tuesday, 23rd 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.