

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24th AUGUST 2021 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 7.30PM

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING WAS HELD AND READ BY THE CLERK.

Nominations for chair were called for but none were forthcoming and no members volunteered. Mr C Clark agreed to stand in as interim chairperson for one more meeting.

B. PRESENT	Mrs L Johnston	Ms A Garrick-Wright	Mr R Skinley
EX OFFICIO	Mr R McGregor Mr P Campbell	Mr G Smith	Mr A Duncan
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes Sgt Richard Douglas (from 7.37pm)	Mrs A Arnett (from 7.43pm)	Mr Brian Halcrow Mr Jamie Halcrow (Directors of Freelight (Shetland) Ltd)
CHAIRPERSON	Mr C Clark (interim)		
APOLOGIES	Mrs S Wishart Mr S Flaws	Mr M Duncan Mr C Smith	Mr E MacPherson Mrs M Davis
NOT PRESENT	Ms A Hawick	Mr S Douglas	

Information – due to the Covid-19 Virus pandemic meetings are being held online.

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As a member of the SIC Planning Board Cllr R McGregor declared an interest in agenda item 9 – Planning Applications. It will be moved to the end of the meeting to allow Cllr McGregor to attend the rest of the meeting more easily.

Cllr McGregor also declared an interest in an SCBF grant application as he is a committee member of the Quarff War Memorial Group. He will leave the meeting when the application is to be discussed.

Ms Garrick-Wright declared an interest in the SCBF grant application from the Cunningsburgh Under 5s and Mrs Arnett declared an interest in the SCBF application from the South Mainland Amateur Swimming Club. Their children attend the clubs and they will both either 'leave the room' or not partake in the discussions about their grants.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 June were approved on the motion of Mrs L Johnston and seconded by Ms Garrick-Wright.

3. CULTERFIELD WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT

This matter has been moved up the agenda to allow Mr B Halcrow and Mr J Halcrow to leave the meeting at the earliest opportunity.

[2021/136/PPF](#) – install three wind turbines, 67m high with associated works, including renovation of existing building to be used as control room, Culterfield, Cunningsburgh, Shetland, ZE2 9HB.

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The development came up at the June meeting and members decided to invite the applicant to the next meeting to discuss where the development now stood and what plans they had for decommissioning and for benefits to the community.

----Sgt Douglas arrives 7.37pm----

Mr B Halcrow spoke and explained that the development was started by a group of six Cunningsburgh men about nine years ago. The developer is Freelight (Shetland) Ltd, not Nordri as stated in the agenda for this meeting. The leg work was done a long time ago with a planning application back in 2012 and a five-year extension three years after that. The planning application is now in again to keep it alive, especially as things are starting to look more promising with the increased likelihood of a grid connection.

Mr B Halcrow went on to say that the developer had visited the Community Council some seven or eight years before. At that time they had proposed a Community Benefit Scheme which they would administer themselves but it is now likely they would be looking to follow examples of best practice and go with the Shetland Community Benefit Fund.

Mr C Clark is a director of the SCBF and said that he is sure they would be keen to have them on board as they have been looking for other windfarm developments.

When asked what they can tell members about the end-of-life decommissioning of the wind turbines and the associated infrastructure the directors explained that they were looking at a life span of approximately 25 years. Some aspects of the development are permanent – the road – and others such as the turbines are removeable. It is all subject to planning and SIC approval. They have a decommissioning bond in place as insurance in case there is any way they will not be able to remove the promised infrastructure.

----Mrs Arnett arrives 7.43pm----

They are not sure when the development will start if it is to go ahead, perhaps two to three years, and they have no concrete plans in place just yet.

They confirmed that the building they looked to repurpose as part of the application has since been turned into a tourist attraction of sorts, since a local man started putting furniture and ornaments in the dilapidated building. The original planning application was submitted when the building was empty and they will have discussions with the individual and anyone in the community concerned if the development moves forward.

Mr C Clark thanked the directors for attending and for answering members' questions and asked them to keep in touch if and when the plans look like becoming more concrete.

2. POLICE REPORT

This matter has been moved up the agenda to allow Sgt Douglas to leave at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sgt Douglas explained that someone in the Community Council area had been charged with careless driving after overtaking too close to a cyclist. This was part of a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of this.

The clerk read out details for the area from the bi-monthly police report - There were sixteen incidents recorded for Gulberwick, Cunningsburgh and Quarff which include a two-vehicle road traffic collision with minor injuries and one male arrested for threatening and abusive behaviour whilst carrying an offensive weapon.

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Members asked if the level of disorder, especially domestic incidents, had gone up during the pandemic. Sgt Douglas said the workload and type of incident hadn't changed but that the location of the incidents had. Instead of them being at public events or in pubs they had been at home addresses instead.

Mr C Clark thanked Sgt Douglas for his time.

----Sgt Douglas left 7.49pm----

1. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTE**

1. Possible Fly Tipping at Cunningsburgh Industrial Estate

The materials dumped at the site in Cunningsburgh were not fly tipped and have indeed been used to construct a base for building a shed on – the shed has started to go up. Over the summer we had complaints that the site was not being secured and there were worries about bairns playing on it. The issue has now been sorted and fencing surrounds the site. [2019/266/PPF](#) is the relevant planning application.

ACTION: Members to keep an eye on the site and ensure that the builders continue to follow health and safety measures.

2. Orca Beach Sculpture/Bin

Mr C Clark gave an update on the project. It is moving slowly ahead and he had spoken to several staff at the dump. A small vehicle could be taken down the beach road for collecting the bins but the landowner needs to be approached first. SIC staff have suggested St Ninian's as a possible location as the esky kerr already picks up from there but not much rubbish seems to get washed up there and the Bigton folk are already good about cleaning up at the beach. They are finding out which beach gets the most plastic rubbish washed up on it before seeing if that has any effect on the decision on location. The holidays have held the whole process up but they are still keen to progress the project. The next year of funding from the SCBF starts on September 1st so an application from the Community Council could go in soon.

3. New Sewer Works in Gulberwick

Works to upgrade the sewer and replace the pumping station with four large septic tanks has begun. The road to the beach has been closed for some periods of time while work on upgrading a length of sewer has taken place. This work is being done by a local contractor on behalf of a housing developer to provide some additional capacity in the sewer network that is needed for their site.

An email from Gavin Steel, Scottish Water's Corporate Affairs Manager (North) sent today said: "The most recent feedback that I had from our delivery partner about our project for Gulberwick was that they were preparing to do some site investigation works in the late summer and autumn, so members might see some activity linked with this relatively soon. This would happen with a view to main construction work being ready to start next year, subject to planning permission and other relevant consents."

He apologised for the long wait for the work to start, citing the time needed to prepare this kind of investment as well as Covid as an additional challenge.

He also mentioned the pumping station: "I'm mindful that you were also interested in potentially repurposing the old pumping station site next to the beach. I don't think we will be able to get things moving formally with this until the new septic tanks are in operation, but if there is interest in pursuing this further then I could help set up a meeting to talk through what the process would be with the colleagues who would be involved?"

"If the community wanted to buy the site, one issue to consider is whether there is an existing community organisation that could assume ownership (or how you would want to

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approach this). That may influence who might best be involved in initial discussions? If there's interest in pursuing this further at this stage, then let me know."

The empty building being used as an area for people to get changed in a sheltered area was discussed – families, wild swimmers and kayakers were all mentioned. If the area around the building is big enough it could also be a location for the orca sculpture/beach art to be sited.

ACTION: Everyone to spread the word about the possibility of such a project to see if there is any interest.

4. Training Needs Questionnaire

A questionnaire has been sent to all community councillors asking for information on their training needs. The last few responses from members are being collected and collated by clerk and will be returned to Michael Duncan as soon as they have all been received.

ACTION: Any members who have not yet returned the form to do so ASAP. Clerk to collate responses and return to Michael Duncan.

5. Heritage Sign for Cunningsburgh

The clerk was tasked to find out from the Lerwick Community Council how they progressed a project to erect heritage signs in the town. LCC Chair Jim Anderson replied to an email query and said:

"If you are simply referring to road signs, eg the couple at the north and south road entrances to Lerwick. These were produced by SIC Roads. They came with 3 or 4 options and then once preferred design was selected they produced and erected."

Mr Anderson explained the costs for other signs the LCC had created but not these ones.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Anderson to ask for further details of the project – funding, help with choosing correct Old Norse name, timescales etc.

6. Heathery Park Path

The overgrown path was not being claimed by anyone so we were unable to get anyone official to do the work. Two community gardening sessions were organised and the path is now looking much better. Thanks to all those who helped.

ACTION: Clerk to organise one more session to finish off the path clearing.

7. New Community Council Constitution

The changes agreed at the last meeting have now will be formally adopted as the constitution has been signed and is on its way to the SIC.

4. FINANCE

The bank statement on August 24th reads £17,858.81

We have received the £3,000 Community Development Fund Distribution Fund from the SIC. We received invoices from Mackenzie's for the hot meals for eleven weeks over June, July and part of August and these have been paid – they totalled £1,980 and meant 156 meals went out to people over that period. There were no other payments outside the usual expenses since the last meeting.

Covid Relief Fund

We have spent £4,260 of the £8,000 grants we received and up to sixteen people a week are

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currently receiving meals. We still have a few grocery vouchers left for Mackenzie's and Sound.

ACTION: All to share information about the vouchers and hot meals as well as let community groups know that grant applications will be accepted at the next meeting.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND UPDATE

Grant Applications

There was only one grant application to consider this month.

Cunningsburgh Under 5s applied for money to buy new toys and to fund their Christmas party. Members decided to award half of the money towards the toys - £432.50 and to get more information on the Christmas party before they decide whether they will award more than the £100 donation which has historically been given to toddler groups.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the applicant of the decision, ask for extra information about the Christmas party, and transfer the grant money agreed by members.

The discussion about Shetland Community Benefit Fund applications was moved to the end of the agenda.

6. ROAD ISSUES/CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS

There were no updates.

7. ASSOCIATION OF SHETLAND COMMUNITY COUNCILS MEETING

Mr Clark agreed to attend the next ASCC meeting on 14th September 2021.

ACTION: Clerk to email Michael Duncan to let him know that Mr Clark will be attending. Clerk to forward on meeting agenda papers to Mr Clark.

8. COMMUNITY COUNCIL BY-ELECTIONS

The Community Council By-Election is coming up next month. Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh have two vacancies. The clerk has been sent nomination forms for passing on to anyone who may be interested. Forms are to be returned by mail by 9 September. A scanned and emailed copy is also acceptable.

It must contain an ink signature of the candidate, not an electronic one. Electoral registration numbers can be obtained from Anne Cogle, Depute Returning Officer, or she can add the number in when the form is returned.

These documents are also available on the SIC website, along with the timetable for the by-election process.

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/elections-voting/community-council-elections-august-2021/2>

1. Nomination papers completed and subscribed in accordance with the provisions of the local elections rules must be delivered to Shetland Islands Council, Returning Officer, Corporate Services Department, 8 North Ness, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0LZ on any day after the date of this notice, but not later than 4 p.m. on Thursday 9 September 2021.

2. Forms of nomination and withdrawal may be obtained at the office appointed for the delivery of nominations or on the Council's website. Details are given at the end of this notice.

3. In the event of a contest in any Community Council area, polling will be by way of postal ballot. In that event, details will be sent to electors in each area from Friday 24 September

2021. Polling will be completed by 5 p.m. on Thursday 21 October 2021.

4. Electors and their proxies should take note that applications to vote by postal proxy or Electors wishing to have their ballot paper sent to a different address must apply to the Electoral Registration Officer, 20 Commercial Road, Lerwick, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday 15 September 2021 if they are to be effective for these by-elections.

ACTION: Everyone to publicise the elections as much as possible and share that we have two vacancies.

9. CONSULTATIONS

The Flood Risk Management Consultation on national and local flood risk management plans was shared with members via email prior to the meeting:

The consultation information and responses are on the online [Citizen Space](#) platform. Locally, information is also available on the [Council website](#).

ACTION: Members are to fill in the consultation and read the papers if they would like to make comment.

10. PLANNING

This item has been moved to the end of the meeting so that Cllr McGregor can more easily attend the full meeting.

11. AOCB

1. Community Spirit Awards

Voluntary Action Shetland have been in touch via email to say that the Shetland Community Spirit Awards are open again. Nominations are sought for anyone across Shetland who has provided support during the pandemic or who you want to say thank you to. This includes individuals you want to recognise or say thank you to, new and existing groups, organisations or local shops who have provided support to those in need during the past year of Covid-19 pandemic recovery and beyond.

They explained that the process is very simple:

A. E-mail vasvolunteering@shetland.org with your nomination. Anyone can nominate. Please give as much information as you can about the recipient with a contact name and e-mail or postal address of the person, group, organisation or local shop you want to receive a Shetland Community Spirit Award.

B. VAS will process and produce either an electronic or paper certificate (whichever is preferred, please state) which we will send to the recipient.

C. The Shetland Community Spirit Award opens on Monday 23rd August 2021. Closing date for the nominations is Monday 6th September 2021 at 5pm.

D. VAS will celebrate all the recipients of the Shetland Community Spirit Award on their Facebook pages, website, through the VISP newsletter and in the press.

ACTION: If anyone would like to nominate a group or individual for an award they should follow the process detailed above.

2. Removal of Road Sign During New Build

A resident has reported that the road sign at Heathery Park was removed by DITT during the build of the new houses for Hjaltdland Housing Association. Residents would like it reinstated.

ACTION: Clerk to contact DITT and Hjaltland to ask for the sign to be reinstated.

3. Dog Fouling Project

Mr Clark reported that we now need to find out which bins are currently in place and being used for bags of dog dirt. New bins may be able to be ordered and placed at suitable locations but moving the current bins to better locations would be the first step. Before any of this can be done SIC staff need to be contacted for more information and to see if they can organise the emptying of any new bins. Local people will need to help with ideas for locations for bins.

ACTION: Mr Clark to contact SIC to find out location of bins and to see whether they should or can be relocated and if new ones can also be purchased and added to the collection route.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND UPDATE

----Mrs Arnett and Cllr MacGregor left----

There were four Shetland Community Benefit Fund applications for members to consider.

Members agreed to award the full amount to –

The Cunningsburgh Under 5s for an Aa Fired Up Christmas Activity - £490.

The Classic Motor Show for their 2022 show and tours - £400.

The South Mainland Amateur Swimming Group was also awarded the full amount they requested for delivery of a Covid recovery package to their swimmers but members requested that it only be awarded when the receipts for the last grant the group received from the Community Council are returned. They were awarded £500.

The Quarff War Memorial Group was awarded half of the amount requested for the repositioning and repair of the war memorial. The Community Council has funded most of the money which the group has already received. Members are aware of the effect which Covid has had on fundraising but hope that other funds can be applied to and that planned events to raise more money will give the community a chance to get behind the project and lead to more pride in it and awareness of the work being done by the group. They were awarded £2,380.

An update of the FAQs for the SCBF was also received. The two updates are as follows:

Q – What happens to any unallocated AGS funds?

A – If a community council has unallocated funds when the AGS formally ends, they can be carried over to a new core funding community council scheme. Details of which are still to be decided by SCBF but may well be similar to the AGS.

Q – When can a successful applicant reapply?

A – The AGS Guidelines for Applicants states 'Only one successful application is allowed every 12 months.' The 12 months is from the date of the grant offer letter. This means a successful applicant in receipt of a grant offer letter dated 1st June 2021 can reapply from 1st June 2022.

ACTION: Clerk to fill out the paperwork for the grants and return to the SCBF.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were five planning applications this month, two of which members were required to

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comment on:

[2021/255/PPF](#) Erect new single-storey dwelling house with air source heat pump. New site adjacent Linga, Gulberwick, Shetland ZE2 9JX

[2021/216/PPF](#) - Erect dwelling house with garage, access track, septic tank (with voe outfall). Plot South Vaxter Cunningsburgh Shetland ZE2 9HF

No comment required –

[2021/223/PPF](#) new porch, Garthlea, Shurton Brae, Gulberwick.

[2021/229/PPF](#) new garage, Calhanis, Aithsetter, Cunningsburgh.

[2021/248/PPF](#) extension, Hirnik, Casho, Quarff.

Members had no comments or objections to return on any of the applications.

There was one Stopping Up Order which was received from the SIC for a road at Upper Langton, Gulberwick. The order came into operation on 21 June 2021 during the summer break.

ACTION: Clerk to return comments to the planning department.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 28th September 2021.

Meeting Ends – 8.52pm.

CHAIR

12. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

January 2021 - Torches for school children from Elaine Skinley, SIC Road Safety Officer. To be distributed when the schools open again.

February 2021 – Radicle Road – an SIC Roads engineer is to look at the road to see if any maintenance work can be done to the verges to improve the road for all users.