

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE

**A meeting of the above Community Council was held via
Zoom video conferencing due to Covid 19
26 January 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present :

Kieran Malcolmson (KM) Interim Chair
Yvonne Malcolmson (YM) Interim Vice Chair
Bryan Peterson (BP)
Mairi Smith (MS)

In attendance :

Cllr George Smith (GS)
Cllr Robbie McGregor (RM)
Janice Hawick (JH-CAB)
Ana Arnett (AA- SIC)

Apologies Received :

Michael Duncan (SIC)

Clerk : Sally Sanford

Agenda Item	Narrative
Approval of Previous Minutes	Minute of the Meeting held 24.11.20 were approved by BP and YM with acknowledgement that there are outstanding items being carried forward from Pre-Covid” and these will remain noted until normal meetings resume.
Declarations Of Interest	Cllr Robbie McGregor, SIC Planning Committee KM Committee Member SYCC
Police Report	None received
Matters Arising	Confirmation to accept quote (£818.40) re 2 new wastebins as part of Project, (KM, YM, BP) Broonies Taing Pier Trust – No reply yet from SI Ltd. Clerk to follow up with Erik Peterson at Tait & Peterson.. SCBF – Advance Grant Scheme – Councillors noted request from SCBF to accept an agreement to run scheme, and look forward to receiving the proposed agreement.
Planning	Councillors confirmed continuation of current arrangement where Clerk forwards any consultations as soon as received, collates responses & replies to SIC within timeframe.
Finance	Grant applications - SYCC & SSED SCIO approved & paid out, latter after confirmation from SIC that this was appropriate due to Covid.

Distribution funds of £2076 still available to local groups before end of financial year.
Clerk to create poster & publicise to invite applications.

Correspondence Clerk has sent letter to Parent Council re Road safety in the vicinity of the School summarising all ideas, discussion another suggestion – consideration of speed bumps. Clerk to forward this to PC. KM to check previous minutes on SIC website re how often this has been raised in recent years.

Any Other Business

(a) Littering & vandalism at the Central (KM)

Discussion resolved that this is a current issue in the community, and the Community Council are keen to encourage further investigations regarding lighting in the Play Park, encourage Youth involvement & empowerment about their role in the community. KM to liaise with SYCC re possible avenues of financing installation of lights and with Liam Brannan in his role regarding engagement with the local young people. Clerk to write to SIC (Magnus Malcolmson in Sports & Leisure Dept) highlighting the costs of ongoing repairs & clean up due to vandalism, plus the benefits of lighting to deter vandalism.

(b) Rubbish bin at central bustop (on pavement) (YM)

Clerk to request SIC move bin from pavement to other side of wall to improve pedestrian safety, and avoid parents with pushchairs/wheelchair users needing to step into bus stop to negotiate.

(c) Road going out of Sandwick at Setter – single track v traffic volumes.(YM)

Discussion appreciated the high capital cost of widening road. Two separate items resolved - (i) Clerk to contact SIC roads to request improved definition & signage for the passing places on this section. To improve road safety for all users with minimal cost. (Locations identified using what3words app) <https://w3w.co/anguished.never.pots> to <https://w3w.co/merge.boils.before> (north Setter junction to A970)

(ii) Clerk to contact SIC re the Active Travel Strategy....regarding the stretch of road, north of Veester Hill, and the North Setter junction suggesting that improvements in this area would improve safety for all users. (Locations identified using what3words app) <https://w3w.co/factoring.challenge.skewing> to <https://w3w.co/happening.years.consonant>

(d) Presentation by Janice Hawick from CAB about what services CAB can provide to the community. Presentation attached - Appendix A

(e) Update that Hoswick retailers have been successful with the funding application for Planters & solar lights.

Pre - Covid Items carried forward -

- (i) Vacancies on Community Council & Chair
- (ii) ASCC -
- (iii) Councillors photos for website
- (iv) Standardised Grant Applications/protocols
- (v) SYCC Update
- (vi) Senior Pupil Council invitation

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

The next meeting was set for 7.30 pm on Tues 23 February 21 – venue to be confirmed.

This minute is DRAFT until approved by the Council at the next meeting.

APPENDIX A – Presentation by Janice Hawick on behalf of CAB

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Based at Market House in Lerwick, Service which is free/impartial/confidential and independent
Staffed by paid workers and volunteers, Drop-in service
Advice can be given on a number of issues, eg: Benefit Entitlement,
Consumer issues, Employment problems, Legal matters, Debt problems, Housing, Form filling and Letter writing,
Energy Advice, & Immigration

Normally they provide a drop in service at Market House, monthly outreach in rural health centres and home visits.
Due to COVID, all services are being delivered by phone, e-mail and zoom. They are hoping to be able to offer face to face advice in the near future once all the measures are in place in the office but this is only for clients who can't access the service remotely. They don't think that they will be able to offer home visits for some time.

They are currently working with community organisations and partner agencies to try and make sure that people don't miss out on advice at this time – especially as the pandemic is causing financial hardship for so many folk. They are raising awareness of the support they can offer, and are interested to find out about needs in local areas and the support that can be offered.

ENERGY FACTS - If you spend 10% or more of your income on heating your home then you are classed as being in fuel poverty. 20% or more of income on heating then classed as extreme fuel poverty.

53% of people living in Shetland are classed as being in fuel poverty.

81% of those claiming benefits were in fuel poverty – regardless of age.

ENERGY ADVICE SERVICE

This service has been set up to try and help people who have problems with their energy costs. It is based within Citizens Advice Bureau at Market House in Lerwick. Contact by phone, drop in to the Bureau, self refer through our leaflets.

Service can also be accessed through our drop-in Outreach Sessions in 8 Health Centres throughout Shetland. See website for details. Contact your local Health Centre also for info. Home visits are also available.

A universal service and they look at every client's situation holistically to ensure that they receive the best advice.

- 1) Checking money – making sure that clients are in the receipt of the correct benefits. Undertaking Welfare Benefit Checks to help maximise income.
If clients have energy debts we can help sort this out.
We can help them manage their money more effectively.
- 2) Funding – is any grants available to the client to help with energy costs.
Is there an eligibility for funding to help with improvements to the property
Signposting clients to grants and schemes

- 3) Behavioural changes can make an impact.
- 4) Understanding heating systems and the best way to use them.
- 5) Billing – understanding bills and the Good Practice involved in paying them
- 6) Tariffs – helping clients to make sure that they are on the correct tariff.
- 7) Meters – local problems with regard to heating systems. Good Practice in regular meter reading.
- 8) Switching Suppliers – can be done in Shetland but not always appropriate. Lots of variables!
- 9) Support offered – Priority Services Register and Priority Assistance Fund

Guiding clients through the processes.

Liaising with partner agencies on behalf of the client.

CAB ARE STILL HERE FOR CLIENTS!

As soon as lockdown started, Advisers were able to set up and work from home via laptops. We reached out to clients using telephone calls and the use of Zoom. They have been busy and in the last quarter we had a 10% increase in clients accessing benefit help.

In the last 6 months UC claimants have doubled, there were 1000 claimants in Shetland during May alone.

Employment was also a big issue for clients and advice given for this trebled in April and March.

25% of Shetland workforce was furloughed in July 2020 and even though the furlough has been extended, CAB recognises that when furlough does end, there is likely to be a significant increase in unemployment.

Between 1/4/20 and 30/6/20 we were able to help clients with a financial gain of £361,919.82.

They have also helped 186 client who had energy issues during the lockdown and broken down these were - billing/meter problems – 50 / tariff changes – 40 / energy charges – 63 / accessing PSR / switching supplier – 18 / accessing WHD – 22 / HES applications – 21

CAB also has a dedicated team for clients who wish to address their carbon footprint and are interested in accessing renewable energy measures. They held 3 remote “Energy Clinics” with bookable appointments by phone or zoom and will continue to do this regularly.

People can access CAB support by phoning 01595 744 696 or e-mailing sicab@shetland.org.

Clients can also be referred to CAB (with their consent) using our referral form and this is how many partners like Housing Support, Home Energy Scotland and NHS workers refer clients to them for the help that they need.