

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 22nd June at 7pm via WebEx.

PRESENT:

Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair
Cllr William Polson (WP)
Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)

Cllr Pete Gaines (PG)
Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)

APOLOGIES:

Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)
Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)
Cllr Anne Huntley (AH)

MINUTE TAKER:

Rhea Kay – Clerk

WELCOME:

JL welcomed all to meeting and introduced WP as new WCC Vice Chair.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies noted.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

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

FINANCE REPORT:

JL asked if all are happy with latest update received - nothing to report.

MATTERS ARISING:

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

CC discussed Crane. DA said they are currently waiting for CCTV to be installed and for some users to complete training courses. CC highlighted it is almost mackerel season and would need to be fully operational as soon as possible. JL asked DA to keep enquiring.

CC happy to send out the dock document now and discussed necessary recipients. **Clerk to send emails**

CC discussed Ports and Harbours email and JL highlighted need to push for upgraded public toilets and waiting room as disabled access is urgently needed. Discussion pointed out other isles have received upgrades and the case for a new terminal is no longer viable. Laxo is also upgraded with disabled access - makes no sense that the Whalsay side does not match up. DA mentioned it could hinder visitors to the isle. MH suggested including Disability Shetland and Environmental Health to support improvements. JL agreed CC to push on with request as much as possible and suggested including photographs in email and potentially in Shetland Times to support it. JL suggested DA to also raise the question in SIC. **Clerk to gather final information and send email**

CDF PROJECT

JL updated CC on progress. WCC has been granted an extension to complete the project by 31st March 2022. JL shared expenses would be around £6 each for the site and location as well as the £101.00 for the application. JL hopeful on steady progress. Once it is guaranteed the size will be approved the sign can then be ordered. **Clerk to progress**

FENCE AT DUMP

No update. **Clerk to chase up and identify who is responsible for maintenance**

ROADS AND STREETLIGHTS

JL queried if the streetlights at North Beach were tested but noted that the last light was still not switched on. **Clerk to enquire**

JL asked DA for updates on linking North Beach paths. DA shared it is sitting relatively high on the priority list. The list may be refreshed as road networks are reviewed but assured CC it is currently in a good position. Any hinderance due to previous terminal plans is now irrelevant. JL asked DA to keep pushing.

MH asked about dip in North Beach road, as a complaint was received about a spring in a car. Roads were monitoring it but **Clerk to contact roads to share complaint and check for updates**

MH and WP discussed area where road condition is getting worse. WP mentioned the current 60mph road would need to be 30mph considering the houses in area.

Discussion moved to streetlights in 30mph zones, and WP noted that all along the North Beach would need to be lighted. PG pointed out there are no streetlights running through Whitefield. CC to get clarification on paths and streetlight requirements for isle.

DA suggested liaising with Dave Coupe on matters. WP suggested benefit in discussing all matters with roads and WP noted previous accident at junction. **Clerk and Cllrs to arrange meeting with Dave Coupe, stating future meeting dates and arranging a visit to the isle that could work with Cllrs and Cllrs schedules.**

DA mentioned Schools & Transport were planning another road safety check for school walking routes. DA awaiting confirmation on dates. JL requested CC are kept informed so Cllrs can attend and share specific concerns. JL suggested safety checks being completed before schools go back.

WHALSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (WCDG)

CC discussed Covid-19 restrictions and importance of a face-to-face meeting. **CC agreed to monitor restrictions and arrange meeting in due course.** Level of interest was also touched on, and JL noted it would be good to arrange meeting in Hall where folk could come and see what it is all about and the WCDG could go from there.

NEWSLETTER

JL noted previous newsletter was rolled out and funding for another one. CC discussed timelines for next newsletter and agreed later in year. CC will have more updates to share with community as year progresses and will further discuss in next meeting

JIMMY ARTHUR ESTATE

Clerk contacted Solicitor who asked if there was any updated on SIC legal advice. JL explained it is not clear what else CC can do so it is now important to contact local crofters to take through Crofters Commission. **Clerk to progress**

BROADBAND

JL asked DA for updates. EE signal will be improved now mast has come, and if any providers wish to tap into they must pay to do so. PG noted Vodafone was supposed to tap into mast at Harbison Park but did not. Currently unclear if other providers will get involved but CC hopeful for continued improvements.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF)

JL noted all money to groups has been distributed. CC has good stock of masks, sanitiser and surface wipes should groups and individuals need more. WP put one sanitiser drum to JWJ. JL noted it would be good to keep shops stocked as there is plenty of drums. Drums can also be used to refill small pumps. JL happy CRF work is complete.

SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

CC advertised SCBF on previous newsletter and **JL noted Clerk to share post on Facebook to inform community.**

CC discussed funding received from Whalsay fund so far. Dogs Against Drugs benefitted and JL mentioned benefit of seeing the dogs in the isle. PG noted they have previously offered demonstrations and that could be good to see.

CC to source funding for sign installation and queried if application could be submitted. CC agreed to submit application for portion of installation cost.

FERRIES

Discussion on September linkspan works. WP noted importance of making community aware to plan for putting cars out of isle. DA noted SIC will be putting out statements, **CC to also share widely throughout community.**

WP enquired about issues under breakwater. **DA and Clerk to get information**

BUS SHELTERS FOR SCHOOL BAIRNS

Email sent. MH mentioned importance of placing one at Powster for safety concerns and enquired if progress can be made before holidays finish. **Clerk to enquire on progress**

JL mentioned safety issues can also be discussed with Dave Coupe and potentially Schools Transport.

POLICE MATTERS

Clerk updated CC on latest update received. Police are aware of issues and plan to take appropriate measures in future. CC or community members are welcome to pass on any further information that could help solve current vandalism issues.

Clerk to send email to Ferries regarding Police ferry crossings

SWAN TRUST REPRESENTATIVE

CC to leave matter until another potential representative comes to mind.

TRANSPORT

JL asked DA for updates on potential summer runs. It is looking optimistic but next years budget will also have to be taken into account. WP asked if it has been noted that Whalsay receives lowest funding per head. DA explained the case was being made that if the community needs it then the community should get it.

Discussion moved to fixed links and WP shared concerns in the inaccurate figures previously presented and if that would happen again in future. WP noted costing reports and questioned intentions from how it was previously handled. DA explained there is now more involvement with Holyrood and Westminster so the process should work better than previously. DA mentioned the national green book and that the case for a tunnel will also be looked at the same way as a bridge which will take costs down.

Discussion highlighted that now Holyrood is paying for the ferry service the case for fixed links may be taken more seriously. The case for free ferry travel for under 22s is also being made which could be another reason to back fixed links from a financial perspective. WP emphasised figures should be accurately presented and would need to be carefully monitored at each stage.

SPEEDING AT BROUGH

Community member advised to put up own signs but **Clerk to enquire about reducing speed limit. Clerk to also email Police Liaison regarding speeding issue and also highlight motorbikes issue.**

DA asked about road sweeping at Houll Loch. **Clerk to enquire.**

FERRY HIRES

CC received email from SIC detailing conditions for community hires and private hires. DA said conversation is ongoing to push for weddings to be included in community hires. DA also noted that increasing the number of community hires is also being costed for.

It was discussed that Whalsay previously had 8 hires, then 4 but could offer 8 runs at half price to the community. It was pointed out that weddings were much larger than most local events attended they should be included. If weddings are to be included in community hires Whalsay would need more than 4. Clerk has recently received several wedding hire requests. WP recently received one.

MH noted with current amount of hires it could be difficult delegating free runs if CC received a large number of requests. CC to progress with booking as normal but to push for clarification on whether CC will receive more hires, or if CC can offer half price runs.

SCAMBUSTERS

Clerk to enquire if Scambusters have updates for Whalsay then share on Facebook and put up posters

MAIN AGENDA:

APPOINTING NEW VICE CHAIR

JL noted that CC have successfully appointed WP as the new Vice Chair of WCC.

NEW MEETING DATES

JL confirmed new meeting schedule of every six weeks. MH explained it is not ideal for work schedule. JL aims for CC to make meetings more efficient from now so meetings can finish in line with work schedule. CC will monitor and review meetings throughout year, and a time limit will be considered if necessary.

AOCB:

Recent issue with fly tipping resolved. CC discussed importance of providing skips and JL noted increased price of skips. JL suggested adjusting budget headings in next meeting to see what they can allocate for skips this financial year.

JL asked WP for updates on skip hired on 22nd July. Skip could have gone out with 1245 ferry and if that is done next time it could potentially save money. Skip was longer than last one and was nearly full, if was the usual size it would have been full.

MH said about the ditch at the top of Powster road – the water is deep and needs to run away before an incident occurs. Park where digging is required could belong to Symbister Estate. If work is needed it could be done by council and billed to Symbister Estate. **Clerk to look into issue**

Clerk to get back to community member regarding gravel request.

WP noted galvanised metal along the edge of the pier. Discussion queried if it was general maintenance works and it was thought Symbister was potentially mentioned in that.

JL thanked all for their attendance and contribution.

Meeting closed at 20:50

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 3rd August 2021