

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 3rd August 2021 at 7pm via WebEx. This minute is draft until approved at next meeting.

PRESENT:

Cllr William Polson (WP) – Vice Chair
Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)
Cllr Anne Huntley (AH)

Alec Priest – North Isles Cllr (AP)
Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)
Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)
Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)
Dave Coupe – SIC Roads Manager

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair
Cllr Pete Gaines (PG)

MINUTE TAKER:

Rhea Kay – Clerk

WELCOME:

WP welcomed all to meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies noted.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

WP asked if all are happy with minutes. MH approved, WP seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

WP asked Clerk to go over. Clerk gave overview of funding, current headings, expenditure, current balance and expected expenditure. Cost of sign was touched one and further discussion of budget headings and expenditure is to be had in future.

MATTERS ARISING:

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

CC noted crane is up and running.

WP said toilets are in dire condition. AH asked when disability discrimination act came in – CC estimated around 20 years ago. CC noted Disability Shetland could be next body to contact and could also help with recognising problem that Hendra has no disabled access. **CC to connect with Disability Shetland and send photos of issues**

CDF PROJECT

Clerk had nothing significant to report. **Work to progress.**

FENCE AT DUMP

Clerk followed up with photos and videos of what needs repaired to SIC. CC awaiting response for if they are responsible for maintenance.

ROADS AND STREETLIGHTS

Clerk gave updates on the streetlight at North Beach – the issue is with an underground cable and SIC need to draft in an external contractor to fix.

WP asked for updates on the North Beach. Dave Coupe explained although it is on matrix list there is not the budget for it any time soon and the Active Travel Strategy will be the best option. Michael Craigie or Robina Barton will be best contacts. They are looking to collate all the issues/requests from communities and go through them all and prioritise works. RT mentioned he would look into CC's initial response and get back to WP/CC with more information.

WP pointed out an instance where someone had to jump off the road at North Beach in the dark because it was so difficult for cars to see pedestrians. WP also noted the need for various places around the isle to have paths.

RT mentioned if these issues are going to the Active Travel Strategy, then Michael Craigie, Robina Barton, all CC and Cllrs could meet and show/discuss issues in person. RT said from a financial perspective now would be the prime time to ensure these areas of concern have the opportunity to be improved by strategy.

WP noted of plans for SIC Education department to come and look at walking routes to school. Dave explained Education have a remit to look at residents' walking distance from school – they have to make sure it is safe. They get the Road department investigate and will be in touch, if not already, to arrange. Both this and Active Travel Strategy to be looked at for potential budgets. WP noted that Whalsay's roads should be safe irrespective of where the budget comes from. CC's number one interest is improving safety for pedestrians, and notably all the children that use the roads - some of which are 60mph roads.

Cycle paths were discussed, and Dave Coupe explained 3m is for a combined walking and cycling path. Scalloway was reduced to 2m but this matter should be looked at very carefully. The Active Travel Strategy will again be best option for pursuing this and exploring the requirements.

WP noted the condition of the roads are a cause for concern – the dip in the North Beach road seems to be getting worse. Dave Coupe to arrange for this to be looked at. Dave said there will be future arrangements for road surveys using laser systems to assess issues.

MH asked if, whenever the roads/paths are going to be surveyed, if a CC member can join and point out the specific areas of concern. Dave said not really as the laser systems will need to be continually moving but they can arrange to meet in person and discuss these issues before or after. Dave said he is happy to arrange an engineer to visit the isle in person. MH said that would be good - CC can have more direct input. **CC to arrange meeting with Roads**

WP enquired about white lines on road that are faded. Dave Coupe noted that contractor is due to come around September. They will do as much as they can with budget available.

WP noted the need to cut grassy verges at various parts of the isle – difficult for low cars to see what is around corners. Dave Coupe noted that works were delayed but now resumed.

FERRIES

WP noted concerns with tiles under breakwater and asked for updates. No updates.

RT said there are updates to Symbister Linkspan timetable.

WP noted lowest spending per head of population on Whalsay and ferry service should be improved with that in mind. RT mentioned costings to improve runs is something that should be finalised in coming months and is hoping for enough support on matter.

WP asked for updates on progress of renewing toilets as they are in extremely poor condition. Clerk to get on to. RT mentioned Whalsay should hopefully be in list for improvements to ferry terminals.

WP asked for updated on fixed links. RT is working with national subgroup to put matter higher on the agenda. Meetings are scheduled in the coming weeks. RT noted discussions are ongoing but is encouraged with progress. WP and RT discussed figures and data before discussing previous offers. WP to get in touch with contact from previous offer and get them in touch with RT. WP to also send over documentation for further information.

WHALSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (WCDG)

Clerk mentioned people interested and CC discussed how to proceed. Further discussion to be had in next meetings.

NEWSLETTER

CC still has funding. CC to leave for later in year or around time when WCDG is going to be set up.

JIMMY ARTHUR ESTATE

Clerk called local crofter to discuss potentially getting Crofters Commission to pursue legal action but it became clear this was not possible. RF suggested the WCDG as a potential solution. CC agreed and also suggested emailing Alastair Carmichael and Beatrice Wishart. CC shared disappointed with difficulty in progressing with matter.

BROADBAND

DA noted mast had not been turned on and was still awaiting a reply to an email.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF)

Clerk had just been sent second half of final paperwork and will complete for HIE.

SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Clerk shared SCBF on Facebook and noted local school project pointed in the direction of SCBF. CC briefly discussed the Dogs Against Drugs who were beneficiaries of Whalsay funds.

FERRIES

DA noted costings to potentially increase community hires are ongoing.

BUS SHELTERS FOR SCHOOL BAIRNS

Clerk chased up email and is awaiting updates.

POLICE MATTERS

CC left Police matters to see if Police Liaison joined meeting.

SWAN TRUST REPRESENTATIVE

CC has heard of a possible new representative.

SCAMBUSTERS

Clerk shared latest post from Shetland Trading Standards page. Will continue to monitor for updates.

SKIP HIRES

CC to discuss next date in next meeting and enquiry about Skip going out with earlier ferry to reduce cost.

MAIN AGENDA:

BUDGET HEADINGS

To be discussed in next meeting with all CC.

FERRY HIRE REQUESTS

CC discussed ferry hire requests in relation to weddings. Suggestion for allocating half of runs to weddings, but more discussion needed.

CC discussed upcoming wedding event. CC agreed on decision to allocate hire for this providing it is very clear that this is a one-off decision given that there are currently plenty hires due to Covid-19, and risk of the virus means an extra run would be safer for the isle. A decision on wedding allocation going forward is to be made by CC.

Clerk mentioned a pre-meeting discussion regarding allocating a run toward the Parish Cup. DA to contact Football club and discussion to continue. CC happy to allocate since Covid-19 has affected events this year. Matter to progress.

NHS CHIEF EXECUTIVE VISIT

Clerk gave CC overview of how meeting and public visiting went. Clerk, JL and AH had meeting with Michael Dickson where mainly Covid-19 was discussed in relation to the community and infrastructure. A public drop-in session was had where 1 individual attended for a half hour meeting with Michael.

Clerk shared excerpts from notes and the promising data from a website shared by Michael – travellingtabby.com

Clerk noted important question from AH regarding the many crews Whalsay have who need to go to different countries with often strict Covid guidelines. These crews should register as companies and get PCR tests posted to them that way.

AOCB:

AH noted that the graveyard grass is perfectly cut but weeds in the gravel/path are turning into an issue, and wondered who CC should contact. MH noted that burial ground service at Grantfield should be best place to contact – **Clerk to contact on 744800**

WP had enquiry from community member regarding road at auld breakwater. DA emailed about issue, and it is going to be investigated.

Clerk noted letter of resignation has been submitted and last day in role will be the 25th. Advertising and interviewing to be done.

AH noted plans to plans to step down in due course.

WP thanked all for their attendance and contribution.

Meeting closed at 20:52

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 14th September 2021