

(Draft minutes of September S&WCC Meeting, subject to approval at next meeting.)

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
L Moncrieff
J Puckey
G Jamieson
Cllr T Smith
Cllr C Hughson

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

M Duncan, R Fraser, J Haswell, Cllr S Coutts

3. Declarations of Interest

T Smith declared an interest in item 7 - Housing (He is a current member of the Hjaltland Housing Association board)

4. Police Report

Members acknowledged the receipt of a police report via email.

5. Minutes from 23rd August 2021

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 23rd August 2021 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by J Puckey.

6. Matters Arising

Re 13.1 of 8/21 Monday Ferry Service for Papa Stour

In response to a request from J Puckey for an update on this matter, Cllr T Smith indicated that Cllr S Coutts is going to liaise with Mr M Craigie, and the Chief Executive regarding the reinstatement of the Monday ferry service for Papa Stour.

Action: J Puckey to email Cllr S Coutts to request an update.

(G Jamieson joined the meeting.)

Re: 13.2 6/21 G Jamieson's continued attendance at meetings

The Chair indicated that he had spoken to Mr M Duncan on this matter and that whilst it is not possible for G Jamieson to be a member with full voting rights, he can remain as a co-opted member with the ability to participate in discussions and to raise appropriate issues. G Jamieson agreed to continue in this capacity.

7. Housing

No update on the Hjaltland social housing development in Walls was available.

8 Roads

8.1 The A 971 (Murrister to Walls)

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the need to have this stretch of road upgraded to a double lane thoroughfare. Both Councillors explained the difficulties in securing funding to enable any large capital projects to be carried out in Shetland. Funding for such work is not being provided by the Scottish Government and councillors found this very disappointing. It was stated that the plan for this work, when funding becomes available, has been subdivided into two projects: The Bridge of Walls to Walls being one and the Murrister Bend being the other. Work on the Bridge of Walls to Walls has been scheduled to take place between 2024 and 2030 whilst work on the Murrister Bend is intended to take place between

2026 and 2031. Councillor Hughson pointed out that there was no guarantee that these dates would be adhered to.

8.1.1 The SIC's Reserve Funds

Members raised the matter of the SIC's reserve funds. The question was asked if an upper limit on this fund has been set at which point Councillors would be willing to release resources for capital projects such as road improvements. Councillor T Smith pointed out that at present approximately £10 million per annum was being used from the Reserve Fund to supplement the Government's Education provision. Councillor Hughson stated that she would continue to press for reserves to be released for the westside roads which includes the Haggersta to Cova Road.

8.2 Road Works on the A971 (Weisdale Brae)

M Forrest raised her concerns regarding the possibility that the Viking Energy related road works on the Weisdale Brae could cause dangerous conditions for road users during the winter months.

Action: The Clerk has been asked to contact the Roads Department to express those concerns and to request that the road surface be maintained at a safe standard throughout the duration of the works.

Re: 8 of 12/20 Roads

The Clerk indicated that he had written to Mr N Hutcheson regarding the parking area at the Walls Play Area but had not yet had a response. I Sandison stated that Mr M Malcolmson indicated that the Community Council should liaise with Mr N Hutcheson on this matter.

Action: The Clerk was asked to monitor this. Should there be no response from Mr Hutcheson, he has been asked to send a reminder.

9. Flood Risk Management Consultation

The Chair pointed out that responses were being sought from Community Councils regarding the risks of flooding in their areas. Members were asked to consider the contents of the consultation papers and to respond as they saw fit. G Jamieson asked if the consultation included coastal erosion. It was agreed that greater scrutiny of the document was required.

Action: the clerk was asked to recirculate the email from Colin Smith of 30/7/21.

10. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

The following points were raised under this heading: -

- Members acknowledged receipt of an email from the Dogs Against Drugs Group thanking them for their SCBF grant.
- Members also acknowledged that a grant had been provided to the Classic Car Club towards the costs of next year's classic car show.
- The Chair indicated that any surplus funds from 2020/21 would be carried over to 2021/22
- M Forrest stated that the Walls Swimming Pool association had been let down by a contractor and may well need additional funds to carry out work on the swimming pool porch.
- The Clerk stated that he was awaiting an up-to-date bank statement in order to complete the application for a picnic bench for the waterfront picnic area in Walls.

11. Walls Health Centre Practice Nurse (location on Fridays)

Members were advised that the Community Council has not been provided with an update on this matter and that as of last Friday the Walls Practice Nurse was still located at Bixter.

Action: Councillor Hughson is to find out what is happening and report back to the Community Council.

12. Financial Update

12.1 Current Financial Situation

The Clerk provided an update as to the status of the Community Council account. The chair asked if any of the local voluntary groups needed funding.

12.1 Online Banking

The Clerk pointed out that a neighbouring Community Council has undertaken online banking. The Clerk sought permission from the members to do likewise. This was approved.

Action: The Clerk to set up an online account on behalf of the Community Council.

13. Correspondence (including Emails)

13.1 Scottish Parliament scrutiny of Electoral Boundaries Regulations

Members were reminded that the deadline for responding to this survey is Monday 13th September.

13.2 Community Council By-elections

It was acknowledged that the Sandness and Walls Community Council has its full complement of members but that several other Community Councils are seeking candidates especially from a younger age group.

13.3 Winter Ferry Timetable Consultation

This matter had been looked into by J Puckey who felt there was no need to make a response.

14. AOCB

14.1 National Care Service

The intention of the Scottish Government to create a National Care Service was discussed. The Councillors who were present expressed their opposition to this proposal on the grounds that a move towards greater centralisation was detrimental to the services being provided in the more remote parts of the country. Members agreed that should letters of support from Community Councils be of assistance, the Sandness and Walls Community Council was willing to present such a letter.

14.2 Wreaths for War Memorial Remembrance Day Services

The Clerk asked if he should order wreaths for Remembrance Day Services again this year. Purchase of the wreaths for Walls, Gruting and Sandness were approved, and the Clerk was asked to check to see if one was required for Foula.

Action: Clerk to find out if a wreath is required for Foula and to order as many as are required.

14.3 Transport for Sandness Children being accommodated in the AHS Halls of Residence

G Jamieson informed members that there are children currently in the AHS Halls of Residence who live in Sandness but for whom no transport, other than that being provided by parents, is being offered. The children need to travel from Walls to Sandness on Fridays after school and from Sandness to Lerwick to enable them to be in the Halls of Residence by 7.30 pm on Sunday evenings. Councillor T Smith expressed his concern regarding this matter and requested to be included in any correspondence.

Action: The Clerk was asked to liaise with G Jamieson and write to Shona Thomson, Family and Children's Services, to request that appropriate transport be provided.

14.4 ASCC Meeting on Tuesday 14th September

I Walterson indicated that he was being called on to chair the ASCC meeting and asked if anyone would be willing to attend on behalf of the Sandness and Walls Community Council because he would have to be impartial. He asked if I Sandison would be willing to attend.

15. Date of Next Meeting

This was set for Tuesday 5th October at 7 pm via Zoom.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.