

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7pm via WebEx.

This minute is draft until approved at next meeting.

PRESENT:

Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair

Cllr William Polson (WP) – Vice Chair

Cllr Anne Huntley (AH)

Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)

Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)

John Smith – Director Infrastructure Services, SIC (JS)

Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations, SIC (AI)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Margaret Hughson

Cllr Pete Gaines

Michael Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer

PC Angela Manson, Police Scotland

MINUTE TAKER:

Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)

WELCOME:

JL welcomed all to meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies noted.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JL asked if all were happy with minutes. WP noted a correction that was required. The first sentence in the FERRIES section should read “WP noted concerns with piles under breakwater and asked for updates.” AH approved, WP seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

No update was given as there is still no clerk in place.

VISIT FROM J. SMITH & A. INKSTER:

John Smith & Andrew Inkster were in attendance in response to concerns raised around the toilets and ferry waiting room at the pier and the deteriorating condition of the Old Dock. It was agreed to discuss this topic first.

Accessible Toilet Facilities

There was an acknowledgement that the toilet facilities were not fit for purpose and a solution needs to be found. Following research into potential immediate solutions it was proposed that a cabin type accessible toilet be sited at Symbister as a temporary measure until such time as the existing toilets are either refurbished or replaced. It would be a properly accessible porta cabin type facility with either a waste water tank or connected to the sewer and would be the responsibility of Marine & Air Operations with the existing cleaning arrangements continuing.

The members agreed that this was a suitable temporary measure to explore and suggested a potential site to the West of the foot of the existing toilet road. Ownership of this land is to be determined.

A reasonably comprehensive report on the condition of the existing facilities and the short term solution would be prepared before the next CC meeting on 26th October. The short term proposal would have to get approval from the SIC at this point.

WP raised that the waiting room was also an issue. JS committed to looking into getting the existing facilities freshened up and any maintenance attended to. There was also the issue of the pothole in the road up to the toilets. JS committed to getting this repaired before the next meeting and will come back to the CC with an update. Another site visit may be required.

The Old Dock

AI had arranged for engineers to come in to assess the condition of the Old Dock and this had been done two weeks prior to this meeting. They were still awaiting the report on the findings of that survey, which will lay out options to take things forward. AI would keep the CC advised once the report had been received with an update promised prior to the next CC meeting. However there was an acknowledgement that the Dock was in a very poor condition and the report may flag up safety issues that will need to be dealt with quickly. AI assure the CC that they would be as clear as possible with all of the stakeholders.

WP raised the issue of V Drains on the big pier being grown up with grass and surface water is not draining.

Action: AI will get that cleaned out as soon as possible.

JS suggested that the next meeting be held face to face possibly in the Hall to allow for space to look at plans/designs.

Dredging

The dredging has been held up by unforeseen circumstances. JS requested that they be kept apprised of any potential developments in the Marina area.

Roads

JS then asked if there were any other issues over which he had responsibility. Widening of the access to Ian Irvine Engineering and the Quarry was discussed. JS responded that boundaries were the issue. If it is on harbour property it may be simpler otherwise it may be a roads issue.

The cattle grid at Saeter is completely grown up with grass and sheep can now cross it easily. JS requested the CC email about the issue but that he would also flag it up. **Action: Clerk to email roads about the cattle grid.**

JS & AI will both attend the next meeting. They then left the meeting at 19:50

MATTERS ARISING:

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

See notes of discussion above

Outstanding Action from 3 August CC to connect with Disability Shetland and send photos of issues

CDF PROJECT

JL to make contact with Gail Rainey to look at what art work is ready, any other CCLrs are welcome to join her. **Work is still ongoing.**

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.

Ongoing

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. **Ongoing**

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.

Action: 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. **Ongoing**

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 piles under breakwater and asked for updates. **Ongoing DA and AI to look into this and report back.**

Symbister Linkspan replacement works have been delayed due to issues sourcing materials and it was agreed to push the work back to Spring 2022 in the hope that the weather will be better to allow for completion.

RT updated that the investigations into increasing weekend ferry runs is still a work in progress but is hopeful of a conclusion by the end of this year with any change potentially implemented in the Summer 2022 timetable. There is a separate project looking into the levels of community ferry runs that is ongoing.

WHALSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (WCDG)

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

NEWSLETTER

Rhea Kay to be tasked with producing another community newsletter for the CC. CC still has funding. CC to leave for later in year or around time when progress is made re WCDG. **Ongoing**

JIMMY ARTHUR ESTATE

JL had been approached by a community member with a proposal with regard to the trust funds. JL updated them on the current position and the community member was to seek further advice.

BROADBAND

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

SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Info continues to be shared where possible by the CC. Groups are applying and awareness is being raised.

BUS SHELTERS FOR SCHOOL BAIRNS

Clerk chased up email and is awaiting updates. **Ongoing**

POLICE MATTERS

An email with apologies was received from PC Angela Manson. She is retiring from Police Scotland as of today 19:00 today. Collated Whalsay figures for August up until today and there has been 1 dropped 999 call which was confirmed as a pocket dial by the owner and a report of theft by the care home which could have occurred between the 5th of June and the 30th of August. It has been a pleasure working with the community council and unfortunately due the current times we have not been able to get as much done as I would have liked but hoping that the future brings easier times and working together for the community's benefit.

SCAMBUSTERS

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

SKIP HIRES

It was agreed to have another skip before Christmas, possibly in November, date to be agreed. Plan for the Skip to go out on an earlier ferry to reduce costs. **JL to contact Northwards with regard to availability.**

BUDGET HEADINGS

To be discussed at the next meeting with all CC.

FERRY HIRE REQUESTS

A request was received for a local wedding. This was approved. **JL to contact Fiona Farquhar to arrange**

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 would be best place to contact – **Clerk to contact on 744800 Ongoing**

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

JL updated the meeting that there were no candidates for the CC by election. She requested that all the CClrs come to the next meeting with suggestions of people who could potentially co-opted onto the CC. They could try it for a year and see what they think.

AH raised the matter of an email from March 2021 from Robina Barton mentioning a list of potential routes for development of active travel. Is this available? Has it been published? **Action: RF will contact Robina Barton and Michael Duncan to look into this and will share information with the CC.**

WP said that the document he prepared with regard to the Old Dock had been requested by members of the community. Everyone was in agreement that it should be shared and that it would be posted to the CC Facebook page. **Action: CClr/Clerk to post this to the Facebook page**

JL thanked all for their attendance and contribution.

Meeting closed at 20:55

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 7pm, potentially in Symbister Hall if local Covid rates allow. If not it will be held via WebEx.