

## **GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021** **VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 7.30PM**

**A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING WAS HELD AND READ BY THE CLERK.**

**Nominations for chair were called for but none were forthcoming. Mrs M Davis agreed to stand in as interim chairperson for the meeting.**

<b>B. PRESENT</b>	Mrs L Johnston Mr C Clark	Ms A Garrick-Wright	Mr R Skinley
<b>EX OFFICIO</b>	Mr R McGregor	Mr S Flaws (from 8pm)	Mr C Smith
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	Mrs K Geddes		
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	Mrs M Davis (interim)		
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Mrs S Wishart Mr A Duncan Mr G Smith	Mr M Duncan Mr P Campbell PC Gordon Mackay	Mr E MacPherson Mrs A Arnett
<b>NOT PRESENT</b>	Ms A Hawick	Mr S Douglas	

**Information** – due to the Covid-19 Virus pandemic meetings are being held online.

**C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As members of the SIC Planning Board, Cllr R McGregor and Cllr C Smith declared an interest in agenda item 9 – Planning Applications.

Ms Garrick-Wright declared an interest in the discussion around the grant application from the Cunningsburgh Under 5s. Her children sometimes attend so she will either 'leave the room' or not partake in the discussions about the grant.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 AUGUST 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 August were approved on the motion of Mr B Skinley and seconded by Mr C Clark.

**1. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

1. Heritage Road Signs

An idea from a member of the public to erect a heritage road sign for Cunningsburgh and perhaps other areas in the Community Council area with the old Norse names of the area or village was discussed at the last two meetings. The clerk spoke to Jim Anderson, Lerwick Community Council Chair to find out more details on how they had installed the Lerwick 'Muddy Bay' sign.

Mr Anderson thought that it had come out of meetings with a Town Hall group and that the SIC Roads Department had facilitated and perhaps even paid for the whole project. The Community Council was asked to chose a design out of several Roads had developed but that was as far as their involvement really went.

Members agreed it is unlikely that the Roads department will have the available funds to repeat the project elsewhere but the clerk is to see if she can find out any more details for

the next meeting.

**ACTION:** Clerk to find out more details about the project from the SIC Roads department.

## 2. Path Clearing in North Heathery Park

Plans to have a third evening to finish the path clearing has not happened. It was agreed to look at the site again next year and see if it would be appropriate to organise another clear up in the spring.

**ACTION:** Add the path clearing to the Outstanding Items at the end of the Agenda to return to in the spring.

## 3. Radicle Road

The clerk has contacted SIC Roads to ask about the Radicle Road in Quarff. It has been an outstanding item on our agenda for most of the year and was first mentioned in December 2020. Members of the public reported that it has been in a bad state for a number of years but that it has deteriorated greatly now, meaning it is unsafe to walk on when you meet traffic – the verges on both sides have fallen into the ditches meaning there is no safe place to stand.

In January 2021 Cllr MacGregor emailed to explain where he had got to with the Radicle Road: [I also flagged this up as a safety issue at the Road Safety meeting. You will recall the letter which Neil Hutchison wrote to you regarding the policy of the council not spending money on new assets. This precludes the possibility of upgrading the road with passing places or paths. It was also pointed out to me that this is a Shetland wide issue and it would take huge sums of money to fix the matter in all our islands.](#)

[Neil has however undertaken to get the Roads Engineer to have another look at the verges to see if any maintenance work might be possible to improve the situation.](#)

**ACTION:** Clerk to follow up the issue again with SIC Roads.

## 4. Torches for School Children

SIC Roads Safety Officer Elaine Skinley offered the Community Council a number of torches which we could help distribute to school bairns in the district for safety during the dark nights. This could not be done during lockdown and it did not make sense to hand them out during the spring or summer terms but the torches are still available.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact Mrs Skinley to find out how many torches are available and then to contact schools.

## **2. POLICE REPORT**

There was no police report available.

Members discussed the latest accidents at the Black Gaet junction and agreed it was time to write to both the police and SIC Roads department about the safety concerns members still have.

Cllr MacGregor said that it was the main item on the agenda during a recent meeting with Dave Coupe, SIC Executive Manager – Roads, and there is a meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee soon where it will also be discussed.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to SIC Roads and the police about members safety concerns surrounding the Black Gaet junction.

### **3. FINANCE**

The bank statement on September 28<sup>th</sup> reads £16,167.10.

We have paid the £432.50 grant to Cunningsburgh Under 5s for their toys and have paid four weeks of meals to Mackenzie's totalling £740. We have only spent £432.50 of our grant funds this year so far. Our grants total is usually in the region of £5,000-£6,000 per year.

#### Covid Relief Fund

We have spent £4,430 of the £8,000 grants we got and up to sixteen people a week are currently receiving meals. We still have a few grocery vouchers left for Mackenzie's and Sound.

### **4. GRANT APPLICATIONS & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND UPDATE**

The application from the Cunningsburgh Under 5s was considered again. Last month they were awarded half of the money requested to buy new toys. They have thanked us for this and explained that they do not require any more funds for toys now that they have purchased them – there is no more storage for toys in the hall. Members requested additional information on the request for extra money for the Christmas party. This information was received and members agreed to award £250 this year – £150 more than usual.

As chair of the Quarff War Memorial Group Cllr McGregor took the opportunity to say a personal thank you and a thank you on behalf of the group for the financial support which the Community Council has both directly given, and also which members recommended is given from the SCBF. He said it is greatly appreciated.

There were no applications from the SCBF but the clerk expects one from SMUHA next month. An update email on projects already awarded and support available from the SCBF to help us promote the grants was read and noted.

It is just a couple of years until the SCBF will be in a position where they will be awarding the much larger sums of money which the windfarm have agreed to share for the benefit of the Shetland community. Mr Clark explained that the contract to produce a business plan has been awarded. The company will be asking the Shetland public what they want the money to be spent on and the business plan will be produced from this to take this forward.

Mr Clark explained that having community projects ready to go as soon as the money becomes available would stand Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh in good stead. He proposed that a group should be set up to move this forward – the small project group he was part of had made a start but it was time to open it up to others. Members agreed but worried that there would not be the back up from the community to do the work. Asking for support from hall committees was suggested.

The anti-dog-fouling project is getting there but we need suggestions on the best locations to put bins.

**ACTION:** Clerk to inform the grant applicant of the decision and transfer the money agreed by members. Clerk to put a call out for people to join a community projects group to be ready for the windfarm money when it arrives. Clerk to email some community councillors to ask for suggestions on locations for bins for dog dirt.

### **5. ROAD ISSUES/CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS**

There were no updates but SIC Councillors are continuing to bring up the issue when appropriate.

## 6. COMMUNITY COUNCIL BY-ELECTIONS

No one stood for election in Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh but we have one member of the public who has expressed interest in becoming a member. They will hopefully be able to attend the November meeting and can be co-opted onto the Community Council then.

Mr Clark said that the lack of people coming forward for our Community Councils is disappointing and worrying. He believes that the current set up needs to be looked at again as people almost laugh when you ask them if they would consider joining. People are not as engaged as they used to be and something needs to change from higher up to help solve the problem.

Members agreed and said that the pandemic had not helped matters. Lots of communities are in the same situation.

## 7. CONSULTATIONS

### Shetland's first draft Water Safety Policy

The documents relating to this draft policy were shared prior to the meeting. Any member who wants to provide feedback or input into the policy can complete the short survey by Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/S6WXJH/>

### Scottish Government consultation exercise on a new offshore wind planning round

This new planning round, a Sectoral Marine plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG), is designed to identify new potential areas for offshore wind development that will specifically target the electrification of oil and gas infrastructure in Scottish waters (out to 200 NM). This round will also examine potential options for smaller (<100 MW) innovation or test and demonstration projects in our waters.

This planning exercise builds upon the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, adopted in October 2020, and the environmental and socio-economic findings therein. An opportunity and constraint analysis has been undertaken to identify Areas of Search for projects targeting oil and gas decarbonisation and areas of exclusion, where no projects will be considered, under this planning round.

This is just the first stage in the Sectoral Marine Planning process to identify and refine the Areas of Search before any seabed leasing, managed by Crown Estate Scotland, takes place. Views are welcomed on the Areas of Search, the excluded areas and on any of the information described in the Planning Specification report. All responses to the consultation will help inform the next stages of plan development and shape the areas and plan moving forward.

Any member who want to respond should do so by **20 October 2021**, to the consultation online at: <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/smp-innovation-and-targeted-oil-and-gas> or by email to [sectoralmarineplanning@gov.scot](mailto:sectoralmarineplanning@gov.scot)

**ACTION:** Members to respond to the consultations if they wish to do so.

## 8. ASSOCIATION OF SHETLAND COMMUNITY COUNCILS MEETING

The ASCC meeting was on 14<sup>th</sup> September. An email giving a roundup of the meeting was circulated prior to the meeting.

---Cllr Stephen Flaws arrives 8.00pm---

Mr Clark attended the meeting and gave a short update in addition to the email. There was a big section on fuel poverty and climate change but Mr Clark felt that it was all very nice ideas but all about things which were two or three years down the line – he had concerns that

## DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the November meeting

nothing was being done to help folk who were under extreme fuel poverty already. There are a lot of surveys and policies but no real action being taken.

Members agreed and it was decided that a letter should be written to the SIC to express concerns.

Insulating houses is something else which came up in discussion – the survey can be done to find out if you could benefit from insulation and whether you can get some of it paid for but the waiting list to actually get it done is two or three years because there are only two companies accredited to do the work. Can we get more companies accredited?

Other items on the agenda were the Beat the Street project which started as a roads safety project with Bells Brae Parent Council but has branched out into a bigger project which could have many different benefits. It is a project where boxes are placed around communities for children or adults to tag a card or keyfob against to receive points – either as an individual or as a team. The boxes can be placed to encourage bairns to walk to school and to use the safest routes to do so, or in communities with single track fast roads which would be unsafe for school walking commutes, can be placed at the end of an out-and-back route from which you can park a car at. There are lots of groups involved in the project which will be run over six weeks next year.

The Community Council Grant Form was also discussed. It was agreed to keep the one which Michael Duncan had developed but with minor changes to it.

Abandoned cars have been an issue in Yell and in Unst the bins have been overflowing during the summer due to the extra visitors they have been getting.

There will be training for clerks and members coming up soon.

**ACTION:** Clerk to adopt the new grant form. Mr Clark to draft a letter to the SIC regarding fuel poverty and which the clerk or Mr Clark can send on behalf of the Community Council.

### 9. PLANNING

There were no planning applications in the Community Council area since the last meeting.

### 10. AOCB

#### 1. Dogs Against Drugs

An invitation has already been circulated to members from Dogs Against Drugs to ask if anyone would like to attend one of the training sessions in the NorthLink Ferry Terminal on either Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> or Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October, both at 2pm. There will be future dates if these do not suit.

**ACTION:** If any member is interested they are to email Michael Coutts at [dogsagainstdrugs@btinternet.com](mailto:dogsagainstdrugs@btinternet.com) to say which session they will be attending.

#### 2. Housing Strategy

SIC Housing have contacted all Community Councils to share information about the Local Housing Strategy which has been launched recently. They are seeking views on the housing issues which matter most in Shetland, to help inform and shape the Local Housing Strategy for the next five years.

The email said the strategy aims to set a new plan for homes and communities in Shetland, setting out the priorities by the Council and partners to tackle the main housing issues, and links to the 'Housing to 2040' vision for Scotland, launched by the Scottish Government earlier this year.

The housing survey aims to gather views on what is important locally, what the housing challenges are, and what actions would make a difference. Respondents can choose to provide contact details to be involved in future discussions also.

The online survey can be found here – <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/housing/local-housing-strategy-survey> Anyone unable to complete the online survey, can call 01595 744360 to receive a paper copy of the survey.

**ACTION:** Members to complete the survey if they wish to do so.

### 3. Meeting Dates

A short discussion about meeting dates was held – Sandwick moved their days to Tuesdays which sometimes leads to clashes with our meetings and makes it tricky for SIC Councillors to attend. The clerk would like a discussion to find out whether any other day would work as the South Notes column she writes also has a Tuesday deadline.

**ACTION:** Clerk to add meeting dates to the agenda next month so that the 2022 dates can be agreed.

### 4. Hybrid Meetings

Members indicated that they would like to see whether a hybrid meeting can go ahead in November – with members meeting face to face at the school if possible, and others joining online. The school may not be able to accommodate us with the covid restrictions they have in place so an alternative venue for a peerie while could be the hall.

**ACTION:** Clerk to email the school and see if they can have us. Also to check with Michael Duncan to ensure a face to face meeting can be held and that he can support us to do so.

### 5. Orca Beach Sculpture/Bin

This project has been held up with Covid delays but is progressing slowly. Mr Clark to hopefully have an update in November.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.

Meeting Ends – 8.20 pm.

**CHAIR**

## **12. OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

January 2021 - Torches for school children from Elaine Skinley, SIC Road Safety Officer. To be distributed when the schools open again.

February 2021 – Radicle Road – an SIC Roads engineer is to look at the road to see if any maintenance work can be done to the verges to improve the road for all users.

September 2021 – Heathery Park Path Clearing – a third meet-up to clear the last weeds off the path was unable to be organised. Members to look again in the spring.