

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
L Moncrieff
J Puckey
J G Ridland
J Haswell
J Laing
Cllr T Smith
Cllr C Hughson
Cllr S Coutts

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

M Duncan, G Jamieson, J Gear, R Fraser

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Police Report

No Police report was available this month.

5. Minutes from 7th September 2021

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 7th September 2021 was proposed by L Moncrieff and seconded by J Puckey.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 11 of 9/21 Walls Health Centre Practice Nurse (location on Fridays)

The Chair referred to a recent email from Ms Edna Mary Watson and informed members that the Walls Health Centre Practice Nurse has been relocated to Walls on Fridays. He indicated that the GP will be present at the Health Centre for the early part of the day and that the Nurse will be present all day.

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

J Puckey stated that this matter has been discussed by the Chief Executive, Cllr S Coutts and Mr Michael Craigie, Executive Manager - Transport Planning. Cllr Coutts explained that a decision regarding the reinstatement of the service was dependent on the Scottish Government's budget allocation to the SIC. This information is due early in December.

Re: 8.1 of 9/21 The A 971 (Murrister to Walls)

I Sandison asked if there was a possibility of releasing reserve funds to finance larger capital projects such as the road from the Murrister Quarry to Walls. Cllr Coutts responded by explaining that it is unlikely that the reserves would be used for such works given that an excessive sum had been spent from the reserves during the last financial year and that it was imperative not to eat into the capital sum underpinning this fund. However, he indicated that the above roadworks were high on the list of projects with the Cullivoe to Gutcher Road having priority.

(J Haswell and J Laing joined the meeting.)

7. Housing

The SIC's **Local Housing Strategy survey** was discussed and it was agreed that the Community Council should complete the survey. Members went on to have a more general discussion relating to the need for housing in the Sandness and Walls area. Reference was made to a previous survey carried out by the Community Council which had not generated any additional housing. The most recent survey had shown that there was a demand for housing of various sizes, but it transpired that the Community Council or another local group would effectively need to form a housing association to have properties constructed. He made the point that such an imposition had not been placed on other areas with the exception of one in the North Mainland. It was noted that Hjaltland Housing Association are now planning to construct four two-bedroom houses in Walls. It was agreed that the Community Council would continue to press for more social housing in the area.

Actions; 1. The Clerk to recirculate members with the link to the Survey
2. The Clerk to collate responses from the members, then complete and submit the survey.

8. Roads

8.1 The Condition of the Roads on Papa Stour

J Puckey referred to a set of photographs she had forwarded to the Clerk depicting the current condition of the roads on Papa Stour. They show large potholes and vegetation growing through the road surface in places. Members acknowledged that it is over a decade since any substantial work has been carried out on the Papa Stour Roads and that urgent remedial work is called for.

Action: The Clerk to email Mr N Hutcheson (SIC Roads Department) with the photographs and to make an urgent request that an engineer visit the island to assess what needs to be done.

8.2 Road Scanner Map Information

The Chair referred to a recent email that contained the results of the road scanner survey of Shetland's Roads. He made particular reference to the Bousta Road in Sandness, part of which is coloured red on the map indicating it is in poor order, although it has recently been resurfaced.

9. Flood Risk Management Consultation

Several points on the Sandness and Walls map were highlighted as causing concern regarding the potential for flooding. This included the Bridge-of-Walls which has, in recent years been flooded. Erosion at Norby in Sandness was also discussed.

Actions: 1. I Walterson and I Sandison to collate a response to the consultation exercise.

2. L Moncrieff to discuss the Norby erosion issue with the Garricks whose property is most likely to be affected.

10. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

10.1 Picnic Bench for Seafront in Walls

The Clerk confirmed that a SCBF grant towards the cost of a picnic table for Walls had been secured and that he would be placing an order for it in the near future.

10.2 Funds Available for Suitable Projects in the Sandness and Walls Area.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Clerk stated that in excess of £10,000 was available from the SCBF for appropriate projects in the Sandness and Walls area in the current financial year. One potential project is the former doctors' consulting building in Sandness which the Community Development Group wish to convert into an Airb&b. They are currently raising funds for the necessary legal fees.

11. ZetTrans Regional Transport Strategy - Stakeholder Engagement

After a brief discussion on this matter, it was agreed that the Community Council should make a united response.

Action: Members to email the Clerk with their comments and he will complete and submit a response.

12. Financial Update

The Clerk provided a verbal update of the Community Council's current financial status with a projected view as to the funds

available for groups and organisations. The Chair asked if anyone was aware of any such groups seeking funding. It was suggested that groups who made an unsuccessful bid for Invest in the West funding might wish to approach the Community Council.

13. Correspondence (including Emails)

The Clerk stated that the only item of correspondence received apart from emails was a letter from the Voxter House Trust acknowledging receipt of the donation from the Community Council towards the costs of renovating the property.

14. AOCB

Patient Transport for Papa Stour Residents

Several years ago, the then members of the Community Council had agreed to cover part of the cost of transport from the ferry terminal at West Burrafirth for Papa Stour residents to visit the Walls Surgery. Members questioned whether the provision of this was an appropriate use of Community Council funds. Cllr Hughson suggested that free patient transport might be accessed either via the Red Cross or Royal Voluntary Service.

Action: J Puckey to contact the Red Cross and RVS to find out if free transport for patients is available.

15. Date of Next Meeting

This was set for Tuesday 2nd November at 7 pm via Zoom.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

(Draft minutes of the S&WCC October 2021 Meeting, subject to approval at next meeting.)