



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 7.00pm

1.0 Present: Andrew Archer – chair
Winston Brown
Linda Tulloch
Dilys Evans
Neil Leask
Angela Sutherland
Karl Mills – clerk

Theo Smith
Steven Coutts
Moraig Lyall

1.1 By invitation: Steven McMillan – SSE
Max Aremia – SSE
Ewelina Metilloch – SSE
Mohammad Aktar – SSE
Sharon Powell – SSE
Grant Smith – SSE
Jim MacMillan – SSE

2.0 Apologies: Catherine Hughson
Roselyn Fraser
Michael Duncan

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Linda Tulloch and Winston Brown declared interests in item 11 - Viking Energy.
Moraig Lyall declared an interest in item 10 - Planning.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Neil Leask and seconded by Dilys Evans the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th August 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

1. On 14th September 2021 the clerk wrote to Dave Coupe – SIC Roads, to express the community council's concerns about the Haggersta – Cova section of the A971 road, where increased traffic due to the windfarm development and the lack of crash barriers has made the current safety issues worse.
2. Regarding the possibility of constructing a path between Kalliness and Whiteness Primary School, Winston Brown has spoken with the land-owner, George Morrison, who said that he had no objection to the scheme. Members of the community council agreed to conduct a walk on Saturday 18th September 2021 along the general line of the path in order to see the terrain in detail and consider possible routes for the path.

6.0 Decisions made since last meeting

One decision (Decision 024 on 7th September 2021) was made by e-mail vote, to submit responses to SIC Planning on planning applications 2021/204/VCON, 2021/218/PPF and 2021/221/PPF, objecting to the proposed adoption of longer working hours for windfarm construction.

7.0 Finance

1. The Financial Report dated 6th September 2021 was distributed to members.
2. There were no TWWCC grant applications to consider.

8.0 Police Report

There was no Police Report submitted this month.

9.0 Correspondence

On 8th September 2021 an e-mail was received from Alistair Tulloch, regarding the speed limit along the A971 between Soundside and Wormadale. Mr Tulloch believes that the built-up nature of this stretch of road, which comprises a school, two shops, Strom Park, the public hall and several residential buildings should be accorded village status with a 30mph speed limit. Speeds along this stretch of road were raised with the SIC Roads department by the CC in November 2020. The response from Neil Hutcheson was that speed monitoring would be carried out in the spring. The clerk was asked to write to SIC Roads to find out the results of this monitoring.

Debra Nicolson contacted the community council to say that she had taken over the Wast Owre column in the Shetland Times.

10.0 Planning

The clerk was asked to submit a response of 'No comment' to planning application 2021/277/PA for the creation of a farm track between Setter and Muckle Scord.

11.0 Viking Energy

1. Following the recent public consultations on the proposed 132 kV links between the Lerwick power station and the Kergord converter station, SSE attended the meeting to give members the opportunity to ask questions. Members asked why their response to the previous consultation, i.e. that the cable should be buried for its entire length appeared to have been ignored. SSE responded that, as a business regulated by Ofgem and required by Ofgem to provide a cost-effective solution, burying the cable was not viable. SSE felt that Ofgem would not accept the proposal. SSE said that burying the two sets of cables would cost over £2m more per kilometre than the overhead option. Members raised several objections to SSE's proposal, namely:
 - a. Visual impact. Residents at Veensgarth, Laxfirth and Girlsta would all have their views spoiled by the new, higher poles. (The proposal is for two sets of cables, each set mounted on twin H poles about 2-3 metres taller than the existing distribution poles).
 - b. Members also questioned the priorities that seemed to apply to decisions about burying the cables. It was pointed out to SSE that the cable could be buried where technical reasons or birds were an issue, but that the community did not appear to be considered in this process.

Members asked why, if SSER were going to sell the power from the windfarm for £2m a week, a few weeks of this money could not be used to remove some of the harm that was going to be done to the community by these plans. SSEN were adamant that as they were a separate company to SSER and that SSEN was regulated by Ofgem, this was not possible. Members pointed out that both companies had the same shareholders.

The chair thanked SSE for attending and SSE left the meeting. After some discussion about what they had heard, members decided that the CC's response should be to ask SSE to cost two proposals and to put them both to Ofgem. The first proposal would be to bury the cable along its entire length from Lerwick to Girlsta. The second proposal would be to bury the cable from Lerwick to Sweenister and then again for a stretch at Girlsta.

2. Three members had been on a site visit to the Viking project the previous night and reported that the visit had really brought home the immense scale of the project. Aaron Priest had been the guide for the visit and had pointed out some of the peat restoration work that was going on and the reinstatement that was happening next to the new roads. Members reported that the reseeded seemed to be starting to take hold but there were concerns that the borrow pits would end up remaining as big unfilled holes. SSE's requirement to re-profile the landscape to its original contours is dependent on there being sufficient material to do that and members felt that that seemed unlikely. Andrew Archer agreed to invite Rory Tallach to make a presentation to the community council on peat restoration.

12.0 SCBF

1. Angela Sutherland said that consultants would be appointed soon to run the community benefit fund's Shetland-wide consultation project and that the consultation period would be about eighteen months and community councils would be included in the consultation.
2. The community council has obtained its return delivery licence from Royal Mail and printing of leaflets and envelopes is currently in progress. When ready these will be hand-delivered to all households in the Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale area. It is hoped that as many residents as possible will take the time to read the leaflet, fill-in the short questionnaire and return it to us in the pre-paid envelope.
3. There have been no new applications for grants from SCBF since the last meeting.

13.0 Councillors' Reports

Councillors said that most of their time had been spent in attending statutory meetings, with correspondingly less activity at ward level.

14.0 AOCB

1. Andrew Archer reported that two people had put their nominations in to become community councillors. These were Charlie Hodge of Nesbister and Martin Randall of Tingwall. As there were three vacancies, they had been elected automatically. Angela Sutherland reported that somebody else had been in touch about being co-opted into the remaining vacant seat. After some discussion, Andrew Archer agreed to find out from SIC whether more than one person could be co-opted and a decision would be made after that.
2. Andrew Archer agreed to make another request for a presentation to be given to community councillors on the Orion Project.
3. After some discussion it was agreed that the remaining money from the 2020 TWWCC Christmas Appeal would be used to fund a Voucher Scheme for the elderly residents of the community at Christmas 2021.
4. ASCC meeting held on 14th September:
 - Fuel poverty in the Islands and steps which could be taken to mitigate the problem were discussed. Research has shown that nearly one fifth of Shetland households are spending more than 20% of their net income on heating their homes. This is caused by a combination of low incomes, poor home insulation and high energy costs. Shetland Islands Council are working with Shetland CAB, Home Energy Scotland and Hjaltland Housing Association to develop a new Fuel Poverty, Energy and Financial Health Advice Service. They are also looking at the issue of home insulation and at ways of providing local sources of cheaper energy.
 - A program of training for community councillors and clerks has been put together, which includes training on the following subjects:
 - Community engagement
 - Community Council complaints procedure
 - GDPR / data protection

- Carbon literacy / Climate emergency
- Project planning, funding and participatory budgeting
- Roles and responsibilities of being a Community Councillor
- Community Councillor induction training

15.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20th October 2021