

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
L Moncrieff
J Puckey
J Laing
J Gear
G Jamieson
Cllr T Smith
Cllr S Coutts

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk), R Fraser

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

J Haswell, Cllr C Hughson

3. Declarations of Interest

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

G Jamieson declared an interest in a funding request on behalf of the Sandness Community Development Group because he is chair of the Group.

4. Police Report

Members acknowledged receipt of the August/September police report via email. A brief discussion took place concerning its contents.

5. Minutes from 5th October 2021

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 5th October 2021 was proposed by J Puckey and seconded by M Forrest.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 14 of 10/21 AOCB (Patient Transport for Papa Stour Residents)

J Puckey informed the members that she had telephoned representatives from the Red Cross and Royal Voluntary Service and was advised that both organisations were willing to provide transport for Papa Stour residents who need to be conveyed to the Walls Health Centre. They requested that as much advance notice as possible be given to their drivers.

Re: 9 of 10/21 Flood Risk Management Consultation

- I Sandison informed the members that she had, on behalf of the Community Council, responded to the consultation and had included photographs of some of the worst hit areas. She had also informed Mr Colin Smith, Shetland Islands Council about the areas causing concern and sent him the same photographs.
- L Moncrieff stated that the owners of the property adjacent to the Norby Beach in Sandness had devised a solution to the erosion issue that was affecting their land.
- J Gear asked if an area on Foula that is prone to flooding had been included. He was advised that his email on the subject had arrived after the deadline for responses. The Clerk was asked to pass on Mr Gear's concerns to Mr Smith.

Action: The Clerk to email Mr C Smith, SIC, to alert him to the flooding issue on Foula.

The Chair thanked I Sandison for her work on this survey.

Re: 10 of 10/21 ZetTrans Regional Transport Strategy - Stakeholder Engagement

The Clerk informed members that he had drafted and submitted a response to this survey. It included both local transport matters as well as those concerning links to Mainland Scotland with particular reference to the difficulties being experienced by those attempting to travel or export goods via Northlink.

Re: 7 of 10/21 Housing

The Clerk stated that he had, on behalf of the Community Council, completed and submitted the Local Housing Strategy Survey, expressing the members' concerns about the lack of affordable social housing in the Community Council's area including the inhabited islands.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for completing the surveys.

7. Housing

(Cllr Smith Declared and interest in this matter.)

Members were informed that, decrofting has yet to be completed for the site in Walls earmarked for the construction of four housing units.

8. Housing Conference on 8th November

The Chair, Mr I Walterson stated that he was willing to attend at least part of this conference if possible.

9. Roads

Re: 8.1 of 10/21 The Condition of the Roads on Papa Stour

J Puckey updated members on this matter. She stated that it had not been possible for road engineers to repair the worst of the potholes during October because the machine required for the job was committed to another task. However, it is hoped that it will be available for Papa Stour during November. More repairs to the Papa Stour roads have been scheduled for the spring of 2022 with a complete resurfacing of the island's roads due to take place in 2023.

9.1 The Junction of the A 970 and the Kergord Road

M Forrest expressed her concern regarding difficulties experienced by motorists accessing the Kergord Road from the A970 at night. The problem has been compounded by the track leading into the Viking Energy construction site.

Action: The Clerk to contact the SIC Roads department raising this matter.

9.2 Condition of A971 road surface on the Weisdale Brae where the cable laying works are taking place.

G Jamieson asked if this section of road was going to be resurfaced when the above works are complete. Cllr S Coutts stated that the road would be completely resurfaced when the cable laying work was completed.

Re: 8 of 12/20 Roads

The Clerk stated he had yet to receive a response from Mr Hutcheson regarding road and child safety relating to the car park at the Walls Play area.

Action: The Clerk was asked to send a reminder to Mr Hutcheson

10. Scottish Government Plan for a National Care Service

10.1 Shetland Islands Council's Response to the Government's Proposals

Cllr S Coutts spoke on this matter explaining that a robust and comprehensive response had been submitted to the Scottish Government from this Local Authority. The level of expenditure on care services in Shetland far outstrips what is being offered in other parts of the country. This can be seen in the levels of pay awarded to those working in the care sector in Shetland which is currently well above what is being proposed nationally. Cllr Coutts described the Government's Plan as a '*race to the bottom*'.

Action: Cllr Coutts to keep the members informed regarding progress on this matter.

10.2 Occupancy of beds in Wastview

I Sandison stated that as far as she was aware there was an under-occupancy of beds at the Wastview Care Centre. She asked why this was so.

Action: Cllr Coutts to look into this matter and report back to the members.

11. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

11.1 Funding request from the Shetland Cattle Herd Book Society

Members considered a request from the Shetland Cattle Herd Book Society for £500 towards the costs of secretariat for 1 year and a website upgrade. It was pointed out that they have made a funding request through the SCBF to all Community Councils.

Approval was proposed by I Walterson and seconded by J Gear. There were no objections to this proposal.

Action: The Clerk to inform Ms E Gear that the bid has been successful.

11.2 Funding request from Ability Shetland to set up a Parent and Child Group for families of children with complex support needs.

(I Walterson declared an interest in this item because his wife works in the facility named in the bid.)

Members considered a request for £1000 towards the costs of setting up a Parent and Child Group for families of children with complex support needs who are living the Sandness, Walls, Aith and Bixter areas. It was noted that the Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council have also been approached for funding for this project.

Approval was proposed by J Gear and seconded by I Sandison. There were no objections to this proposal.

Action: The Clerk to inform Ms E Gear that the bid has been successful.

12. Financial Update

12.1 Current Financial position

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.

12.2 Grant request from the Sandness Community Development Group

(G Jamieson declared an interest in this item.)

Members considered a grant request from the Sandness Community Development Group for £690 towards the legal costs of acquiring the former Doctor's Building in Sandness.

Approval was proposed by I Sandison and seconded by M Forrest. There were no objections to this proposal.

Action: The Clerk to inform the Sandness Community Development Group that their bid has been successful and to make the agreed payment.

13. Correspondence (including emails)

13.1 Aviation Strategy: consultation

Discussion on this matter was deferred until the December meeting.

Action: The Clerk was asked to recirculate the email relating to this matter.

13.2 Boundary Commission for Scotland consulting with Community Councils

Because Orkney and Shetland are unaffected by the changes to Scottish Electoral Constituencies, it was decided no need to respond to this consultation exercise.

14. AOCB

The Clerk referred to a phone call he had received from Michele Simms, Shetland Parish Development Worker, regarding the *Listening to Walls* consultation that had recently been carried out. She described how it is necessary for St Paul's Church in

(Draft Minutes of November 2021 S&WCC Meeting, subject to approval at next meeting.)

Walls to be utilised by local groups throughout the week in order to keep the building viable given that £80k needs to be spent to reroof the Church in the near future. As well as inviting Community Council members to a presentation of the consultation's findings at 10 am on Saturday 6th November, she asked if she could attend the December meeting of the Community Council. This request was approved.

Action: The Clerk to inform Ms Simms that she is invited to the December S&WCC meeting.

15. Date of Next Meeting

This was set for Tuesday 7th December at 7 pm via Zoom.
(Provided it does not clash with a possible Brass Band Concert in the Walls Hall.)

Action: The Clerk to check with Mrs A Duncan if the concert is going ahead this year and report back to members.)

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.