

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A REMOTE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 31ST AUGUST 2021 AT 7PM

PRESENT

Roy Buckland
Murray Cooper
Mike Foggarty
Julie Maguire
James Rendall, Chair
Tom Thomason

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategi Delivery Group
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Michael Duncan and James Smythe.

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 20th of July 2021 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/1 Nursing Recruitment

Members were pleased to hear that NHS Shetland were proceeding to interview for both nursing posts on a 24/7, 365-day resident rotational basis working 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off.

Owing to issues with HMRC and taxable related benefits, the NHS had previously confirmed that accommodation could not be provided as part of the package.

Action - Clerk to advise Ms Watson that Mike Foggarty had offered to be involved in the recruitment process.

4.1/2 Patient Transfer Concerns

Members discussed recent emergency responses and patient transfer concerns brought to their attention and felt it would be beneficial to review this with the NHS, Scottish Ambulance Service and Yell Health Centre.

Action - Clerk to send an invite to the next CC Meeting.

4.1/3 Drop-in Session – Michael Dickson, NHS Shetland

Although Covid restrictions had eased, FCC had been unable to meet with Mr Dickson following the Drop-in Session held on the 14th of August following guidance received from SIC, Corporate Services that CCs should continue to meet remotely for the time being.

Mr Dickson's summary of the issues and concerns raised at the Drop-in Session had been circulated (Appendix A refers), with further feedback and comments received from residents:

- Improved broadband needed for online/video appointments, eg, Ask My GP
- Could local businesses such as Cooke Aquaculture provide sponsorship for a community broadband scheme and the NHS asked to support the project?
- Need for a robust system/nurse in place to ensure patients can access help when needed
- Costs involved in travelling to Yell Health Centre means the health service is no longer free
- For those without transport, it is more complicated in accessing healthcare in Yell
- Disagree with linking with Unst practice instead of Yell

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/3 Drop-in Session – Michael Dickson, NHS Shetland

Concerns regarding medical care raised at a recent visit by Beatrice Wishart MSP had been sent onto Mr Dickson and Emma Perring, Project Officer, Islands with Small Populations. Ms Perring had advised that the Community Maintenance Person can have a role in supporting any remote appointments using technology at the hall, familiarisation, and such like.

Action - Clerk to forward on the additional feedback received onto the NHS.

4.1/4 Visits by GP

Earlier in August, Yell Health Centre had confirmed that telephone consultations would continue to be offered to patients, with the GP then deciding if patients need to be seen. If the Dr were to come in, it would have to be scheduled appointments only, as is the arrangement Shetland wide.

Following further concerns raised by residents and points raised at the recent NHS Drop-in Session with residents feeling very strongly that fortnightly visits by the GP be reinstated, Members agreed to see if fortnightly visits could start again with restrictions now easing.

Action - Clerk to contact Yell Health Centre.

4.1/5 Saturday Ferry Timetable

Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries had agreed in June to consider the following revised changes to initial proposals discussed at the April Meeting regarding the Saturday timetable:

Current timetable:

Depart Hamars Ness 10.50
Depart Ulsta 11.30
Depart Toft 12.00
Depart Ulsta 12.45

Revised changes:

Depart Hamars Ness 10.50
Depart Ulsta 11.45
Depart Toft 12.15
Depart Ulsta 12.45 (Depart Gutcher 13.00)

In August, Mr Inkster had outlined the following main reasons why the proposals could not work:

- The service bus leaves Toft at 12.00 with an advertised crossing time of 20 minutes with timetable connections on agreed times, rather than fastest times, meaning that the bus departure time would need changed by at least 5 minutes
- Changing the 12.50 sailing to 13.00 on Bluemull Sound would also be very difficult to accommodate, as it would reduce the crew lunch break by 10 minutes
- Anyone arriving at Toft on the bus would have a 25-minute wait for the next ferry at 12.15, instead of 10 minutes

SIC Ferries & Transport Planning had advised that the change could therefore not be accommodated at this time. Members felt it would be useful to explore any options that could work further.

Action – Frances Browne to contact SIC Ferries & Transport Planning and request user numbers for the 12.00 from Toft.

4.1/6 Fetlar Locality Plan Data Survey

The survey designed to capture information about Fetlar, allowing IWSP to monitor outcomes and ambitions described in the Locality Plan had been circulated to the email contacts list.

4.1/7 Strategic Delivery Group

Mr Cooper and Ms Bellis had agreed to forward a quarterly update ahead of the August Strategic Meeting. The Minutes of the August Meeting had been circulated to the email contacts list.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

Fetlar Priorities reviewed and revised in April:

- Broadband and connectivity – this impacts and has knock on effects on all priorities below
- Resolve outstanding NHS Actions – still ongoing with nursing recruitment
- Ferry Succession Planning - ongoing
- Attract new residents – marketing & promotion - Tourism Group/Welcome
- Understand potential of Local Lettings Policy – consider setting up a working group - ongoing
- Community Growing Project – land purchase progressing and grant applications being prepared by Fetlar Community Association
- Explore commuter ticket on the ferry – fares need to be equitable/considered within current “Fares Review”
- Tourism - link with other Isles and “North Isles Golden Triangle”
- Decentralise office-based posts – Covid has seen a huge shift with a considerable amount of folk now working from home/remotely

4.2 Broadband

Marvin Smith, Shetland Telecom had previously advised that although there is still the prospect of R100 upgrades, this will be several years down the line. A 4G survey had been undertaken by Mr Smith which had demonstrated that there is now (at least some) good 4G services available on the island. Previous issues with the current Community Broadband Scheme (CBS) have been resolved. However, the current scheme needs replacing and requires a full refresh, with effort and financial investment directed into getting a proper high speed data link into the island should the community wish to do so. It was agreed to seek the views of households, groups, and local businesses for their thoughts on the best way forward regarding connectivity and broadband and gauge interest in a new CBS project.

Action – Ms Browne, Mr Smith, and the Clerk to finalise the survey and then circulate to every household and look at dates for a Drop-in Session on connectivity.

5.1 Financial update, core funding and administration

The Clerk summarised current restricted funds within FCC’s Core Running Budget and Community Development Fund to 31st August 2021 as circulated ahead of the Meeting.

The following invoices had been approved for payment:

- Bridgette Thomason – Clerk’s salary – August - £270.20 (fps)
- ICO – Data Protection – Annual Renewal Fee - £35.00 (d/d)

Members noted guidance from SIC Corporate Services on CC’s continuing to meet remotely for the time being.

5.2 Community Council By-Elections

FCC has one vacancy, details of the By-Elections had been circulated locally to encourage members of the community to apply, with the nomination deadline of 9th September highlighted.

5.3 Association of Shetland Community Councils

Working papers had been circulated for the ASCC Meeting on the 14th of September, with apologies forwarded on from FCC on this occasion.

5.4 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

SCBF’s invite for representation from Fetlar by means of either a Director or Observer was noted with Fetlar currently not being represented on the Board.

FCC deferred deciding on the Advanced Grant Scheme applications received to date until the next Meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Community Skips

Following enquiries locally about collection of bulky waste and community skips, the possibility of the Community Maintenance Person collecting bulky waste and doing a “Bruck Run” to Lerwick with heavy goods was agreed as the best possible solution in getting bulky waste uplifted from the island

Action – Clerk to contact SIC Environment & Estate.

6.2 Quay Steps & Slip – Hamars Ness

SIC Ferries had arranged to have the steps & slip cleaned at Hamars Ness following reports of both covered in weeds and green slime when there is a low tide at Hamars Ness.

6.3 Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas Decarbonisation

Members discussed the consultation and expressed concern that it appeared that the planned locations, could result in Shetland surrounded by wind farms and the resulting impact this could have.

Action – Clerk to feedback comments in the survey.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 Yell Surgery – Delivery – Lateral Flow Tests
- 7.2 SIC Planning – Flood Risk Management Consultation
- 7.3 Scottish Government – Development of the Islands Bond
- 7.4 Scottish Community Councils – Facebook Page
- 7.5 Shetland Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual Report 2020/2021
- 7.6 SIC Planning – August Planning Update
- 7.7 Voluntary Action Shetland – Shetland Community Spirit Award 2021

All other correspondence circulated in between Meetings.

8. MEETING DATES

8. Dates of next Meetings:
 - Tuesday, 12th October at 7pm
 - Tuesday, 23rd November at 7pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for joining the Meeting and since there was no further business the Meeting was brought to a close.

Good afternoon, Bridgette,

Thank you so much for co-ordinating the meeting that took place on Saturday 14 August.

I agreed with the attendees that I would do my best to capture the points we discussed but if I have missed anything I would welcome their feedback.

Those attending the meeting felt that the Health Board had forgotten about them.

Issues discussed included:

- The withdrawal of the regular GP visits by the previous post holder due to Covid and these had not been reinstated
- They did not know which day the nurses were coming
- The nurses were not regular and had inconsistent skills with some not even being able to take bloods
- Actions agreed at previous visits were not carried through
- Various examples of poor-quality care were outlined including incorrect sample bottles used to collect a urine sample that delayed treatment, medication changed and delivered without communication with the patient, a patient travelling for a shingles vaccine even though they had it within the past 9 months, it simply hadn't been recognised. One resident felt they had nowhere to go with their bad back as no one seemed to listen, another one expressed the lack of support had been going on for years
- They felt that that the Health Board didn't offer plausible responses e.g., a helicopter could reach Fetlar in 15 mins when they all knew it was 1-2 hours, poor experiences with NHS 24 and locum GPs not being orientated to allow them to effectively manage emergency evacuations and out of hours provision
- Simple issues were being missed with music not being switched on to support privacy when undertaking consultations due to poor consultations
- An example was raised of a patient being discharged requiring daily district nurse input, but his wife was providing this for her husband
- They expressed frustration at needing to travel to Yell for care and felt the island would be better off being aligned to Unst
- They also supported the idea of using the hall as a space that could facilitate near me consultations as the internet connectivity was reliable
- They do not feel the Health Board listens to their concerns with many disengaging with healthcare because "what is the point"
- We discussed if it was possible to "post" someone out or just pay more, I explained that restrictions placed on the NHS prevented this happening and HMRC prevented offering free accommodation
- They also asked if the Board was aware of three island nurses all resigning at the same time and was there any similarities? I confirmed that I was aware of this, and the reasons were different for each
- We discussed the option of using the hall as a space where people could do for consultations which avoided the need for travel

I listened to their concerns and explained the wider situation across the UK and demands on primary care, I accepted what they had experienced and offered my apologies and explained I would go back and discuss these with the Primary Care Team.

I'd like to offer my thanks to those who attended the meeting for sharing their views so honestly, it was appreciated, I am currently working these through with the team and will come back with a response as soon as I am able.

Thanks
Michael

Michael Dickson, Chief Executive, NHS Shetland / NHS Orkney