

# Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a WebEx meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held on Monday 11 October 2021 at 7.30pm. 0800 051 3810 2610 455 1281

Present:	J Priest	Mrs S Deyell
	M Bennett	J D Garrick
	G Morrison	
Ex officio:	Cllr C Hughson	Cllr S Coutts
In attendance:	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were intimated on behalf of Ms D Nicolson, Cllr T Smith, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

**MINUTES & HEADLINES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mr J D Garrick.

**BUSINESS ARISING: Police:** The June/July Police Report was received and circulated.

**Coronavirus:** Coronavirus cases in the islands continue. Vaccines are now being administered to 12-17 year olds and booster jabs are being given along with the flu vaccinations this year to the over 60s and those who are vulnerable.

**Broadband:** This is an ongoing problem. The Chairman had again contacted Ms Beatrice Wishart MSP but has not yet received a reply. The R100 programme does not have any logic as it appears to serve only some houses and not others, although the cable passes nearby. The thinking behind this scheme was that it would even up provision but this will make the quality of service worse. An enquiry will be sent to Ms Beatrice Wishart to check whether we have understood the information we received.

**Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse:** Cllr C Hughson had tried to contact Mr Karl Bolt at the Roads Dept to check whether this contract has been let but had been unsuccessful.

The Chairman had been reliably informed that, by doing the job in 2 phases, it will increase the cost by 25%. The members agreed that this is a disgraceful waste of public money.

**Roads Reports:** Reports received and circulated to the members.

**Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction:** Cllr C Hughson had contacted Mr D Coupe regarding the signs and had received a reply which said that it is hoped to get the signs up in the next two weeks. She will forward copy of the reply to the Clerk for circulation to the members. Mr M Bennett and Ms D Nicolson have both received enquiries from the residents in the area regarding this.

**Car accident at Aith:** A report was received of a car accident at Aith on 12 September, possibly caused by speed. A request was received for the 'Smiley/Grumpy face' sign to be erected where the 40mph limit starts to show people the speed at which they are travelling. This was agreed and an email will be sent asking that this site be added to the list of locations.

**Road scanner map information:** An email was received from Mr M Duncan attaching scanner data from the Roads Service which should have been submitted following Mr N Hutcheson's attendance at the June meeting of ASCC. It had been circulated to the members who agreed that it is somewhat out of date as the Culswick road is marked as having a poor surface and it was tarred about two years ago.

**Road down Weisdale where pipe presently being laid:** Concern was expressed about the state of the surface of the road where the ductlaying is taking place. Cllr C Hughson assured everyone that this stretch of road is to be re-instated once the work is complete.

**Viking Energy Wind Farm:** The Chairman and Mr J D Garrick had attended a site meeting at the Wind Farm on 14 September and were surprised at the amount of work which has been carried out. Mr J D Garrick said that he was impressed by their optimism about re-instating the moor.

**Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF):** A message was received from the Administration Officer to SCBF saying that the 2020/21 funding year saw a total of £200,937.35 of grant funding approved. The SCBF website contains details of all the projects supported by the fund so far. These are listed by Community Council area and can be viewed via this link [Projects Supported – Shetland Community Benefit Fund \(scbf.org.uk\)](#). They range in area from Fair Isle to Unst, and in type from a promotional video to improving various community assets. SCBF have also launched a Facebook page [Shetland Community Benefit Ltd/Facebook](#). This is updated with press releases and other posts which hopefully encourage applicants to apply to the scheme.

Mrs S Deyell agreed to place information on this Community Council's Facebook page to encourage groups to apply for assistance towards their projects.

**Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund:** Monitoring forms will be sent to the groups in early November to check how groups are progressing.

**Community Development Fund – Distribution 21/22:** Will be discussed again at our next meeting.

**New Grant Application form:** Our refreshed form was discussed at the Association meeting in September but it was agreed there that all Community Councils should continue to use the new template which was approved by ASCC in March 2021. Mr M Duncan will be issuing a set of grant form Help Notes in the near future but should any groups need help with completing an application form we should signpost them to our local Community Worker or Mr Duncan himself for help.

**Funding:** Various funding information received from Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

**Association:** Ms D Nicolson represented this Community Council at the Association meeting on 14 September. Following the meeting she sent a message saying that it had been agreed that the new grant application template will have to be used. She will provide a report on the rest of the meeting in due course.

**Orion Project:** Still on going.

**Temporary Change in Planning:** No further update from the Planning Dept.

**Scambuster Session:** Will take place when face to face meetings are possible.

**Meetings in Future:** Agreed that the next meeting will be held by WebEx.

**Gravestones:** No update.

**Unadopted Roads:** 2 unadopted road grants have been claimed.

**Community Conversations – Round 2:** The notes following the Community Conversations Round 2 meeting was received by those who attended and will be circulated to the other members for information.

**Electoral Arrangements:** The westside area is being reduced and will only have 2 SIC members.

**Financial Accounts:** Message received from Mr M Duncan saying that the Financial Accounts have been accepted.

**By-Election:** The result of the By-Election was received.

**Turning area at inner end of Sandsound road:** Mr M Bennett had contacted Mr N Robertson at the Roads Dept regarding the problems being experienced at the turning area. Mr N Robertson has agreed to arrange provision of a sign at this spot reminding drivers that this is a designated turning area.

**Dogs Against Drugs Demonstration:** An email was received from Mr M Coutts, the Project Manager and Drug Dog Instructor, giving the dates of 2 training sessions. Some of the members hope to attend.

**ZetTRANS REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY:** ZetTrans, the Regional Transport Partnership (RTP) for the Shetland Islands, is producing a new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and Stantec has been commissioned to support Zet Trans in delivering this new strategy. They would like to hear from the Community Council to gather views and insights on transport in Shetland. The deadline for responses is 29 October. Members were encouraged to check this out.

**LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY SURVEY:** A message was received from the Housing Service highlighting the Local Housing Strategy survey that has been launched recently. It is an opportunity for everyone to put forward views. SIC are preparing the local housing strategy for the next five years. They aim to gather views on what is important locally, what the housing challenges are and what actions would make a difference.

The members are concerned about the lack of affordable housing, especially for young ones trying to get on the property ladder and also about second homes. All members can fill in the online survey form or call for a paper copy.

**ACCESS TO THE OLD GRAVEYARD AT TWATT:** A message was received saying from a member of the public saying that there is no apparent access to the old graveyard at Twatt and the route is blocked by fences, etc. It has not been used for many years but people come from all over the world to search for graves of long deceased relations and want to visit the burial place.

Cllr C Hughson had contacted the appropriate SIC Dept and had been informed that the abandoned Kirk and boundary walls are in a state of disrepair. There are plans for the gate to be replaced and it is mooted to erect signage and a style over the fence to allow pedestrian access.

**IT'S EVERYONE'S JOB E LEARNING:** The link to e learning is on the safershetland homepage (<https://www.safershetland.com>), the front page of Child Protection (<https://www.safershetland.com/child-protection>) and the front page of Adult Protection (<https://www.safershetland.com/adult-protection>).

**DRAFT WATER SAFETY POLICY – SURVEY:** Copy of a survey and draft policy document in respect of the Draft Water Safety Policy was received from Mr M Duncan.

**LEVEL 3 CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING:** Details of training courses for level 3 training were received.

**DEVELOPMENT OF CLD ACTION PLAN:** Details of online workshops regarding Shetland's new Community Learning & Development Plan had been received and circulated to the members.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next WebEx meeting will be held on Monday 8 November 2021 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm