

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

*Chairman:*

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.00pm

**Present:**

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

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk), M Simms (Shetland Parish Development Worker), Mr M Duncan (External Funding Officer / Community Council Liaison Officer)

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

**2. Apologies**

L Moncrieff, R Fraser

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr T Smith declared an interest in item 8 - Housing (He is a current member of the Hjaltland Housing Association board)

**4. Police Report**

A police report had been presented at the November meeting of the Community Council and it is now the case that they will be provided bi-monthly.

**5. Virtual Visit by Michele Simms (Parish Development Worker)**

(Because Ms Simms was not yet in attendance, the Chair moved on to the next item.)

**6. Minutes from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 was proposed by J Gear and seconded by J Puckey.

**7. Matters Arising**

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

Members were informed that work has yet to commence on the potholes on the Papa Stour roads. Residents are concerned that this may not happen before Christmas and all the while the condition of the road continues to deteriorate.

**Action: The Clerk was asked to email Mr N Hutcheson reminding him of the urgency of the situation.**

***Re:10.2 of 11/21 Occupancy of beds in Wastview***

Cllr Coutts was thanked for updating members on the current situation concerning staffing at the Care Centre. The question of recruitment was raised. Cllr Coutts stated that this is becoming extremely challenging with agency staff proving difficult to find at present. He suggested that the matter be taken up with Mr B Chittick who had expressed a willingness to attend a future meeting of the Community Council.

**Action: The Clerk was asked to invite Mr Chittick to attend the January meeting of the S&WCC.**

(Ms Simms entered the meeting and item 5 was taken)

## **5.1 Overview of Project to Enhance Community Life in the Walls Area using St Paul's Church of Scotland**

Michele began by providing a brief description of her role as Shetland Parish Development worker. She then went on to explain that she had been involved in an exercise intended to extend community use of St Paul's Church of Scotland in Walls. She described how church members and community groups had been consulted and that they had been asked to make suggestions as to what facilities they felt were lacking in the area. Suggestions included a music and film venue, a café, a meeting place for the elderly and an exhibition space.

## **5.2 Next Steps**

Ms Simms intimated that a public meeting with Mr B Chittick and Mrs R Fraser in attendance was set to take place on the evening of Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Chittick will inform attendees about the advantages of a Wellbeing Hub which could be run in the church.

## **5.3 Q&A**

The Chair invited questions from the members.

- Q. Have the stake holders of the other social facilities in the community had been consulted?
- A. They had been involved in the survey and are fully aware of what is taking place.
- Q. Will there be an agenda to attempt to persuade secular users to become involved in the spiritual life of the church?
- A. No, secular activities will be the responsibility of those running them. That said, there will be some restrictions such as the prohibition of alcohol in the building.
- Q. Given that there has been a recent email expressing the need of childcare facilities on the westside, is that a possible use for the building?
- A. This would need to be run commercially and whilst it might be possible for this to take place in the church, it would require the appropriate health and safety checks prior to being used in such a way.
- Q. If the building is going to be hired out for some events and activities, will the charges be aligned to those of other venues in the community?
- A. That could be negotiated when the eventuality arises.

The Chair thanked Ms Simms for attending.

## **7. Matters Arising (Continued)**

### ***Re: 9 of 10/21 Flood Risk Management Consultation***

J Gear referred to the flooding at the Loch Toon on Foula.

Action: Member of Foula community to provide either the Clerk or Mr Colin Smith with photographs of area.

### ***Re: 13.1 Aviation Strategy: consultation***

The Chair asked if anyone had accessed or completed this survey.

Action: 1. Mr M Duncan to resend the survey to the clerk for distribution to members.  
2. Members were invited to complete the survey if they wished.

## **8. Housing**

(Cllr Smith declared an interest in this matter.)

A brief discussion took place regarding the time it is taking to carry out the process of decrofting the land for the proposed housing development in Walls. The rising cost of building materials was also noted.

### ***Re: 8 of 11.21 Housing Conference on 8<sup>th</sup> November***

I Walterson stated that he had attended this conference and had highlighted the lack of house building in rural areas. He went on to state that a report on the conference will be made available soon.

## **9. Roads**

### **9.1 Electric Car Public Charging Points**

It was noted that work has commenced to install an electric car charging point at the Walls Health Centre. It is hoped that it will be operational in the near future.

### **9.2 Re: 8 of 12/20 Roads**

I Sandison described a site meeting she had had with Mr N Hutcheson at the Walls Play Area car park. She felt the response she had received from Mr Hutcheson had been positive. He

recognised the road safety concerns and he indicated he would return to his office and draw up plans for parking for six or seven cars. However, he pointed out that any improvements to parking at the site would be dependent on funding.

### **9.3 Vehicles' speed on entering Walls**

Members were informed of concerns expressed by local residents relating to vehicles entering Walls at excessive speed. Various control measures were discussed.

**Action:** The Clerk was asked to request a police presence to monitor vehicle speeds on the A 971 close to the 30mph limit in Walls.

## **10. The Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

The Clerk referred to a phone call he had received proposing a project that would require the Community Council to commit a large percentage of its available resources for two years. Members felt that this would exclude local organisations from accessing these funds and rejected the suggestion.

## **11. 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.

## **12. Funding Request from Walls Christmas Party Group**

Members considered a request for £300 towards the cost of the annual Walls Christmas party. This was approved.

**Action:** The Clerk to post out the funds as agreed.

## **13. Correspondence (including emails)**

M Duncan spoke briefly on this matter and stated that members should be encouraged to pass on information especially that concerning funding to any groups or organisations that might benefit from it. If it had the potential to assist any local commercial business, members should pass on appropriate information. He went on to relate the contents of an email from Mrs R Fraser updating them on Invest in the West and also passing on her season's greetings.

**14. AOCB**

**Planning Consent for Co-op Shops**

The recent granting of planning consent for two Co-op shops in Shetland was discussed briefly. Members were concerned that these stores might impact on the viability of other local businesses but understood that the planning committee could only make decisions based on current planning regulations.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair expressed his thanks to the Members, the Councillors and to Mr M Duncan and Mrs R Fraser for all their work and support throughout the year.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

The meeting closed a 8.35pm.