

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a WebEx meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held on Monday 13 December 2021 at 7.30pm. 0800 051 3810 2611 878 4810

Present:	J Priest	Mrs S Deyell
	M Bennett	J D Garrick
	G Morrison	Mrs J Fraser
Ex officio:	Cllr C Hughson	Cllr T Smith
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 S Coutts, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer and Sgt A Patrick.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mr G Morrison, seconded by Mr M Bennett.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Police:** Unable to attend tonight.

Coronavirus: Still ongoing with new variant now appeared which is more transmissible. The booster injection is being rolled out quite quickly.

Broadband: It has been reported in the media that fibre broadband is to be provided to the Isles of Yell, Unst, Whalsay and Fair Isle under the R100 programme, starting 1 April next year.

The Chairman said that parts of Reawick/Skeld had been without broadband the previous week. This had been due to an upgrade and when it was restored the broadband speed was much quicker. Mrs J Fraser had been working from home but her broadband had not been affected and she had not seen any improvement recently.

The Chairman had written to Mr Duncan Nisbet, Engagement Officer for R100, asking whether there are any plans for a R100 Phase 2 to cover the houses missed by Phase 1.

Mr Nisbet had called him and offered to attend one of our meetings and it was agreed to accept his offer once we are able to meet face to face. The Chairman will call Mr Nisbet to discuss this further. It appears that OpenReach, R100 and SIC are all working towards fibre optic provision. SIC do not want to commit finance towards this until they know what is already being provided.

Road Matters: **Road past Garderhouse:** A reply was received from Mr N Hutcheson at the Roads dept saying that, during the road works, the emergency services have been informed that they will have to use the alternative route. With regard to gritting the road in winter, the alternative route via Hestinsetter has the same status as the more direct route. The entire route through and on both sides of the closure will be gritted each day as normal

prior to the closure coming into effect at 9am. This is among the first of the lengths of road done each morning.

A message was received from Mr N Robertson at the Roads Dept saying he has been informed that the roadworks on the A971 at the Scord of Weisdale will cease from 10 December with the temporary Traffic Lights and 20mph speed restriction being removed until works recommence on 10 January. With regard to the works at Garderhouse, they are due to shut down for the Christmas period from 21 December, returning on 5 January. The road will be fully open during this time, but with only a temporary road surface.

Mrs S Deyell agreed to add this information to the Community Council Facebook page.

Roads Reports: Reports received and circulated to the members.

Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction: The 50mph signs are now in place and one had been knocked down by a car on 10 December - the day the speed limit came into force.

Mr M Bennett said he is pleased to see that the signs have been erected. As the decision as to whether the speed limit will be permanent is dependant on whether there is more active travel, he expressed concern about whether there is baseline info with which to compare the data when the trial period ends after 18 months. It is hoped that the limit can be made permanent.

Viking Energy Wind Farm: The Chairman and Mr J D Garrick attended the Community Liaison Group meeting on Tuesday 9 November.

A letter was received from the Planning Dept saying that the application to vary condition no. 9 of planning permission 2018/335/ECUCON (approved working hours), Central Mainland, Shetland, by Mr Jamie Watt SSE plc has now been withdrawn.

An enquiry had been made as to whether the road at the Scord of Weisdale would be tarred. It appears that they intend to resurface the side where the ducts have been laid. It was felt that this may not be very satisfactory.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): People within this area must be encouraged to apply for funding from this grant. A large proportion of our first amount of grant has not yet been spent and we received another amount in September.

Update on grants: **Investing in Communities Fund:** The Monitoring forms have been completed, returned to the Clerk and the information forwarded to the members of the Working Group. The groups are at varying stages, some have completed their projects, some are under way and others are only carrying out preliminaries at the moment. A meeting of the working group will be held on 20 January.

Mrs R Fraser had completed the Project Report and it had been forwarded to the Scottish Government.

Community Development Fund – Distribution 21/22: The deadline for the submission of grant applications was extended to the end of January for consideration at our February meeting.

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

Association: The Community Council training planned for 27 November and 4 December was cancelled.

Orion Project: On going.

Temporary Change in Planning: No further update from the Planning Dept. Cllr T Smith reported that there is a shortage of Planning Officers throughout Scotland.

Scambuster Session: This will take place when face to face meetings are possible.

Meetings in Future: Due to the new variant now in circulation, it was agreed that meetings will still be held remotely for the foreseeable future.

Gravestones: Cllr C Hughson reported that SIC are retaining funds in their budget to do the repairs required and will then reclaim the cost from the relatives. They do not intend to have structures in place any longer than necessary.

Turning area at inner end of Sandsound road: The sign has not yet been provided.

SCOTTISH WATER: A message was received from Scottish Water saying they are encouraging customers in communities across Scotland to prepare their homes for winter.

Customers can visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/winter where they can find winter information, films and advice. They can also find further information online about pipework responsibilities by visiting www.scottishwater.co.uk/responsibility. To stay up-to-date, follow them on twitter@scottish_water or on facebook on facebook.com/scottishwater.

RUBBISH COLLECTIONS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON: A notice was received from the SIC Waste Operations Officer giving details of the arrangements for the festive season for refuse/recycling and the opening times at the landfill site.

LACK OF CHILD CARE ON WESTSIDE: An email was received from Mrs Emma Chittick on behalf of the Parent Councils of all westside schools expressing concern about the lack of childcare on the westside of Shetland. An attachment was included but the Clerk had been unable to open it and the item was deferred until our next meeting.

H&I CLIMATE ACTION HUB: An email was received from Ms Kelly Muffett, Administration & Marketing – North Highlands & Islands Climate Action Hub introducing their group.

PLANNING APPLICATION: The following planning application was considered and approved:-

2021/368/PPF To erect wind turbine on 9m tower with associated works on land adjacent to the Cake Fridge Tearoom, Roadside, East Burrafirth by The Cake Fridge Company.

NEXT MEETING: The next WebEx meeting will be held on Monday 10 January 2022 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm