

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A REMOTE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7PM

PRESENT

Roy Buckland
Murray Cooper
James Rendall, Chair
Tom Thomason

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom
Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Roy Buckland as the new Member of FCC following the recent CC By Elections.

Agenda item 4.2 was discussed first on the Agenda.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Michael Duncan, Mike Fogarty and James Smythe.

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 31st August 2021 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – Tom Thomason, seconded – Roy Buckland.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/1 Nursing Recruitment

Members were delighted to learn that NHS Shetland had made appointments to the two posts necessary to implement the new Fetlar nursing model which will see nursing cover provided on the island on a 24/7, 365-day resident rotational basis working 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off. It was therefore agreed this item could be taken off the Agenda.

4.1/2 Patient Transfer Concerns

Members felt that with the new nurses starting in early December this would help to alleviate and overcome the recent emergency response and patient transfer concerns and issues which had been experienced by patients. It was therefore agreed this item could be taken off the Agenda.

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

Following the Drop-In Session held in August and Mr Dickson's summary of the issues and concerns which had been circulated within the community. The Clerk confirmed additional feedback and comments received from residents had been forwarded onto Mr Dickson in October. Mr Dickson had advised that the issues would be discussed with his Primary Care Team. It was therefore agreed this item could be taken off the Agenda.

4.1/4 Visits by GP

The Yell Health Centre had advised that fortnightly visits by the GP would restart from the end of October, continuing until the nurses are in post and then monthly clinics from then on. If no patients are booked in by Thursday afternoon, the GP visit will be cancelled.

Members were pleased to hear that GP visits had started again, however felt that fortnightly GP visits should be in place when the nurses are in post also, especially with living on a non-doctor island.

Action - Clerk to contact Yell Health Centre.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1/5 Saturday Ferry Timetable

SIC Ferries had agreed in June to consider revised changes FCC had made to initial proposals discussed at the April CC Meeting regarding the Saturday timetable owing to waiting times in Yell for the next ferry at 1245 (departing Hamars Ness at 1050) and spaces being hard to access on the 0755 which goes via Belmont.

In August, SIC Ferries and Transport Planning had advised that the change could not be accommodated owing to connections with the bus departure times, resulting increased waiting times for passengers and impacts on crew lunch breaks.

Following the August Meeting, Frances Browne had offered to contact SIC Ferries to enquire about the user figures for the bus service which meets the 1200 in Toft and ask if a way could be found to make the 1050 run more useful for Fetlar residents by adjusting the ferry departures on either Bluemull or Yell Sound. SIC Transport Planning had confirmed that the issue was included for discussion at the North Isles Ferries Meeting proposed for the 9th November.

4.1/6 North Isles Ferries Meeting – 9th November

Ryan Thomson had organised a Meeting with Fetlar, Unst and Yell CC's, SIC Ferries and Transport Planning for the 9th November. The Chair, Clerk and Frances Browne are to join the remote Meeting.

4.1/7 Bulky Waste Uplift

SIC Environment and Estate Operations had confirmed they were happy for bulky waste to be taken down to Lerwick by the Community Maintenance Person, with the Relief CMP who is now in post being able to assist with lifting bulkier items.

Action - Clerk to liaise with the SIC regarding timing a collection calendar and once confirmed a flyer is to be circulated to every household.

4.2 Broadband

Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom had previously advised that although there is still the prospect of R100 upgrades, this is likely to be several years down the line. A 4G survey had been undertaken by Mr Smith in July 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) had 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.

A survey had been circulated seeking the views of households, groups and local businesses for their thoughts on the best way forward with connectivity and broadband alongside gauging interest in a new CBS project. The results of the survey had been circulated prior to the Meeting, with a 90% response rate with 82.5% in favour of a new CBS. A very positive response from the community which included comments about a new CBS, 4G, British Telecom, reliability, faster speeds, local contact/provider, installation and access.

A Drop-in Session on connectivity had been cancelled at the hall, however, Mr Smith had spoken with those interested in attending by telephone and obtained further feedback and comments.

It was felt it would be useful to look into digital training for anyone who may be interested and Frances Browne offered to look into this further.

Action – Marvin Smith to look into a new CBS for Fetlar and provide an update for circulating to all households as soon as this is available. Frances Browne to look at options for digital training for anyone who may be interested.

4.3 Roads Signage & Markings/Road Scanner Map Information

Members of the community had previously reported that there had been some "near misses" with cars pulling out when they should give way - especially with visitors and those not so familiar with the roads on the island.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.3 Roads Signage & Markings/Road Scanner Map Information

SIC Roads had confirmed that it would be possible for markings to be reinstated where necessary to clearly indicate to drivers what they can and cannot do when restrictions ease and the white lining squad can come to Fetlar.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE, CORE FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

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 2nd November 2021 as circulated ahead of the Meeting. The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Bridgette Thomason – Clerk's salary – September & October - £540.40 (fps)

Members noted further guidance from SIC Corporate Services on CC's continuing to meet remotely, if possible, with appropriate risk assessments, track & trace protocols and such like if face to face Meetings are resumed.

SIC Governance & Law had sent on revised Co-opted Member and Associate Member Forms for implementation.

Members agreed that a Facebook page for FCC would be useful, and Roy Buckland offered to set this up.

Action – Roy Buckland to set up FCC Facebook page and update as necessary.

5.2 Community Council By-Elections

Following the recent By-Elections, Roy Buckland had duly been appointed as the new Member to FCC.

5.3 Association of Shetland Community Councils

Working papers and a Meeting update had been circulated for the ASCC Meeting on the 14th of September, with apologies forwarded on from FCC on this occasion. The Clerk advised she would be attending the Clerks Training Event proposed for the 6th November.

5.4 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

SCBF had been informed that Members had deferred a decision on the Advanced Grant Scheme applications until the next CC Meeting in December.

5.5 Community Development Fund – Grant Transfer/Variation Request

Members had unanimously approved the transfer of £1,000 for website development costs previously awarded from the 2020/2021 CDF fund in between Meetings. Following approval, the funds had been transferred from Fetlar Museum Trust to Fetlar Community Association who are now looking into grant funding options for upgrading and developing the fetlar.org website.

5.6 Late Community Hire Request – 31st October

Members had unanimously approved the late community hire request for the 31st October in between Meetings. The Clerk confirmed that there were now three community late hires remaining for Bluemull & Yell Sound.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Statkraft Energy Isles Wind Farm

Members noted the update and additional information on the project which included details of the reduction in the number of turbines proposed, capacity, electricity generated and reduction in infrastructure footprint and subsequent decrease in peat extraction.

6.2 Medication Delivery

As the Fetlar ferry does not run during the winter at 1005 (their last run in the morning being 0840), this has resulted in the medication going on the other ferry with nowhere secure to leave the delivery for the Fetlar ferry crew to collect when their runs start again in the afternoon. Members felt it would be better if medication deliveries could meet the 1500 sailing rather than at 1005 during the Winter Timetable.

Action – Clerk to contact Yell Health Centre

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.3 Cattle Grid near Brough Lodge and the Devil's Elbow

Members had been made aware that the livestock grid near Brough Lodge and the Devil's Elbow contains a number of dead hedgehogs.

Action – Clerk to contact SIC Roads to see if there is any way that the grid can be adapted to be more hedgehog friendly with a ramp or some form of outlet.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation & Targeted Oil & Gas Decarbonisation
- 7.2 RSPB – Accessible Path – Funzie Hide
- 7.3 Shetland Draft Water Safety Policy – Survey
- 7.4 ZetTrans - Regional Transport Strategy – Stakeholder Engagement
- 7.5 SIC - Local Housing Strategy Conference – 8th November
- 7.6 Scottish Islands Passport Project – Visit
- 7.7 Yell Surgery – COVID & Flu Immunisation Clinic – 3rd November
- 7.8 NHS – Fetlar Nursing Cover – September & October
- 7.9 Boundary Commission for Scotland – Consultation with Community Councils

All other correspondence circulated in between Meetings.

8. MEETING DATES

8. Dates of next Meeting:
 - Tuesday, 14th December at 7pm

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