

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

*Chairman:*

Mr I F Walterson  
Modesty  
West Burrafirth  
Bridge of Walls  
Shetland  
Tel: Walls 01595 809428  
E-mail: hnpengineers@btconnect.com

*Clerk:*

Mr D Forrest  
1 Kirkidale  
Walls  
Shetland  
Tel: Walls 01595 809746  
E-mail: s.wcc.clerk@btinternet.com

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 at 7.00pm

**Present:**

I Walterson (Chair)  
I Sandison (Vice Chair)  
M Forrest  
J Puckey  
J Haswell  
J Gear  
L Moncrieff  
Cllr T Smith  
Cllr C Hughson

In Attendance: Brian Chittick (Director of Community Health and Social Care) Jaine Best (Executive Manager for Community Resources), Roselyn Fraser (Community Involvement and Development Worker), Michael Duncan (External Funding Officer / Community Council Liaison Officer) D Forrest (Clerk)

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr S Coutts

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr T Smith declared an interest in item 7 - Housing (He is a current member of the Hjaltland Housing Association board)

#### **4 A. Additional Item – Visit by Brian Chittick (Director of Community Health and Social Care) and Jaine Best (Executive Manager for Community Resources)**

The Chair welcomed Mr Chittick and Ms Best to the meeting and explained that they were present in order to provide members with an update on the current status of the Wastview Care Centre, Care Services on the Westside and the provision of Day Care.

##### **4 (a1). Overview By Mr Chittick**

Mr Chittick began by acknowledging that there are vacant beds at Wastview but that this was no bad thing. He stated that the vast majority of those considered to need care preferred to receive it in their own homes. He went on to indicate that considerably more such people could receive support from care workers when it is delivered in a home setting than in a care home. He made the point that recruitment of care workers is a nationwide problem, and that home care makes best use of the limited staff. He concluded by indicating that whilst it was possible to hire agency workers this was both expensive and not always popular with the clients because it meant they were dealing with people they did not know.

##### **4 (a2) Report by Ms Best**

Ms Best began by stating that the numbers of those in need of care was constantly rising and had been since prior to the pandemic. To illustrate how care at home was more efficient in terms of staffing, she pointed out that in one instance 8 members of staff were able to meet the care needs of approximately 50 -55 people at home whereas more than double this number were needed to care for fifteen people in a residential setting. She went on to say that Wastview is not unique in Shetland in that several care homes have vacancies. On the subject of job security, Ms Best stated that whilst the workforce had reduced in recent years those currently employed in the care sector would continue to enjoy job security. Regarding respite care, Ms Best explained that the trend is for this to be provided in a home setting with additional support being provided at such times when respite care is required.

##### **4 (a3) The Future**

Mr Chittick went on to speak about future provision under the National Care Service. He pointed out that the service is currently at a crossroads and that the responses to the Care Service Survey are currently being considered. A report based on the survey's findings is due out in March. He stated that there will be

a review of the needs in each community. He is of the opinion that Shetland is a step ahead of the rest of the country in terms of the service it is providing. He concluded by stating that care home closures are unlikely.

#### **4 (a4) Q&A**

Question – What is the current situation regarding Day Care?

Answer – Day care is now running as normal, but it was closed during the pandemic. It originally ran from 10 am until 3 pm but this was found to be quite limited and after some negotiations this time was extended in line with the clients' needs.

Question – How much time is allotted to care staff for each home visit?

Answer – The time spent by carers in each house depends on the needs of the client. A set time is not appropriate under those circumstances. It is intended that, in the near future, additional visits will be provided to encourage physical activity.

Question – Members learnt of a proposal to use St Paul's Church in Walls as a venue for activities including crafts and board games which may be appropriate for some people who currently receive care. Would this clash with any of the Day Care activities?

Answer – This should be able to complement the work done by Day Care staff and should lead to better communitization. It is seen as benefitting those receiving care to be involved in activities within the community.

In thanking Mr Chittick and Ms Best for their visit and for the information they provided, the Chair also thanked Mr Chittick for helping to organise the provision of a nurse at the Walls Health Centre on Fridays.

(Mr Chittick and Ms Best left the meeting.)

#### **4. Police Report**

A police report is not expected until the March meeting.

#### **5. Minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 was proposed by J Gear and seconded by M Forrest.

**6. Matters Arising**

No items were raised under this heading.

**7. Housing**

No items were raised under this heading.

**8. Roads**

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

Members were informed that since the January meeting, road men have visited Papa Stour and carried out repairs to the potholes.

**Re: 8.2 of 10/19 Broken Verge at Norby Junction, Sandness**

Members were advised that this repair has still not been carried out. After some discussion, Cllr Hughson was asked if she could speak to someone in the roads department on the matter.

**Action: Cllr Hughson to speak to Neil Hutcheson to request that the road be repaired.**

**8.1 Lying water at various points on the road surface between the Murrister Quarry and Da Punds**

Members were informed that after recent heavy rains parts of the carriageway between the Murrister Quarry and Da Punds had been subject to lying water. It was felt that notches cut in the verges and similar action to improve drainage should help to resolve the problem.

**Action: The Clerk to email the Roads Department requesting that work be carried out along the above stretch of road to improve drainage.**

**8.2 Potholes on the A971 between the Gallow Hill and Da Punds**

The reappearance of potholes on the roadside between the Gallow Hill and Da Punds on the A971 had been noted. The Clerk

was asked to contact the Roads Department to seek remedial works.

**Action: The Clerk to email the Roads Department requesting that the potholes described above be repaired.**

## **9. Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

### **9.1 Unused Funding**

Members noted that an email had been received from Ms Eleanor Gear (Clerical Officer for the SCBF) informing the Community Council that funding allocated to this area had not been used. She asked if there are any upcoming projects in the area that might be seeking a SCBF Grant. The Chair asked members to make enquiries of groups and organisations who may be planning a suitable project. The current round of funding ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### **9.2 Shetland Wide Grant Applications**

Members considered the effect that Shetland wide requests for a set amount of funding has on each Community Council area. It means that a much higher percentage of the funding allocated to Community Council areas receiving the smaller sum than those receiving the greater amount is requested. After some discussion it was agreed to refer the matter to the SCBF.

**Action: The Clerk to email Ms Gear expressing the members' concerns.**

### **9.3 Follow up to Ability Shetland Grant**

Members were advised that it was hoped that following the successful bid by Ability Shetland for funding to provide a recreational facility for children with special needs at the old Happyhansel Nursery building, may lead to the upgrade of the playpark in Walls to provide play equipment for children with additional needs. The possibility of utilising council owned land at the rear of Bayhall to provide a carpark for playpark users is currently under consideration.

## **10. Financial Update**

The Clerk gave a verbal update of the Community Council's funds and indicated that a considerable sum was available to be spent prior to the end of March.

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

### **11.1 Email from David Black re Scotland's 2022 Census**

Members considered an email from Mr Black seeking to recruit enumerators in the Highlands and Islands to help with the forthcoming census.

**Action: The Clerk to draft a poster seeking enumerators to be placed in the Walls Shop.**

### **11.2 2022 Community Council Elections**

It was pointed out that this item will be discussed at the March meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils. The members of the Sandness and Walls Community Council agreed to defer discussion on this matter until after the ASCC meeting.

## **12. Shetland's New Development Plan (See Email of 21/1) Consultation – Local Development Plan**

Members were asked to consider the contents of Shetland's New Development Plan – Local Development Plan and send their responses to the Clerk. The consultation is live until 5 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Action: The Clerk to receive and collate responses to the above consultation and submit them before the deadline.**

## **13. AOCB**

### **13.1 Access Track to Littla Boust, Sandness**

Members discussed the condition of the access track to the private dwelling at Littla Boust in Sandness and were unable to find a viable and affordable solution to the problem of coastal erosion.

**Action: The Clerk to email the property owner that the matter has been discussed.**

## **14. Date of next meeting**

The Chair thanked all present for their attendance.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

(Draft minutes of February 2022 S&WCC meeting subject to approval at next meeting.)