

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2022 **VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 7.30PM**

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ BY THE CLERK.

Nominations for chair were called for but none were forthcoming. Mr C Clark agreed to stand in as interim chairperson for the meeting.

B. PRESENT	Mrs L Johnston Mrs P Christie	Mrs M Davis (from 8.28pm)	Mr S Douglas
EX OFFICIO	Mr R McGregor	Mr S Flaws	Mr C Smith
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes PC Diana Predut (for first part of meeting) Mrs A Arnett (from 7.55pm)	Mrs Claire Ferguson SIC Team Leader – Climate Change Strategy (until 8.09pm)	Mr Brydon Sinclair, SIC Climate Change Officer (until 8.09pm) Ms Elizabeth Clarke, SIC Climate Change Officer (until 8.09pm)
CHAIRPERSON	Mr C Clark (interim)		
APOLOGIES	Mrs S Wishart Mr M Duncan Mr P Campbell	PC Gordon Mackay Mr R Skinley	Mr E MacPherson Mr G Smith
NOT PRESENT	Ms A Hawick	Mr A Duncan	

Information – due to the Covid-19 Virus pandemic meetings are being held online.

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As members of the SIC Planning Board, Cllr R McGregor and Cllr C Smith declared an interest in agenda item 9 – Planning Applications.

Mrs K Geddes declared an interest in the Hot Meals grant application from Cunningsburgh Hall as she, as the clerk, has been administering it. Mrs L Johnston declared an interest in the same application as she is secretary and treasurer of the hall.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 January were approved on the motion of Mrs L Johnston and seconded by Mrs P Christie. There was one minor change – the date written at the top of the minutes refers to the meeting in November, not January.

3. FUEL POVERTY CONCERNS

This matter was moved up the agenda to allow the SIC Climate Strategy Team to stay for the shortest time needed.

SIC Team Leader – Climate Change Strategy, Mrs Claire Ferguson introduced herself and her team and thanked members for the invitation.

She spoke through a presentation which detailed the SIC's Climate Change Strategy and what her team had been working on since they were assembled in April 2020. The main body

DRAFT MINUTES – Subject to approval at the March 2022 meeting

of their work has been the Net Zero Route Maps (NZRMs) and they expect to have drafts at the end of May which they will then open up to consultation.

There are two NZRMs – the SIC NZRM and the Shetland NZRM and they make up the framework to plan, measure, monitor and report on our Green House Gas emissions across Shetland. A computational data modelling tool which will be licensed to the SIC is being built which will allow the team to draw up various models to figure out what action would be necessary to reach a net zero carbon target by 2045 – if not earlier.

The Shetland NZRM will focus on sectors such as energy, transport, business and industry, public and residential buildings, waste and land use, land use change and forestry. Programmes and projects could include the local housing strategy, future energy projects, skills and learning plans, raising awareness, nature-based solutions and the Zero Waste Shetland Plan.

The SIC NZRM has projects identified already and all but staff and customer behavioural change is within the control of the SIC. The other anticipated projects include SIC energy efficiency, future learning estate, ferry replacement and fixed links, vehicle fleet, asset management strategy and skills, learning and training needs.

The plan is to establish emissions baselines, do a gap analysis, develop emissions reductions plans, identify residual emissions and monitor and report on progress.

A Shetland place-based approach with effective community engagement is key, and 848 responses were received on the first public survey in May 2021. Survey results showed that 51% of people were clear on what net zero meant.

There are plans for Climate Champions in the SIC to try to ensure that everyone is on board and that making positive changes becomes second nature. Climate Emergency Training has already started and the Shetland Climate Conversation is ongoing. There will be fifteen workshops through March and there will be engagement with various community groups. There will be an information video about the NZRMs but paper copies of the information will be available too.

Mr S Douglas asked for more information on what would be done to engage with the construction and civil engineering industries as he saw this as key to the success of any strategy.

Mrs Ferguson agreed and explained that they had already engaged with stakeholders in these industries and they had been looking at energy efficiency measures and barriers to taking these measures. They want to get an understanding as to how this can be sped up. Mrs Ferguson said her background was in construction and explained that both embodied carbon (everything before a building is operational) as well as operational carbon (driving down things like heating and utility needs) will be areas of focus, even though operational carbon has usually been the focus in the past.

They will be looking at the Considerate Construction Scheme to give targets which builds have to meet. Strong links with the Local Development Plan and with SIC planning are also key and they have already started this work.

She also spoke about the SIC Energy Efficiency Team and their role within the whole strategy and this prompted questions from Mr C Clark about how a lot of the SIC plans, especially those to target fuel poverty, seem to be long term plans which do not have any immediate effect on the folk already suffering from fuel poverty.

Mrs Ferguson said she could also get frustrated with the fact that many plans do seem long term but shared that there is in fact stuff happening now and there will be actions coming from things such as the Active Travel Strategy which will be more obvious to the public.

She said the NZRM will be complete in June 2022 and will provide the framework for how quickly we need to be doing projects and the scale of those projects. It will show that there is a lot that needs to be done but hopefully from that we will be able to tie carbon emission reductions to actions and we will be able to see clear long-term and short-term plans coming out of that.

Mr Clark asked if she was aware of the Council Climate Plan Scorecards from Climate Emergency UK which showed Shetland at the bottom of the table. Mrs Ferguson said she had not seen the table but asked if it could be shared with her.

Members thanked Mrs Ferguson and her team for attending and asked to be kept updated on future progress.

Mrs Ferguson, Mr Sinclair and Ms Clarke left at 8.09pm.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Dog Waste Bins

Mr Clark updated on the project which looks to put four dog waste bins in areas around the community. The bins have arrived and the money has come in from the SCBF AGS.

Ideas on possible locations have been gathered from the community via Facebook and community councillors living in the areas, and Mr Clark is meeting with representatives from SIC Waste Services to decide on the location of the bins. There was some discussion about extra possible locations and Mr Clark noted these down. The locations need to be along the essay route so that they can be emptied. The Waste Services Team have been kind enough to offer to put up the bins.

Mr Clark will keep everyone updated on the progress and will take photos when the bins are up to share with members and the community.

ACTION: Mr Clark to continue with the project with the support of SIC Waste Services and to share photos of any progress.

2. Orca Bin/Beach Sculpture

Mr Clark updated on the project to pay a local builder to construct and place an orca shaped bin/sculpture at Gulberwick beach for folk to gather beach bruck into. The project can't go too far ahead until the Community Council sources funding – it may be that the SCBF AGS is used but this can not be accessed until a year has passed since the last application, so summer 2022. There may be civil works which need done before the bin can be placed and Mr Clark is awaiting a call back from the local representative of Scottish Water to see if the work they are doing will have any impact on, or will need to take into account the orca project too.

ACTION: Mr Clark to keep everyone updated with the project.

2. POLICE REPORT

The police report for December/January was shared with members prior to the meeting. PC Predut was in attendance but was having technical issues with joining remotely so shared via email following the meeting why she was unable to contribute to discussion.

There were 28 incidents recorded for Gulberwick, Cunningsburgh and Quarff which include:

- One person charged with assault
- Two drivers charged with driving without a valid MOT.
- One driver charged with dangerous driving.
- Two frauds reported – Enquiries ongoing.

- One vehicle RTC – No injuries.

The other incidents were of a routine/minor nature.

3. FUEL POVERTY CONCERNS

This agenda item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

4. FINANCE

The bank statement on February 15th reads £8,023.08.

The Shetland Community Benefit Fund AGS grant for £400 for the dog fouling bins has come into the account. The invoice for the bins - £495.76 and a £20 mobile phone top-up for one of the mobiles used during Covid has been paid. Members previously agreed to the Community Council paying the extra £95.76 above the £400 grant received for the bins. All the hot meal invoices are up to date and paid – three further weeks of meals to The Kitchen Table totalling £630 have been paid. There was only £500 left for the meals from the grants received and members agreed that the Community Council funds could be used to pay the extra £130 as this made up just part of a week's worth of meals.

Grants Spend

Together with the extra money for the bins, and the meals we have only spent £3,373.92 of our grant funds this year so far. Our grants total is usually in the region of £5,000-£6,000 per year. Everyone to all do a big push for grant applications as we only have the next meeting to consider them and get the last of the money out.

Covid Relief Fund

We have spent £8,130 of the £8,000 grants we got and eighteen people a week are currently receiving meals. We still have a few grocery vouchers left for Mackenzie's and Sound. The Community Council has funds to cover the overspend but it is hoped that the Cunningsburgh Hall grant and then the Shetland Charitable Trust grant will both be successful meaning that this cost is covered and the project can continue. The Kitchen Table are covering the cost of the two weeks we currently have no funding for.

ACTION: Everyone to do a big push to get grant applications in as there are only two more meetings before the money has to be spent. Clerk to let applicants know they have been successful and pay grants out. Clerk to send letter of thanks to The Kitchen Table for their kindness and generosity in continuing the Free Hot Meals Service.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND UPDATE

There were two Community Council grant applications – both of which members decided to award the full amounts requested.

The Cunningsburgh Hall was awarded £1,500 to continue the free hot meal project administered by the Community Council and done by The Kitchen Table café in Cunningsburgh.

Cunningsburgh Parent Council was awarded £800 towards outdoor clothing and rubber boots for children in early primary to play in outside.

There was one application from the Shetland Community benefit Fund Advanced Grant Scheme and it was awarded the full amount requested also. The Compass Centre (formerly Rape Crisis Shetland) asked for £400 towards remodelling an outbuilding and outdoor area for client use.

ACTION: Clerk to pay the grants via online banking and complete the paperwork for the SCBF.

6. ROAD ISSUES/CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS

Mrs M Davis entered the online meeting – 8.28pm

The letter to roads from vice-chair Mr Clark reminding the SIC that the Community Council still has concerns about the speed limit through areas such as Quarff, Cunningsburgh and Fladdabister received a reply along similar lines to past responses: the lack of serious accidents in the past five years in the areas of concern mean that there are no grounds for investigating lowering the speed limit.

In relation to the Black Gaet, analysis is being undertaken just now into the junctions and action such as repainting the white lines or another identified road improvement may be taken if deemed needed as a result of the investigation.

A letter from a member of the public suggesting double white lines in the centre of the road at Quarff to stop vehicles overtaking was read and discussed. Members thought that if the suggestion is put to SIC Roads they will only respond by saying the measures they have already put in are enough.

7. SUSTRANS FUNDING LETTER FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

A letter from a member of the public drawing attention to the perceived lack of action by the SIC in accessing funding for footpaths and cycle paths was read and noted.

Members shared the frustration of author Mr Dennis Leask and agreed that inviting Transport Policy and Projects Officer Robina Barton to the next meeting to give an update would be a good idea.

The issue was brought up at the ASCC meeting recently and they were told that they were waiting on Scottish Government funding to become available.

Cllr McGregor said that there are surveys being done in Sandwick just now so he believed that there was work in progress in some locations.

ACTION: Clerk to invite Transport Policy and Projects Officer Robina Barton to the next meeting to give an update.

8. SHURTON BRAE WHEELIE BINS

A member of the public has been in touch about the fact that their shared bins are not properly secured. Large metal bins provided for the use of several households on Shurton Brae are being blown over and present a danger to pedestrians and vehicles travelling past, as well as making a mess of the area when the bruck is blown out.

Mr Clark has taken photos of the bins and SIC Waste Services have agreed to get SIC Roads to build a concrete-based compound for the bins like a similar one nearby.

ACTION: Clerk to let the member of the public know what is happening and Mr Clark is to keep in contact with relevant SIC officials about the work.

9. PLANNING CONSULTATION ON SHETLAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Community Council has been invited to respond to the SIC consultation on the forthcoming Local Development Plan and their Main Issues Report.

A letter from a member of the public written to all community councils and to SIC Councillors has been received and goes into a lot of detail about why the author feels the consultation doesn't actually consult the public as the Planning Service has 'already decided what works well'.

David Polson also worries that people will be negatively affected by the emphasis on building homes within 800m of community facilities as this may not allow you to build on family land or in a place which you have grown up in if it is more remote. He says that the Main Issues Report itself says that in the last five years over 60% of 'approvals' have been in areas outwith this 800m community-facility targeted zone. He believes that the new plan should make the presumption of approval for housing and development developments in rural areas.

Members agreed with Mr Polson's points and especially with his assertion that more debate needs to be had.

Members asked what the SIC Councillors thought and Cllr McGregor responded that he had had several representations on the consultation and was very much in listening mode and was trying to take everything on board. He said some of the content of Mr Polson's letter was a bit too technical for him but what he said has been backed up by professionals who have spoken to him and that was good enough for him.

Cllr McGregor spoke about how the lack of staff in the planning department has caused lots of problems and led to the suspension of the pre-application advice service. It isn't only planners we can't get it is doctors, consultants, nurses – partly because they have no where to stay and that needs to be addressed.

He was astonished that if you were to identify a plot and were lucky enough to be granted planning permission, it would take two to three years before you get a JCB on site to start on the founds. He wanted to know what the community councillors thought.

Cllr C Smith said folk needed to take advantage of the consultation and feed back into it what they wanted. He is keen to hear the views of his constituents and had already had folk contacting him from country areas and saying that the zoned areas were a nightmare – he believed we do not want to go back to that. He said the consultation provides an opportunity to challenge the status quo and help young folk build where they want to and on family land, and we need to support that.

Cllr S Flaws said he had not had too many representations and that it doesn't feature as much in the town as in the country. He said the Local Development Plan is almost a restrictive plan and we need to take heed of what the letter said. There's a lot of jargon in it but the current LDP doesn't support someone local to Cunningsburgh who wants to build a house where they have grown up, and has lots of hoops folk have to jump through before they can start building. He welcomed the consultation and encouraged everyone to feed into it so that things can be improved and a bigger debate can be had.

Mr S Douglas agreed with the SIC Councillors and said that the situation was intolerable just now. He said we are trying to encourage people to build but they have to climb a mountain to be able to do so just now. He has two clients who are trying to figure out whether they can build on plots but their only option is to spend about £5k to explore it before planners even look at their application – and they may be told they can't build at the end of that process. He said the situation was totally unacceptable.

Members agreed to write a letter/submit a response to the consultation supporting the points made in Mr Polson's letter. Everyone agreed that they were not looking for favours for applicants they just wanted some suggestion as to whether it is worthwhile pursuing a build somewhere without having to spend thousands to find that out. They also wanted to make it easier for people to build on their own land in more rural areas.

ACTION: Mr S Douglas to pull together a letter/response to the consultation and pass it back to the clerk to send out for everyone else to agree with and add points to if required. Cllr McGregor requested that he was copied into the correspondence too. Clerk also to email Mr Polson back to thank him for his letter and to let him know that the Community

Council supported his views and would be responding accordingly. Clerk to share details of the consultation and the public meeting on Facebook page.

10. PLANNING

This agenda item has been moved to the end of the meeting to allow SIC Councillors who have declared an interest to be able to stay for AOCB.

11. AOCB

1. Bench in Cunningsburgh Graveyard

Mrs Christie explained that she had had a call from a member of the public who wished to receive the blessing of the Community Council to erect a memorial bench in the Cunningsburgh graveyard. Mrs Hope Johnson wants to buy the bench in memory of her son Martin and has the agreement of the staff at the SIC who are responsible for the graveyards. All were in support of the request.

ACTION: Mrs Christie to contact Mrs Johnson with the news that members are supportive of her request.

2. Future Face to Face Meetings

Members asked whether we would be continuing to meet over Zoom for the foreseeable future – there were a few members who do not have the technology to join and as they were valued Community Councillors it would be good to be able to welcome them back to meetings soon.

The clerk explained that she was taking direction from Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan and though he had shared at the last clerk's training that one or two Community Councils were meeting face to face, she is waiting for official communication to encourage us to meet face-to-face before we do so.

Mrs Arnett explained that if we do meet in person the meeting has to be a hybrid one – allowing people who wish to join from home to do so. Laptops, internet connections, speakers etc all need to be considered. If the chair decides to have it online then everyone is to do so. The few Community Councils who did chose to meet in person have all stopped again and are meeting online due to the high number of Covid cases.

ACTION: Clerk to keep in touch with Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan to find out the latest advice on how meetings should be conducted.

3. Energy Efficiency Team

It was suggested that an invite to the next meeting should be extended to the SIC Energy Efficiency Team as they may have more opportunity to tackle fuel poverty than the Climate Strategy Team.

ACTION: Clerk to invite the SIC Energy Efficiency Team to the next Community Council meeting.

4. Shetland Community Benefit Fund Update

Mr Clark said the Fund have engaged IBP Strategy and Research to undertake a consultation throughout Shetland into the strategic priorities for the windfarm benefit money and will result in a business plan being produced which will outline the objectives and priorities for the SCBF.

The steering group set up the Community Council to get projects 'spade-ready' for when the money becomes available is meeting soon. Ewen MacPherson has stood down from the group, leaving it on good terms after making it clear he believed its main focus should be on a large-scale project to lessen the effects of fuel poverty – not on 'nice to have' projects. Any new members for the group are welcome and can contact Mr Clark for more details.

5. Beat the Street Project to get Shetlanders More Active

The project is due to go ahead this summer and the organisers will be engaging with Community Councils soon.

10. PLANNING

Cllrs C Smith and R McGregor left 9.05pm

There was only one planning application to discuss and comment on:

[2022/008/WL](#): Install a septic tank sea outfall pipe, South Edge Aithsvoe Pier, Breakwater, Aithsvoe, Cunningsburgh.

Members spent time looking through and discussing the documents and did not feel they had enough information or knowledge and understanding to be able to make an informed comment.

They would like to know if the effluent is being treated before it is being discharged into the sea. If the water quality is such that no harm is being done to wildlife or sea life and will not cause problems or smells for anyone walking the shore they would be minded to support the application. Members know that it is an area where locals gather whelks and they have concerns that the septic tank outfall pipe being located in that area will make the shellfish unfit for human consumption.

The clerk is to contact the planning department to ask for advice on the next steps in the consultation process and where and how members may be able to get the requested information from.

There was one other application in the community council area and it did not require comment:

[2022/010/PPF](#): Single storey extension, Trebister, Gulberwick, Shetland, ZE2 9TX

ACTION: Clerk to request more information from the SIC Planning Department on the Marine Licence.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 22nd March 2022.

Meeting Ends – 9.25 pm.

CHAIR

14. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

January 2021 - Torches for school children from Elaine Skinley, SIC Road Safety Officer. To be distributed when the schools open again.

February 2021 – Radicle Road – an SIC Roads engineer is to look at the road to see if any maintenance work can be done to the verges to improve the road for all users.

September 2021 – Heathery Park Path Clearing – a third meet-up to clear the last weeds off the path was unable to be organised. Members to look again in spring 2022.