

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

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

In Attendance: Roselyn Fraser (Community Involvement and Development Worker), D Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present. The Chair went on to note the passing of Mr John Isbister, former member of the Sandness and Walls Community Council, and requested that condolences be expressed via a sympathy card to Mrs Brenda Isbister, John's widow.

Action: The Clerk to send a sympathy card to Mrs Brenda Isbister

2. Apologies

J Puckey, L Moncrieff, I Sandison (Vice Chair), G Jamieson, Michael Duncan

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. Police Report

The receipt on 3rd February, via email, of the police report covering the period December 2021 and January 2022 was noted.

5. Minutes from 1st February 2022

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 1st February 2022 was proposed by J Gear and seconded by M Forrest.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 13.1 Access Track to Littla Bousta, Sandness

The contents of an email sent by the property owner in question following the Sandness and Walls Community Council's February meeting were discussed. It was acknowledged that owing to restrictions placed on the grants available to individuals, it had not been possible to assist the owner in this instance.

7. Housing

7.1 Planning Consultations

The Clerk stated that he had responded to the Planning Consultations concerning planning permissions in principle for 4 housing plots on a croft at the Ayres of Selivoe and 1 planning permission full for a site at Grunivoe in Walls. He went on to say he had responded in accordance with the responses he had received from the members via email.

7.2 Proposed Housing Development at the Forratwatt area of Walls

(Cllr T Smith declared an interest in this matter because he is a current member of the Hjaltland Housing Association Board.)

The Chair reminded members of an email that had been sent by Mr Paul Leask (Hjaltland Housing Association) via Cllr T Smith on 18th February. The email listed 5 causes for delays in commencing work on the Walls site. They included Covid and Brexit, de-crofting, difficulties concerning utilities, increases in material costs and a shortage of skilled labour. The email concluded by stating that, at present, it is not possible to provide a cost for the project or a firm start date.

8. Roads

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

Members were informed via email that some work had been carried out on the pothole but that it was unsatisfactory.

Action: Cllr Hughson to speak to Neil Hutcheson to find out why the work had not been completed to a suitable standard.

Re: 8.1 of 2/22 Lying water at various points on the road surface between the Murrister Quarry and Da Punds and 8.2 of 2/22 Potholes on the A971 between the Gallow Hill and Da Punds

The Clerk informed the members that he had not received a response to his email to Mr B Scobie regarding the above issues. Cllr Hughson stated that Mr Scobie might be on leave and suggested that the matters be referred to Mr N Hutcheson.

Action: The Clerk to refer these matters to Mr N Hutcheson.

9. Informal meeting with Mr B Chittick (Re: Email of 15/2/22)

Members considered a request made by Mr B Chittick and some of his associates to meet informally with the members to discuss a variety of issues concerning access to health and social services. Members felt this would be beneficial. It was agreed to arrange this meeting for mid-April after the schools' Easter Holidays.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with Mr Chittick and arrange the meeting with the Walls Hall as a possible venue.

10. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

(J Haswell expressed an interest in this because of the involvement of a family member in the project.)

A request was considered for a £500 grant towards the costs of enabling residents at Wastview to access Microsoft Teams. This would permit them to participate in interactive social and cultural exchanges with other members of the community. The request was approved.

Action: The Clerk to complete and return the documentation relating to this grant application.

11. Financial Update

The Clerk provided an update on the Community Council's current financial status. He indicated that £1500 needs to be allocated prior to the end of the financial year.

After some discussion, several possible local groups and organisations were identified as potential recipients.

**Action: 1. Members and the Clerk to identify groups and organisation in need of funding in the next two weeks.
2. Funds to be disbursed prior to the end of the financial year.**

12. Correspondence (including Emails)

It was noted that a quantity of emails had been circulated since the previous meeting. The Members' attention was drawn to the invitation to Climate Change discussions on the 7th March and to the meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils' meeting on 8th March.

13. Shetland's New Development Plan (See Email of 21/1 Consultation – Local Development Plan

The Chair provided a brief synopsis of some of the issues contained in the plan and described how they appear to be contradictory in that they state they promote sustainable rural life whilst at the same time they appear to restrict rural housing development. He singled out the issue of active travel with respect to the 20-minute neighbourhood concept – the idea that any new houses should be constructed within a 20-minute round trip on foot from local amenities such as shops and schools. This is not practical in most rural settings. The Chair then spoke about the map that designates potential housing and commercial development sites and questioned if landowners were aware that some of their land had been thus earmarked.

Action: Clerk and Chair to draft a submission from the Community Council in response to the consultation.

14. AOCB

14.1 Dog Fouling on New Road, Walls

This matter had been raised by a member of the public. It was brought to the attention of the Clerk who has made a request to the Environmental Health Department for appropriate signage and been assured that notices will be put in place when weather permits.

14.2 Litter Bin for Walls Harbour

It was noted that following the construction of the harbour development in Walls the litter bin that was located at the head of the Steamer's Pier was removed but has not been replaced. Members approved that a replacement litter bin be requested.

Action: The Clerk to request Ports and Harbours to replace the litter bin near its previous location.

14.3 Unadopted Roads Grants

The Chair expressed the view that it would be of benefit to bring forward the timescale for making applications for unadopted road grants. This was approved.

Action: The Clerk to place an advert in the Shetland Times by the end of March with a closing date for application set for the end of April.

15. Date of next meeting

The Chair thanked all present for their attendance.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 5th April via Zoom. (A discussion concerning how best to hold future meetings will take place at this meeting.)

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.