

to be approved by SCC Members via Zoom meeting on 21/03/2022

SCALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Scalloway Community Council Meeting held on Monday 21st February 2022
at 7pm via Zoom on-line meeting.

1. PRESENT:
John Hunter – Chair
Kenny Pottinger
Liz Walter
John MacKenzie
Andrew Blackadder
Lindsay Laurenson
Mark Burgess
Louise Davis

In attendance:

Joy Ramsay – Clerk
Cllr Moraig Lyall
Cllr Ian Scott
Cllr Davie Sandison
Roselyn Fraser – SIC
Police sergeant Alan Patrick

2. APOLOGIES:
Michael Duncan – SIC

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2022 were proposed by Kenny and seconded by Andrew

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING NOT ON THE AGENDA

Malakoff/ Slipway: John H, on behalf of Scalloway Museum, said that there was an agreement between the Museum and Malakoff that Museum could have use of the slipway, which would suggest that they are not interested in a commercial use for the slipway. Kenny felt that if they did not have an interest, the Scalloway Community Council should write a letter of support for the Museum, for their proposal for the replica cradle; this would be done once Malakoff was contacted. Andrew thought that as this structure seemed to be movable, if Malakoff changed their mind in the future then the structure could be moved. It was voiced by a few members of committee that it was disappointing that the slipway would no longer have a commercial use, as it has been vital for the Scalloway community for 60+ years, and could have the potential to be a source of revenue if the right steps had been taken; for instance, Mark suggested the idea of a boatlift and the rejuvenation of the slipway.

It was noted that the replica cradle is estimated to cost £100,000, and is not a functional

cradle; there are worries that this require a dedicated cleaner, and that there are health and safety concerns due to the area the slipway is located in being both a tourist attraction and a work site for Malakoff. John H noted that this has been a concern already due to the interpretation boards that are located near the slipway. Andrew felt that these factors should be sent to the planning consultation, to ensure that these are considered.

Davie raised the potential of having a representative from Malakoff attending a community council meeting to discuss these matters further, to ensure that their perspective is fully represented. Dougie Stevenson will be invited to a future meeting in writing.

Action: Lindsay

5. SCALLOWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Re-Create Scalloway: Mark confirms that there has been a meeting of the landowners and stakeholders from the Garricks Station surrounding area; whilst there was relatively steady footfall and helpful insights, there were not as many people as expected, and few businesses that sent representatives. There seemed to be a lot of interest in developing a walkway along the waterfront in the short term, and a long term interest in developing a pedestrian bridge and waterfront road; these were suggestions, not projects that have been approved. Existing assets were also looked at, with suggestions for moving Fraser Park and improving pedestrian walkways around Scalloway. Many of these suggestions will depend on landownership and available funding, so what is wanted and what is achieved may not be the same.

Caravan Park: Davie confirmed that whilst the campsite is slightly behind schedule due to weather, it is not far off the original plan, and seems to be going reasonably well. Work has begun on the development of a website and booking page, and this should be ready for the summer. Andrew raised the topic of the name for the site, which has begun to be looked into. Moraig pointed out that a literal naming of the site could have issues; if it was called 'Scalloway Campsite', then people may be looking for the campsite in Scalloway instead of Astra. Andrew mentioned that the development of a footpath to reach the caravan site could be an option, which would help link them together.

6. ASCC UPDATE

John H said that a meeting has not been schedule

7. ROADS

Spence's Close: Liz has been notified that the slabs at the foot of Spence's Close are damaged.

Action: Clerk

Multicourt: Liz has been told that the basketball hoops and badminton net have been removed from the Multicourt due to refurbishments being made, and would like them reinstated.

Action: Clerk

Meadowfield: Lindsay wondered if the manhole cover had been fixed at Meadowfield.

Action: Clerk

Shetland Bus Memorial: coping slabs at the Shetland Bus memorial seem to be loose

Action: Clerk

8. POLICE

Alan read out the Police Briefing Papers from December-January, which read as follows:
"There have been 25 incidents recorded for Scalloway, which can be summarised as follows

- One person injured onboard a cargo vessel – Minor injuries.
- Two vehicle RTC – Minor injuries.
- One theft reported – Enquiries ongoing.

The other incidents were of a routine/minor nature."

Alan assured the committee that whilst these incidents had police attendance to them, not all of the incidents were of a criminal nature, such as the injury on the cargo vessel.

9. FINANCE

Community Benefit Fund: decisions on remaining applications has been deferred to the March meeting. The Community Benefit Fund had also requested a review of the representative; Kenny has been nominated for this role again. Mark informed the committee that there is to be a consultation for how the Community Benefit Fund is to be used by community councils. A representative will be chosen nearer to the time

Special Projects Grant: Davie has attended a meeting with Alistair and Debs; they are clear on what items that they would like to order, and John H will receive the invoice for this. Mark confirmed that the interpretative panels have been printed off, and a joiner has begun work on a stand. A modest marker stone is to be set on Gallows Hill, as a commemoration of those falsely accused of witchcraft.

Jamieson Trust: Mark has told the committee that three electricians have been consulted, and one of them will hopefully carry out the work.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant email correspondence circulated to all members.

Tall Ships Race: Emma Miller has written to the community council, with regard to the upcoming Tall Ships Race in 2023; for this event, there is an interest in visiting and showcasing other areas of Shetland, and Ms Miller would like to know if Scalloway would like to organise anything. Mark remembered that the last time that the Tall Ships came to Shetland, there was an organisation (Sail Scalloway) that coordinated events and activities relating to the tall ships. Davie confirms that the organisation could be used again, though the bank account had been cleared out and the money donated to a charitable organisation. If events or activities are organised, it will be important to secure funding to make it possible. Ms Miller is to be contacted, and invited to a future meeting.

Action: Clerk

Advocacy Shetland: Advocacy Shetland have requested help from the community councils to identify areas where they could hold events in local areas. They were awarded funding to assist them in raising awareness for their charity. John H suggested the Youth Centre, and Andrew recommended the hall and Boating Club.

Hjaltland Housing Association: Connor Regan, Development Officer for Hjaltland Housing Association (HHA), with regard to the naming of a new housing development; Scalloway Primary School were asked to come up with potential names; the curator of the Scalloway Museum also contacted HHA to suggest naming the scheme after one of the women convicted of witchcraft and burnt at the stake on Gallow Hill in Scalloway in the 1600s and 1700s. The choice of names was Ellen King Crescent, Marion Pardon's Place, or Berryview. After a discussion, the community council felt that as the school had been approached to submit names, it would be fitting if their name was chosen for the development. It was also felt that whilst the intention behind the names paying tribute to those accused of witchcraft was good, that it did not seem fair to choose one name over the other.

11. PLANNING

Blydoit Park: A disabled parking space to be installed in Blydoit. No objections have been made to this application

12. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The community council have taken a look at the Local Development Plan, which included the Main Issue Report for 2022. John H had received a copy of a letter from David Polson with regard to the plan, which had a number of valid critique of elements of the development plan. The community council noted that the majority of plans were 'Lerwick-centric', with rural areas and villages like Scalloway having limited attention, and some of the areas marked out as potential building sites being privately owned. [Note: upon contacting Johnny Wiseman, Planning Officer for the SIC, he noted that whilst these areas potentially could have housing, there were not active plans to do so in the immediate future.]

The community council were also concerned that the deadline for feedback was quite short, with the February meeting being the only meeting that the Local Development Plan could be discussed in.

Mark raised a number of concerns, which included areas of interest seeming to go against what was decided during the Re-Create Scalloway consultations, and that the development plan proposes recognising village centres during planning considerations; this was not what the planning department did during the Co-op application process. Moraig informed the group that the Local Development Plan is on a tight time frame, and that if this is not completed by Summer/Autumn, then the plan will need to be rewritten from scratch. She has tried to contact planning over the past two weeks, which seems to be due to a 20% vacancy rate that the planning department is facing.

It has been decided that an extension is to be sought, to allow Mark enough time to write out the points that he has made to pass onto planning.

Action: John H, Mark, Clerk

13. NORWEGIAN FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT

Mark told the committee that as the Norwegian Sund community has amalgamated with Øygarden, which he thought it would make sense for Scalloway to combine with other areas of Shetland as well. Burra and Trondra have been approached, as has the Lunnasting community, due to their historic link to the Shetland bus. The chairs of these community councils have agreed to discuss this, and Mark will be attending the next meeting of the Burra and Trondra community council. There should have been a large event in 2020, as this was an important anniversary. Mark is unsure of when this event would take place, but the Norwegian response acknowledged that the Friendship Agreement should be refreshed, and would be content to wait for arrangements to be made.

One of the last 'events' had Scalloway and Norwegian children painting and swapping stones with each other, with the result of this being found at the Shetland Bus memorial. Mark will be attending the next Burra and Trondra meeting, and will be listening to suggestions and questions that the community council may have.

Action: Mark

14. FLAGS

Ian has been in touch with House of Flags. Each flag is £60 to design; we still don't have a Saltier or Shetland flag, and the total for the flags will be about £200. Ian is to check the budget, and work out the final details with purchasing the flags.

Action: Ian

15. AOCB

Scalloway Hotel: Louise informed the committee that a number of constituents have raised concerns with the current state of the Scalloway Hotel; in addition to the broken benches that have been discussed at previous meetings, there seems to be 29 oil drums sat outside of the hotel. Concerns were raised with regard to who would be liable if a person was injured by the benches; John M suggests that if the concerns are brought to the receivers, it will be their responsibility. With regards to the oil, Environmental Health may have to be contacted in the case of no action being taken.

Ian offered to talk to Peter Mackenzie, who deals with the executors, to raise these concerns directly with him. If he doesn't agree to take action, the clerk will write a letter to be sent to the receivers, noting all of the concerns that have been raised with the property.

Action: Ian/Clerk

Bicycle Rack: Lindsay reminded the committee that he still had the bicycle rack, if it is needed for any relevant projects

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next full meeting of the Scalloway Community Council will be held on Monday 21st March 2022 via Zoom on-line.

Meeting ended at 9.26pm.