

# Fetlar Community Council

## MINUTES OF A REMOTE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7PM

### PRESENT

Roy Buckland  
Murray Cooper  
Mike Fogarty, Vice Chair  
James Rendall, Chair  
Tom Thomason

### IN ATTENDANCE

David Ashling, SIC Community Development  
Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group  
Ian Brown, Shetland Broadband  
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development  
Michael Duncan, SIC Community Development  
Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom  
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and item 4.2 was discussed first 4. Ongoing Business.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from James Smythe and Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor.

### 2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Tom Thomason.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

### 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

#### 4.1 Islands with Small Populations

##### 4.1/1 Visits by GP

The Yell Health Centre advised in December that GP visits would be every 4 weeks, however, owing to the Omicron variant, telephone consultations would be carried out for the time being. As no further concerns had been raised by the community, Members agreed to take this item off the Agenda.

##### 4.1/2 Medication Deliveries

No further concerns had been received regarding issues with medication deliveries and Members agreed to take this item off the Agenda.

##### 4.1/3 Ferry Issues & Concerns and November Ferries Meeting with North Isles CC's

##### Saturday Timetable:

SIC Ferries had agreed in June 2021 to consider revised changes FCC had made to initial proposals discussed at the April Meeting regarding the Saturday timetable owing to the wait 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 (0825), resulting in a lack of opportunities for Fetlar residents.

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

Ms Browne had offered at the August Meeting, to contact SIC Ferries enquiring about user figures for the bus service which meets the 1200 in Toft and asked 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.

*(Detailed - Appendix A – 2022-01-17 Ferry Services Issues Log – Saturday Timetable – April 2021 to date)*

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

### **4.1/3 Ferry Issues & Concerns and November Ferries Meeting with North Isles CC's (cont)** **Ferries Meeting with North Isles CC's – November 2021:**

In November, the Ferries Meeting with North Isles CC's, discussed issues with the Saturday timetable further. The Chair, Clerk and Ms Browne joined the Meeting remotely.

SIC Ferries and Transport Planning agreed to look at possible alterations to the timetable as follows:

- The 1130 sailing from Ulsta is delayed until 1135 with the view that this would provide sufficient time to make the journey through Yell
- Bring forward the sailing from Belmont (and therefore Hamars Ness) by 5 minutes also to give further time to drive through Yell
- Stagger crew dinner breaks on Yell and Bluemull Sound to provide better connections between the two routes
- Consideration of priority spaces being given to Fetlar traffic on the 0755 via Belmont (0825)

Transport Planning had circulated the draft Minute of the Ferries Meeting alongside correspondence which outlined pro forma ferry services issues log for assisting CC's to define and describe any problems and how a problem might be solved from a CC viewpoint. A follow up Meeting is to be arranged, with a focus on consulting on the Summer 2022 timetable.

**(Appendix B – Minute of Ferries Meeting with North Isles CC's – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 refers)**

### **Bluemull Sound Service – January 2022:**

In December, SIC Ferries advised that owing to unplanned works to enable the Bigga and Fivla to meet MCA regulations to carry Dangerous Goods, Bluemull Sound would be a single vessel operating to a Saturday timetable excluding Sundays through January 2022.

Following concerns received from the community, SIC Ferries were contacted and concern expressed at only having one vessel on Bluemull Sound, resulting in no sailings from Hamars Ness between 10.50 and 15.50, 5 hours without a ferry. The following points and suggestions were sent to SIC Ferries in between Meetings:

- Consideration of additional sailings:  
*Depart Gutcher 1205*  
*Depart Belmont at 1300*  
*Depart Hamars Ness at 1330*  
*Depart Gutcher 1400 (back to Saturday Timetable)*
- Departing Belmont at 1205 (across to Gutcher at 1215), leaving Gutcher at 1250 and then lying at Belmont until 1345 would allow sufficient time for the ferry crew to break for lunch
- Unst ferry users would have a sailing to Hamars Ness from Belmont, allowing a connection with the Yell Sound sailing at 1430 from Ulsta (the ferry they would connect with, however, would mean a sailing via Hamars Ness)

In January, SIC Ferries advised that master's had confirmed FCC's proposals could not work, owing to problems with rest hours, maintenance, fuelling and a build-up of traffic at what is already a busy time.

Further correspondence had been sent to SIC Ferries expressing disappointment that proposals suggested in December could not work, reiterating that a 5-hour block with no ferry for the best part of January and prior to that with the festive timetable in place did not provide a satisfactory ferry service to the community, albeit for a limited period of time.

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

### **4.1/3 Ferry Issues & Concerns and November Ferries Meeting with North Isles CC's (cont)** **Bluemull Sound Service – January 2022 (cont):**

Disparity with crew rest hours had also been raised in relation to when the winter timetable is in place, with the Geira's 12-hour shift on a Monday, providing a 45-minute break for crew and when the summer timetable is in place, providing a 15-minute break for crew. The Bigga crew have a cumulative 1 hour and 45-minute break for a 12-hour shift. Whilst the level of rest hours for crew was by no means questioned, FCC felt that there should be no disparity with rest hours for crew breaks across the service.

The point was also made that the needs of the service should be considered first and foremost, with due consideration given to how crew breaks and rest, maintenance and such like can be implemented and planned around the needs of the service. It was suggested that any timetabling changes such as those made in December are discussed well ahead of any changes being made in the future with input from SIC Ferries/Crew and CC's collectively.

#### ***(Detailed - Appendix C – 2022-01-17 Ferry Services Issues Log – Bluemull Sound Service – Issues Raised December 2021 to January 2022)***

In January, SIC Ferries advised that the disruption to the Bluemull Sound Service would be extended into February as a result of manufacturer delays in receiving parts for the Geira docking, further impacting on the Docking Schedule.

Impacts on users of the ferry service, lack of available sailings during the day and poor connections on Yell Sound for all Fetlar residents had been raised alongside examples of concerns and issues received from the community, more notably so for:

- Daily commuters to Unst, Yell and mainland Shetland
- Shift workers in Unst and Yell
- Ferry users accessing healthcare in Yell
- Ferry users accessing fuel outwith the island (no fuel pumps on Fetlar)
- Ferry users are unable to get a booking on the 07.55 Hamarsness via Belmont resulting in a 5hr wait even when booking in advance

Members were very disappointed and concerned that issues that the community had raised over the past year since connection issues with the Saturday timetable on Yell Sound was first raised in April 2021 and laterally regarding the Bluemull Sound January to February Timetable still had not been satisfactorily resolved. It was agreed that a further Ferry Services Issues Log should be sent to SIC Ferries & Transport Planning regarding the further disruption to the Bluemull Sound service and correspondence forwarded to SIC Chief Executive and SIC Director of Infrastructure Services regarding concerns and issues raised by the community to date.

**Action** - Clerk to send further Issues Log to SIC Ferries & Transport Planning and correspondence onto SIC Chief Executive and SIC Director of Infrastructure Services.

### **4.1/4 Bulky Waste & Scrap**

SIC Environment and Estate Operations had confirmed in November that they were happy for bulky waste to be taken down to Lerwick by the Community Maintenance Person. Mr Buckland had agreed in between Meetings to be the CC point of contact locally to co-ordinate this on a quarterly basis with the CMP.

Concerns had been received from within the community about the scrap at Aith, which had resulted in lighter waste being blown with the wind during periods of higher winds. Ms Bellis confirmed that the remaining fencing materials and agricultural scrap is to be uplifted by truck in the near future, with the main issue just now being, with gaining access by truck to the site. It is hoped to get a digger in to clear a way for the truck to uplift the materials as soon as possible when the weather improves. There is also some white goods and other scrap materials which others have disposed of in addition to the agricultural scrap at Aith.

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

Mr Duncan offered to forward on information about waste disposal options discussed at an Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) Meeting.

**Action** - Clerk to circulate this information to the email list and contact SIC Environmental Services regarding any further information that's available to help raise awareness and options that are available for disposal of waste.

### 4.2/1 New Community Broadband Project

In September, a survey had been circulated seeking the views of households, groups and local businesses on the best way forward with connectivity and broadband and to gauge interest in a new Community Broadband Project (CBS) project for Fetlar. There had been a very positive response with a 90% response rate and 82.5% in favour, with a number of comments received on 4G, reliability, faster speeds, local contractor/national provider, installation and access.

The positive response and feedback had allowed Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom and Ian Brown, Shetland Broadband (SB) to move forward onto the next stage. Both explained in detail the work which had been undertaken recently and possible funding for the CBS. The Scottish Government Voucher Scheme (SGVS) is a per user basis with up to £400 available per premise, with the estimated cost per user being well over £400 for Fetlar, it is anticipated that each household/premise will get the full amount for each application. If SGVS applications are approved, SB will then be able to determine any shortfall in funding which needs to be secured in order for the project to progress. Both Mr Duncan and Ms Browne offered to assist with looking at additional funding options.

To apply for a SG voucher, SB need anyone who is interested in the new CBS to complete an application form, which then has to be submitted by SB to the SG by the 31st March 2022. If successful, timescales are very tight for delivery of the project, which must be within 28 days, ie, April 2022. Mr Brown highlighted current issues with both supply and delivery of materials and confirmed that the SG had been made aware of this and that it is very likely that installation/delivery of the project will be slightly later than April. Anyone wishing to join the CBS at a later date, will have to pay installation costs, as SG vouchers would not be available.

**Action** - Clerk to circulate application forms and an update from SB to every household asking for completed forms to be sent as soon as possible owing to the SGV submission deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### 4.2/2 Drop in Session Connectivity/Broadband

A Drop-in Session which had been planned on connectivity in October had to be cancelled at short notice, however, Mr Smith had spoken with those interested in attending by telephone and obtained further feedback and comments from the community. Members agreed to take this item off the Agenda.

### 4.2/3 Drop-in Session around Learning Opportunities

During the survey about improving Broadband in Fetlar, there had been a request to access courses in computing, using i-pads, tablets for communication and such like. Ms Browne offered to speak with the SIC and Shetland UHI North Isles Learning Centre about the possibility of delivering courses locally for residents.

**Action** – Clerk to circulate details of the Drop-in Session when confirmed.

### 4.3 Roads Signage & Markings/Road Scanner Map Information

SIC Roads had confirmed that when restrictions ease and the white lining squad can come to Fetlar, that markings are to be reinstated where necessary to clearly indicate to drivers what they can and cannot do. Members agreed to defer this Agenda item for the time being.

### 4.4 Cattle Grid near Brough Lodge/Devil's Elbow

In November, SIC Roads had confirmed that the cattle grid near Brough Lodge/Devil's Elbow is being replaced with a prefabricated Hopkin's type in 2022. In the meantime, the Area Foreman is to provide a ramp the next time they are in Fetlar to help reduce the number of dead hedgehogs being found. Members agreed to defer this Agenda item for the time being.

## 5. 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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 as circulated ahead of the Meeting.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Bridgette Thomason – Clerk's salary – November, December & January - £810.60 (fps)
- Bridgette Thomason – Quarter 3, Internet & Telephone Allowance - £30.00 (fps)
- Voluntary Action Shetland – Independent Examiners Fee - £70.00 (fps)
- Voluntary Action Shetland – Annual Membership Renewal - £25.00 (fps)

In between Meetings, a grant offer for additional core funding had been approved and duly signed by the Chair to help meet the shortfall in FCC's core running budget for essential administrative costs and salary uplifts, which had not been made since April 2018. Members had also unanimously approved FCC's accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and the Chair had duly signed the approved accounts which were then forwarded onto Voluntary Action Shetland and the SIC's Grant Unit in between Meetings.

*(Decision Making Record 1 – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 refers)*

Mr Duncan outlined guidance on risk assessments, track & trace protocols and such like if hybrid meetings are resumed. Whilst Members were keen to get back to face to face Meetings, it was agreed to continue meeting remotely for the time being.

### 5.2 CC Election Timetable 2022 & Co-option Forms

Mr Duncan outlined the CC Election Timetable for 2022 & new Co-option Forms for implementation which had been circulated in between Meetings.

### 5.3 Association of Shetland Community Councils – Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> March

Working papers and a Meeting update had been circulated ahead of the ASCC Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### 5.4 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

In between Meetings, the majority of Members had approved an Advanced Grant Scheme application for £10,000 to Fetlar Community Association for an upgrade and development of the fetlar.org website - Julie Maguire and Tom Thomason had made a Declaration of Interest. SCBF had been advised that owing to funds being oversubscribed, FCC were unable to provide funding to the other AGS applications, with priority given to local projects. The Clerk confirmed that feedback forms for each of the AGS applications had been completed and forwarded onto SCBF.

*(Decision Making Record 2 – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 refers)*

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 Community Notice Board

Interest had been expressed locally for an external community notice board. Members agreed that due consideration would be given to any local group or organisation who applied to the SIC's, Community Development Fund when the next tranche of funding becomes available in 2022/2023.

## 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 – 8<sup>th</sup> November
- 7.6 Scottish Islands Passport Project – Visit
- 7.7 Yell Surgery – COVID & Flu Immunisation Clinic – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7pm

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