

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
L Moncrieff
M Forrest
J Haswell
J Gear
J Puckey

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

Michael Duncan. Roselyn Fraser, J Laing

3. Declarations of Interest

None were made.

4. Police Report

No report was available for this meeting. Members were informed of a change of liaison officer for the Sandness and Walls Community Council. This officer will be PC Steven Anderson

5. Minutes from 1st March 2022

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

6. Matters Arising

Re: 14.1 of 3/22 Dog Fouling on New Pier Road

Concerns about dog fouling in general were discussed and it was felt that dog waste should be bagged and placed in public bins. Problems were raised concerning dog fouling in the Brunt Hill area.

Action: The Clerk was asked to contact the Environmental Health Department to request signage in the Brunt Hill area.

Re: 14.2 of 3/22 Litter Bin for Walls Harbour

It was noted that the bin that had been requested from Ports and Harbours has yet to be provided. The point was made that the bin at the Walls Shop is too small.

Actions: 1. The Clerk to remind Ports and Harbours of the need for a bin at the Walls Harbour area.
2. The Clerk to contact Mr Carl Symons to request a larger bin for the Walls Shop.

Re: 14.3 of 3/22 Unadopted Roads Grants

The Clerk stated that an advertisement inviting applications for unadopted roads grants had been placed in the Shetland Times and that he had emailed people who had applied regularly in the past to make them aware of the change to the deadline for applications.

Re: 13.1 of 3/22 Access Track to Littla Boust, Sandness

The Chair reported that he had recently visited the site and found the access track to the property to be serviceable although he was of the opinion that it was susceptible to weather damage.

(J Haswell joined the meeting)

Re: 9 of 3/22 Informal meeting with Mr B Chittick (Re: Email of 15/2/22)

The Chair reminded members of the informal meeting with Mr Brian Chittick and his team on Monday 25th April in the Walls Regatta Club at 7.15pm.

7. Housing

7.1 PLANNING CONSULTATION Ref 2022/078/PPF

After a brief discussion there was unanimous approval in support of this application.

Action: The Clerk to convey to the Planning Department that the members recommend approval of the application and that they welcome new housing in the area.

Re: 7.2 of 3/22 Proposed Housing Development at the Forratwatt area of Walls

Members expressed their disappointment at the fact that no positive progress has been reported on this project. It is unclear if the land has been purchased as yet and progress on de-crofting appears to be very slow. After some discussion the Clerk was asked to recirculate the email from Mr Paul Leask.

Actions: The Clerk to recirculate the email from Mr Paul Leask (Hjaltland Housing) of 18th February 2022.

8. Roads

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

Members were informed that this repair has now been carried out to a satisfactory standard.

8.1 Condition of Road Surfaces in West Burrafirth and the A971 between the Murrister Quarry and Da Punds

Concerns were expressed regarding the condition of the carriageway surfaces on the above roads. In the case of the West Burrafirth road, it was felt that the numbers of seafood trucks using this stretch of single track road was having a detrimental effect on the road surface. In the case of the A971, the road surface is steadily deteriorating and is in need of resurfacing

given that it is uncertain when the promised upgrade is likely to take place.

Action: The Clerk was asked to write to the Roads Department to request that both roads listed above be resurfaced.

8.2 The Dale of Walls Beach Track and the Norby Beach Track

Members approved the purchase of gravel for both the above tracks and that the Criminal Justice Department be asked to provide a workforce to fill in potholes on the Dale of Walls Beach track.

Actions: 1. The Clerk to Liaise with Mr David Johnston regarding the quantities of gravel required for both sites and to order delivery of the necessary quantities.
2. The Clerk to request the Criminal Justice Department for workers to fill the potholes on the Dale of Walls Beach Track.

9. Papa Stour Ferry

J Puckey provided a verbal update regarding her attempts to have the Monday morning Papa Stour ferry reinstated. The issues are as follows:-

- An agreement was made with Shetland Islands' Council that the air service was to be withdrawn and replaced by a Monday morning Ferry sailing. (This did not happen.)
- J Puckey was informed that when the 2022 financial package for Shetland from the Scottish Government was settled, a decision would be reached regarding the Monday morning ferry to Papa Stour. (This did not happen.)
- At a meeting on the 8th February the matter was due to be discussed. (This did not happen.)
- J Puckey has been told by Michael Craigie (Executive Manager of Transport Operations) that there is no pathway to restore the service.
- There is a real need for this particular ferry because of the demand for spaces on the ferry by tourists in the summer months.
- The mail service to Papa Stour is limited because mail leaving the island on a Saturday afternoon has to wait at the Bixter PO until Monday before being moved on.
- The total annual cost of reinstating the Monday sailing would be approximately £20k.
- Two members of the crew do maintenance work on the vessel on a Monday morning so it should not be too

difficult to get the other two crew members required to make the crossing.

- This summer workmen are due to commence a 16 week job on the roof of the Papa Kirk and not being able to come in on a Monday morning will reduce the time they have on site.
- If this sailing was reinstated even for the summer timetable, it would make a great difference to the lives of the islanders.
- Consideration was given to requesting the drone to carry mail to Papa Stour if possible but not if it was considered a substitute for the Monday sailing.

Actions: 1. The Clerk to liaise with J Puckey to draft a letter to Mr Craigie expressing these points and requesting that the Council's promise to the islanders be honoured.
2. The Clerk to contact the Post Office to find out if it would be possible for the drone to carry mail to Papa Stour.

10. Walls Health Centre General Practitioner

The chair began by mentioning the current status of GP provision at the Health Centre. Whilst the members accepted that the Health Board are restricted in how they can provide locum cover at present, they were concerned that the constant change of locums is presenting problems for the patients. Anyone receiving long term care is having to describe their condition almost on a weekly basis. It is also the case that patient medication reviews are not being carried out. Some patients are being prescribed different treatments by the different locums they are obliged to see.

Action: Members to discuss how the situation might be improved with Mr Brian Chittick when he meets with the members on the 25th April.

11. Report on Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting

The Chair highlighted the following issues raised during the recent ASCC meeting:-

- Some white lines have worn off road surfaces in certain areas.
- Minor roads have a lower priority as far as gritting is concerned. Because of this they tend not to be gritted till later in the day. This has presented problems for people who live along them who are trying to get to work on

time. It was pointed out that the gritting of such roads was at the discretion of the roads' foreman.

- A map illustrating the planned roll out of the R100 fibre optic broadband was displayed. The Chair noted that many areas on the Westside had red dots indicating that they were not due to be included in the roll out.

12. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Members approved a request from the Shetland Family History Society for funding towards the cost of a website to store information relating to the inscriptions on gravestones throughout Shetland.

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

13. Financial Update

The Clerk provided a verbal financial update. It was noted that the funds remaining in the Community Council's account did not exceed £1000 thus removing the requirement to return excess funds to Shetland Islands Council. Funding for repairs to the Walls toilet door was discussed and it was agreed to get an estimate for this work.

14. Special Project

No viable suggestions were made regarding a suitable special project. Members were asked to inform the Clerk if they had a suggestion for a suitable project costing up to £1000.

15. Voar Redd-up Donations

Members approved the reinstatement of environmental grants of £45 to recognised groups who carry out the Voar Redd-up.

Action: The Clerk to advertise the reinstatement of the Voar Redd-up grants.

16. Correspondence (including emails)

Two emails of particular note were highlighted:-

- Email dated 4th April 22 from M Duncan requesting agenda items for the ASCC meeting on 14th June.
- Email dated 1st April 22 from M Duncan inviting people to attend a Shetland wide climate conversation on Thursday 7th April 22.

17. AOCB

17.1 Hustings Meeting

The proposal was made to invite all prospective candidates for the West Ward seeking election to the Shetland Islands Council to a hustings meeting in the Walls Hall. Members felt that it would present those attending with an opportunity to raise many of the issues that had been discussed at this meeting.

Action: The Clerk to organise a hustings meeting in the Walls Hall and to invite all the candidates to attend.

17.2 Papa Stour Ferry Waiting Room

J Puckey informed members of some concerns relating to the ferry waiting room in Papa Stour. The heater requires to have a guard fitted and timer switch fitted. The door handle can be pulled off from the inside and needs to be replaced.

Action: Clerk to email Ports and Harbours on these matters emphasizing the safety aspects of both issues and copying in Mr John Robert Smith.

17.3 The Format of Future Community Council Meetings

A request was made to resume face-to-face Community Council meetings. However, most members felt that the levels of Covid were still too high, and it was agreed to hold the May meeting via Zoom and continue to review the situation.

17.4 Abandoned Boat Hull

The presence of an abandoned boat hull between Kirkidale and the Mussel Factory was noted. The Clerk was asked to inform the Environmental Health Department about it.

Action: The Clerk to inform the Environmental Health Department about the abandoned boat hull.

17.5 Clerk's Salary

Members approved an increase in the Clerk's salary to keep it in line with H2 on the pay scale.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair thanked all present for their attendance.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 3rd May via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.