

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

*Chairman:*

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)  
I Sandison (Vice Chair)  
M Forrest  
J Gear  
J Puckey  
J Laing  
Cllr T Smith  
Cllr C Hughson

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk), Roselyn Fraser

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present.

**2. Apologies**

Michael Duncan, L Moncrieff, J Haswell. Cllr S Coutts, G Jamieson

**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**

No report was available for this meeting.

## **5. Minutes from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 was proposed by J Puckey and seconded by J Gear.

(M Forrest joined the meeting.)

## **6. Matters Arising**

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

It was noted that, to date, no action has been taken to paint signs or put up posters regarding dog fouling in either the New Pier Road or in the Brunthill areas of Walls.

**Action:** It was decided to wait until the June meeting and take further action if there had been no progress.

### ***Re: 17.2 of 4/22 Papa Stour Ferry Waiting Room***

J Puckey reported that the broken door handles had been replaced, the heater had been fitted with a timer switch and that a guard had been ordered for the heater but had not yet arrived.

### ***Re: 8.2 The Dale of Walls Beach Track and the Norby Beach Track***

The Clerk informed members that he had received an email from the Criminal Justice Department that they would be sending a work party to the Dale of Walls Beach track on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May. He went on to state that more material had been ordered for the for Norby track because of the deep potholes there. These deliveries were promised by the end of the week ending 30<sup>th</sup> April.

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

The Chair stated that he had received an email from a local resident on this matter. It was reiterated that no financial support, other than an unadopted road grant, was available for this track.

**Re: 17.4 of 4/22 Abandoned Boat Hull**

In response to a question regarding the abandoned boat hull, the Clerk stated that it was still there and that he had not heard any more about it from the Council.

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

The Clerk stated he had exchanged emails with Mr Ben Clifton, Ports and Harbours Department, and that Mr Clifton was going to contact the Ferries Department who were responsible for this matter. The Clerk went on to say that he had been advised that the bin located at the Walls Shop was the largest suitable bin available. I Sandison was of the opinion that the bin at the Walls Marina was larger and would check and report back.

**Action: I Sandison to check on the size of the bin at the Walls Marina and compare it to the one at the Shop.**

**Re: 17.1 of 4/22 Hustings Meeting**

The Chair provided a verbal report on the recent Local Authority Council Election hustings that took place in the Walls Hall. He indicated that there had been a good turn out of members of the public and that all seven candidates who were actively seeking election were present. The Chair went on to say that the issues that most concerned local residents were aired and, in his opinion, it had been a successful event.

**7. Housing**

(Cllr T Smith declared an interest in this matter.)

Following a brief discussion, it was felt that no progress appears to have been made regarding the construction of the proposed social housing development in Walls.

**8. Roads**

**8.1 Contents of Email from Mr N Hutcheson**

The contents of an email that had been received from Mr Neil Hutcheson (SIC Roads Department) were discussed in detail. The damage being caused to the West Burrafirth road by heavy goods vehicles was acknowledged. However, it was felt that the best the members could hope for were minor patching works. It was noted that to resurface to the A971 between Murrister and Da Punds would cost approximately £500k and, were this to be done, it

may inhibit the creation of the much needed double track road. The various administrative stages through which this project is required to progress was discussed. It was acknowledged that it will take some time for the proposed improvements to pass through the Gateway process.

**Action: The Chair to discuss the West Burrafirth Road and the A971 Murrister to Da Punds with Mr Neil Hutcheson.**

## **8.2 Parking at Stove Cottages, Walls**

The Clerk informed members that he had been approached by a member of the public regarding the difficulties a relative was experiencing when parking outside the Stove Cottages in Walls. The problem concerns a lack of parking spaces. The point was made that when the Stove Cottages were built, they were designed as sheltered housing and it was assumed that the residents would not require many parking spaces. Now that this accommodation has become redesignated as general purpose the requirement for parking spaces has increased considerably. After some discussion as to possible solutions to the problem, the Clerk was asked to contact the Housing Department to see if additional parking space can be provided.

**Action: The Clerk to email the Housing Department to find out if additional parking spaces can be created.**

## **9. Papa Stour Ferry**

The Clerk stated that he had not received a reply to the letter that had been sent to Mr M Craigie. It concerned the failure of his department to honour the promise made to the Papa Stour people that the Monday ferry sailing would be reinstated following the removal of the scheduled air service to the island. J Puckey informed the meeting that she has recently written to Ms M Sandison, SIC Chief Executive, complaining that the Papa Stour sailing has been cancelled on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June because it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She stated that all other inter-island ferries are running on that day and feels that the Papa Stour residents are suffering discrimination. She also pointed out that two of the residents have medical appointments on that day and if the ferry does not run, they will be greatly inconvenienced. Furthermore, she described the frustrations felt by Papa Stour residents because they are unable to have vital supplies transported to the island because the ferry is regularly booked to capacity by tourists and visitors. The Chair offered the

Community Council's support if a satisfactory response is not received from the Chief Executive.

(R Fraser left the meeting.)

**10. Report on Informal meeting with Mr B Chittick and the Health and Social Work team**

The Chair presented a verbal report on the informal meeting that had taken place in the Walls Regatta Clubhouse on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April between members of the Sandness and Walls Community Council and Mr Brian Chittick and the Health and Social Work team. He described how ten representatives of Shetland's Health and Social Works Services had been present and that the thrust of their focus appeared to be in establishing a Hub on the Westside possibly based in St Paul's Church in Walls. The function of such a hub would be to enable people to access social work and health services without necessarily having to consult a GP. M Forrest went on to describe how an event trailed as Tea, Coffee and Company in the Church had proved successful and it was hoped that this would be the forerunner to the establishment of a Hub.

**11. Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

Members noted the request from the SCBF asking for them to complete an online survey. The Clerk indicated that he had completed one because clerks were asked to submit one separate from Community Council members. The Chair requested members to complete one if they had time.

**12. Financial Update**

The Clerk provided a financial update and stated that the core grant has been paid into the Community Council's account. He went on to display a Thank You card from the Whitedale Under 12s Football Team for the donation of £200 made towards their recent trip to Orkney.

**13. Funding request from Gruting Community towards the costs of a Queen's Jubilee event.**

Members were informed of a funding request from the Gruting Community Centre towards the costs of holding an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed to donate £200 towards this event.

Action: The Clerk to send £200 to the Gruting Community Centre towards the cost of a Queen's Platinum Jubilee event.

#### **14. Community Skips**

A brief discussion took place concerning the need for community skips in Walls, Sandness, Foula and Papa Stour. The following actions were agreed:

Actions: 1. Clerk to organise a skip to be sent into Foula  
2. The Clerk to place a poster in the Walls Shop on which people can register an interest in having a skip in Walls.  
3. J Puckey to gauge demand for a skip in Papa Stour  
4. The Clerk to email L Moncrieff and G Jamieson to request that they gauge demand in Sandness.

#### **15. Items for the Association of Shetland Community Councils' June meeting agenda**

No items were put forward from the members of the Sandness and Walls Community Council.

#### **16. Correspondence (including emails)**

The Chair spoke briefly about the Survey and Informal Chats with Rural and Island Community Councillors and expressed his intention to respond to this.

#### **17. AOCB**

No items were raised under this heading

#### **18. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked all present for their attendance.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

(Draft minutes of May 2022 S&WCC meeting subject to approval at next meeting)