



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Tingwall Public Hall on Wednesday 18th May 2022

1.0 Present:

Andrew Archer (Chair)

Moraig Lyall

Charlie Hodge

Catherine Hughson

Dilys Evans

Martin Randall

Neil Leask

Patrick Ross-Smith

Paul Stevens (Clerk)

2.0 Apologies:

Birgit Wagner, Linda Tulloch, Angela Sutherland, Michael Duncan.

3.0 Declarations of Interest: None.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Neil Leask and seconded by Martin Randall, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2022 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Andrew Archer reported that he had contacted SSER and SSEN to ask whether the Dogs against Drugs team visited the accommodation at Sella Ness and also to ask what percentage of the tests carried out are positive. SSER said that they do not use Sella Ness and did not give any figures but said they had a zero tolerance drug policy. A test failure without a valid reason (e.g., prescription medicine) would lead to instant dismissal. SSEN said that they do use Sella Ness but that the accommodation is not covered by the Dogs Against Drugs team, just the work sites. They reported that the number of failed tests is below 1%. The number of tests done is available from the VCLG minutes.
 - Karl Mills received a reply from SIC Roads saying the Wormadale/Nesbister cattle grid would be cleared.
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6.0 Decisions since last meeting

No Decisions had been made by e-mail vote since the last meeting.

7.0 Police Report

There was no police report at this meeting as they are now issued every two months.

8.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 11th May 2022, was distributed to community council members.
 - The application for the SIC Core Grant for 2022-23 has been received and the application for the SIC CDF 2022-23 (£3,000) has now been approved.
 - Members agreed a financial summary was sufficient for pre-meeting distribution.
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9.0 Correspondence

- A thank-you card was received from the Whitedale F.C. Under 12s.
 - Andrew Archer will share the Scottish Health Register advert on the TWWCC Facebook page.
 - An email from the Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee inquiry into allotment provision invited a Community Council response. Catherine Hughson suggested that there were allotments in Shetland, with a consultation having been carried out in the past, possibly under the auspices of the SIC. She also suggested that schools and care-homes with Polycrubs often wanted community involvement. Moraig Lyall reported local interest in the idea of repurposing the unused greenhouse at Gott Cattery.
 - ACTION. Andrew Archer will contact Christine Henry regarding the greenhouse and respond to the inquiry.
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10.0 Planning

One planning application was reviewed: 2022/098/PPF — Installation of 1 x Lidar and associated equipment enclosed by palisade fence, at passing place on wind farm track, approximately 2km from Scord of Sound, near Weisdale. Andrew Archer reported that they are a permanent fixture for recording wind conditions (one of 2 units, replacing 7 consented masts), with a fence height of 2.5m. Patrick Ross-Smith confirmed that they are location-specific and suggested that they would be less obtrusive than equivalent anemometer masts.

→ ACTION. The Clerk to submit a response of 'No comment'.

11.0 Viking

- Charlie Hodge raised an issue about the service and public roads at the A970 Kergord junction, as these are very close together and easily confused due to lack of prominent signage, especially at night or by tourist traffic.
 - ACTION. The Clerk will write to both the Roads Department and Aaron Priest (Viking) about these concerns and ask that they work together to resolve the situation. The risk of turning into the wrong road was felt to be greatest when travelling south and members thought that the new relief road should be more clearly marked as being for works traffic only.
 - One planning application was reviewed: ECU00003434 / 2022/123/ECUCON — Installation of 23000 metres of 132kV overhead line supported on wood poles from Kergord to Gremista, including: permanent & temporary access tracks; a cable dip at Tingwall; and sealing end compounds. Andrew highlighted two issues from SSE's application to the Energy Consents Unit:
 - 1) The application stated that SSE were regarding EMF radiation as out of scope. The application stated that a 50m and 25m distance from cables diminished magnetic and electric fields respectively to near zero, with the closest houses being no closer than 82m;
 - 2) The application said that the proposal would have low visual impact for residents of Veensgarth and Gott. Members did not agree. Andrew also pointed out that the community council's previous representations on this were not mentioned in the report.Martin and Neil commented that this proposal would mean there would be three separate
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electrical systems in the area and wondered whether these could be accommodated on the same poles.

Martin commented that the proposed route opposite Girlsta moves away from road, coming close to peat restoration areas. Martin also queried whether the end point of the route would steer clear of an ancient 'greenway' path.

→ ACTION. Martin Randall to email Andrew Archer details regarding the path, and Andrew to query SSE.

→ ACTION. Andrew Archer to send comments to Energy Consents Unit emphasising that TWWCC maintain their objection to the scheme; have always maintained that buried cables would be a better solution and suggest the extra cost would be manageable; ask whether accommodating multiple cables on the same poles would be feasible; would like assurances that the scheme will not disturb ongoing peat restoration efforts.

- Andrew reported that he had been informed by a local resident that the road at the Scord of Sound was unexpectedly closed for approximately 30 minutes one evening, resulting in several local people being late for work at Sullom Voe. SSE confirmed that this was due to the movement of cable drums that took longer than expected. An email was then received on 18th May from SSE apologising for the incident and saying that NKT had been instructed that, in future, any road closures needed to be agreed with the Roads Department.

12.0 SCBF

- The Clerk raised a question about the retention of data from the community council survey that was carried out in October. Whilst the survey did not ask for any personal information, some people had included email addresses etc. in their responses and members were asked to decide whether this data still needed to be kept. It was decided that the SCBF Survey findings were still being considered so raw data would be retained for now, subject to review in one year.
- Two grant applications were considered:
 - 180219 – Tingwall Parent Council £12,260.
 - ACTION. The Clerk to write to Eleanor Gear asking her to query the applicants regarding their plans for wider community involvement, identified as a local priority by the recent SCBF community survey.
 - 180226 – Shetland Bus Friendship Society (Salloway Museum) £1,000.
 - ACTION. The full amount was approved, with the Clerk to advise Eleanor Gear.

13.0 Footpaths

Andrew Archer reported that, since the last TWWCC meeting, six Trustees had been appointed for the group, a constitution had been formally agreed and, as of 17th May, they are an 'unincorporated constituted group' called *Win Furt* (Shetland dialect: 'to go outside'). There had been meetings with Ayesha Huda at VAS regarding the application to OSCR as a two-tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which typically takes three months. They plan to soon walk the route again to determine the details, and then talk to the landowner. Work is starting on the application to SusTrans: this is open from July to August, with the decision Panel meeting on 31st October. The SusTrans application needs to show political support so Andrew said that he will write to the local councillors and Beatrice Wishart for letters of support and also the new convener, when they are appointed.

- ACTION. Members agree that Andrew Archer can put an update on the Facebook page about developments
- ACTION. Andrew Archer to contact John Scollay to give TAGDA an update on progress.

14.0 Community Council website

The Clerk had circulated a background information document regarding the possible creation of a TWWCC website, as a central repository and to widen access to non-Facebook users. Members felt that this would be useful and suggested that content could include downloadable application forms, minutes, a calendar of meetings, relevant news, and community events. There was support for including information about the Community Council and current Community Councillors (with varying options according to member preference to protect contact details), a suggestions form, and a front-page Facebook-equivalent Blog. A dedicated contact email address might also be useful, depending on final format of the site. Catherine Hughson suggested there might still be a legacy site originally provided by VAS's Shetland Communities Portal.

- ACTION. The Clerk to query legacy site with Michael Duncan, plus locally-relevant colour schemes, and develop proposal details.

15.0 Councillors' Reports

Due to recent elections, there were no Councillors' Reports.

16.0 AOCB

- Linda Tulloch had asked the Clerk to raise the issue of the promised speed reporting strips at Whiteness. Charlie Hodge said that these were now installed by the Whiteness Hall. Catherine Hughson said that she had asked the roads department for a safety audit of the Haggersta – Cova stretch of the A971.
- Linda had also queried the poor road state in areas where fibre optic cable had been installed at Whiteness. Neil Leask confirmed similar issues at Kalliness.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to write to the Roads Department concerning the poor and sometimes unfinished quality of road surface reinstatement where fibre optic cable has been laid in TWW area.
- Following up on previous query about widening the road access to Weisdale Cemetery.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to check with Karl Mills whether any further correspondence from George Smith had been received other than a basic acknowledgement.
- Charlie Hodge asked about re-opening Nesbister Bod and whether there the CC might consider running it. Catherine Hughson thought that the Shetland Amenity Trust were currently managing it.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to write to the Shetland Amenity Trust to determine their plans for the Bod.
- Andrew asked the members whether they wanted to continue to receive all the emails of possible funding sources that are sent out by Michael Duncan. Members agreed that they should continue to receive these notifications, with a view to also creating a repository on any future website.
 - ACTION. The Clerk to put the notification of a Lottery funding meeting on the Facebook page.

17.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 15th June 2022, at Whiteness Public Hall (in the small hall).
