

# Fetlar Community Council

## MINUTES OF A REMOTE WEBEX MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2022 AT 7PM

### PRESENT

Roy Buckland  
Murray Cooper  
James Rendall, Chair

### IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group  
Ian Brown, Shetland Broadband  
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development  
Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom  
Ryan Thomson, North Isles Councillor  
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, with item 4.2 discussed first on the Agenda.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Michael Duncan, Mike Fogarty, Dana Jamieson, James Smythe and Tom Thomason.

### 2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper.

Decision Making Records 1 and 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were both taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper:

- Approval of FCC accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 had been duly approved and signed
- Shetland Community Benefit Fund – AGS Grant Application – Fetlar Community Association - £10,000 grant award towards fetlar.org website development costs

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda item 6.3 Energy Isles Update – Councillor Ryan Thomson.

### 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

#### 4.1 Islands with Small Populations

##### 4.1/1 SIC Ferries Complaint & Ferry Services Issues Logs

At the February Meeting, Members had again expressed disappointment and concern that issues that the community had raised over the past year since connection issues with the Saturday timetable on Yell Sound were first raised in April 2021 and laterally regarding the Bluemull Sound January to February Timetable had still not been satisfactorily resolved. A further Ferry Services Issues Log had been sent to SIC Ferries & Transport Planning regarding the further disruption to the Bluemull Sound service. All correspondence had been forwarded to SIC Chief Executive and SIC Director of Infrastructure Services (2022-02-4.1/3 Minute refers in detail).

SIC, Chief Executive, had advised that she had asked for the correspondence and Ferry Service Issues Logs to be raised as a complaint and for Infrastructure Services to respond directly to FCC and copy her into the response. Further correspondence had been received in February advising that the complaint had been escalated to a Stage 2, to allow sufficient time to gather all the information required to provide a full response.

SIC Ferries had also advised in February that a number of topics already discussed were of a more strategic level for consideration by SIC Transport Planning and that both services would meet in the near future to ensure that matters raised were considered fully.

## **4. ONGOING BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Islands with Small Populations**

#### **4.1/2 SIC Ferries Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

A Ferries Meeting had been arranged for the 22<sup>nd</sup> March as a means of engaging with all CC's ahead of publication of the Summer Timetable.

FCC had contacted SIC Chief Executive, Infrastructure Services, Ferries and Transport Planning prior to the Meeting, as the North Isles Ferries Meeting held in November 2021 with all 3 North Isles CC's, had a considerable number of issues on the Agenda and had struggled for time to explore concerns further collectively. Whilst appreciative of the time constraints in engaging with all CC's, sufficient time is required to fully discuss and consider the issues alongside the other CC's who had been invited to attend and engage in discussions ahead of publication of the Summer Timetables, with these CC's also inevitably having issues specific to their area, which are completely different to those for Bluemull & Yell Sound.

The following concerns raised previously were further highlighted in the correspondence:

- Connection issues with the Saturday Timetable on Bluemull & Yell Sound/user numbers previously requested for the bus service which meets the 1200 in Toft
- Consideration of priority spaces being given to Fetlar traffic on the 0755 via Belmont (0825)
- Improvements to the "Emergency Timetable" in the event of unplanned maintenance and planned docking schedules with input from North Isles CC's, SIC Ferries/Ferry Crew & Transport Planning
- How the needs of the service can be considered and improved in conjunction with crew rest hours, maintenance and such like
- Disparity with crew rest hours on Bluemull Sound
- Ways in which negative feedback and comments surrounding the ferry service can be overcome and ways in which the general feeling of discontent can be alleviated
- SIC/Zetrans actions and feedback to Ferry Service Issues Logs

Further points received from the community were also outlined:

- The shortage of qualified ferry crew, resulting in agency staff having to be used, cannot be a long term, sustainable solution
- A recent Strategic Delivery Group Meeting of the Islands with Small Populations Project highlighted the need for succession planning within the ferry service
- The morning service to/from Unst is also much improved by a second ferry based at Hamarsness and is therefore of benefit to Unst residents and probably Yell residents also, with a number of teachers and such like commuting between Yell and Unst both ways

The Chair, Clerk and Ms Browne had joined the Ferries Meeting. The main focus of the Meeting had been to consult and engage ahead of publication of the Summer Timetable. Transport Planning had advised that there could not be any changes to the Summer Timetable owing to current budgetary constraints notably with the significant increase in fuel costs.

There had been insufficient time to discuss each individual communities issues fully, facilitate and enable effective discussion and consideration of ways to resolve and address issues, nor points followed up and actioned from the November 2021 Ferries Meeting. After a lengthy discussion, Members agreed that the SIC Chief Executive should be contacted to escalate the complaint further.

#### **4.1/3 Bulky Waste & Scrap (4.1/4/02/2022)**

SIC Environment and Estate Operations had confirmed in November 2021 that they were happy for bulky waste to be taken down to Lerwick by the Community Maintenance Person. Mr Buckland had previously agreed to be the CC point of contact locally to co-ordinate this with the CMP.

**Action** - Clerk to circulate this to the email contact list asking for any locals who would like bulky waste uplifted to contact Mr Buckland who will then liaise with the CMP.

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

### 4.2/1 New Community Broadband Project

In September 2021, 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. A very positive and encouraging response had been received from the community in favour of the project.

Application forms and an update from Shetland Broadband (SB) had been circulated to every household in February asking for completed applications to be sent as soon as possible owing to the very tight timescales for submission of the Scottish Government Vouchers by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Applications had been received from 39 premises, a very positive 83% take up in the new scheme.

Marvin Smith, SIC/Shetland Telecom and Ian Brown, Shetland Broadband (SB) explained in detail the work required for the scheme if SGVS applications are approved. Scottish Government timescales are very tight for delivery of the project, which must be within 28 days, ie, April. Mr Brown reiterated ongoing issues with supply and delivery of materials and confirmed that the SG had been made aware of this and that it is therefore inevitable that installation/delivery of the project would be slightly later than April.

### 4.2/2 Digital Training

A Drop-In Session had been organised locally to discuss digital training needs with the SIC and Shetland UHI North Isles Learning Centre. It is hoped training can be developed and courses delivered locally for residents as far as possible.

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 as circulated ahead of the Meeting.

The following invoices had been approved for payment:

- Bridgette Thomason – Clerk's salary – Feb - £296.60 (including salary uplift)
- Bridgette Thomason – Clerk's salary – Mar - £285.00 (£296.60 - £11.60 accrued 2022/2023)
- Bridgette Thomason – Backpay/Salary Uplift - April 2018 to January 2022 - £676 (£898.80 less £222.80 budget shortfall)
- Bridgette Thomason – Quarter 4 Internet & Telephone Allowance (£30.00 accrued 2022/2023)

### 5.2 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. Unfortunately, no one was able to attend and apologies had been forwarded on behalf of FCC.

### 5.3 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

A decision on an Advanced Grant Scheme application from Ability Shetland was deferred for discussion until the next CC Meeting as Members felt it would be best to consider the AGS funds when there were more Members in attendance, especially with a number of Shetland wide grant applications now being received and FCC's grant allocation to September 2021 fully used. Any further grants that are awarded at this time, will have to be drawn down in advance.

**Action** - Clerk to advise SCBF accordingly.

### 5.4 Da Voar Redd Up

Members agreed that owing to the lambing, the Redd Up in Fetlar would be later, with a date considered at the next Meeting in April.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 Brough Lodge – HES Site Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> March

Pierre Cambillard, Brough Lodge Trust had provided an update and invited Members to attend a HES Site Meeting at Brough Lodge on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately, no one from FCC had been able to attend the HES Site Meeting.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.2 Nurse Resignation & Meeting with NHS Shetland – 1<sup>st</sup> April

NHS Shetland had advised that one of the nurses had formally resigned from their post as NDI Nurse for Fetlar.

So that folks have the opportunity to be involved and express their views on nursing going forward, a joint FCC and NHS Public Meeting has been arranged at the hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, with everyone welcome to attend and hear about the current situation with nursing in Fetlar, followed by a Q & A session.

### 6.3 Energy Isles Update

Energy Isles had advised that the application had been heard at the SIC Planning Committee earlier in March, with the SIC offering no objection to the application. Councillor Ryan Thomson declared an interest.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

### 7. Correspondence

- 7.1 Yell and Fetlar Phonebook – Update & New Edition
- 7.2 Advocacy Shetland – Fetlar Visit
- 7.3 ZetTrans – Shetland Transport Strategy 2022-2042 – March Meeting
- 7.4 Island Bond Workshops – Cullivoe & Ollaberry - March
- 7.5 SIC Planning – Staffing Update
- 7.6 National Planning Framework 4 - Community Group Discussion Events
- 7.7 SIC Local Development Plan Consultation - Main Issues Report & Issues with SIC Planning Service - LDP & MIR consultation exercise
- 7.8 Shetland Way Stakeholder Engagement
- 7.9 Consultation Document - MSP's Bill on Fly-tipping
- 7.10 Scotland's Census 2022
- 7.11 Shetland Community Conversations Invite – Climate Change
- 7.12 SIC Ferries – Various Yell & Bluemull Sound Service Updates
- 7.13 Planning Consultation 2021/364/PPF  
Access Track to RSPB Reserve, Funzie

All other correspondence had circulated in between Meetings.

## 8. MEETING DATES

8. Date of next Meeting:

- Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm (*subsequently put back to 25th May*)

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