

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
J Puckey
G Jamieson
Cllr L Peterson
Cllr J Leask

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) welcomed all those present with a special welcome to Cllrs Peterson and Leask, recently elected Councillors for the Westside Ward.

2. Apologies

Michael Duncan, Roselyn Fraser, L Moncrieff, J Laing

3. Declarations of Interest

None were made at this time.

4. Police Report

No report was available for this meeting. However, PC Steven Anderson has emailed to ask that any policing matters in the area be reported to him for his attention. The Chair asked if there were any concerns. The subject of vehicles speeding through Walls

especially at a time when people travel to and from work was raised.

Action: The Clerk to inform PC Anderson of the problem.

(G Jamieson joined the meeting.)

5. Minutes from 3.5.22

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 3rd May 2022 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by J Puckey.

6. Matters Arising

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

It was noted that, to date, the signs that had been requested for the New Road and Brunthill areas of Walls have not been provided.

Action: The Clerk was asked to send a reminder to the Environmental Health Department.

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

The Clerk indicated that the potholes on the Dale of Walls Beach track have been filled in by the those serving Community Payback Orders. G Jamieson indicated that the material to fill the potholes has been delivered for the Norby Beach Track but has yet to be used.

Action: G Jamieson to liaise with the landowners.

Re: 17.4 of 4/22 Abandoned Boat Hull

It was noted that the hull has not been moved since it was reported to the Environmental Health Department. There is still no indication as to who owned the hull.

**Actions: 1. A photograph to be taken of hull and posted on Facebook page by Cllr Peterson and copied to Cllr Leask as well as S&WCC Members.
2. Clerk to send a reminder to Environmental Health Department.**

Re: 14 of 5/22 Community Skips

The Clerk informed the meeting that the skip that had been sent to Foula has now been returned to Walls where it has been for several days. He was advised that some local fishermen have been adding to the contents. He has informed the Recycling Department and asked that it be removed. After some discussion relating to the allowable contents of skips, it was suggested that the list of acceptable contents be updated. It was noted that carpets, though not specifically listed, can be placed in skips. J Puckey indicated that a Papa Stour resident has a quantity of items in need of disposal and a skip may be requested at some point in the future.

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

I Sandison asked if, subsequent to a request having been made to the Ports and Harbours Department, a litter bin had been located at the Walls Pier. No one was able to provide an answer to her question. I Sandison is to visit the pier to check and if no bin is present, she will inform Cllr Leask. It was noted that the larger bin that had been requested for the Walls Shop has yet to be provided.

Actions: 1. I Sandison to find out if there is a bin on the Walls Pier and if not to inform Cllr Leask who will take the matter up with the Ports and Harbours Department.
2. Clerk to send a reminder to the Environmental Health Department regarding the Shop bin and to copy in Cllrs Leask and Peterson.

7. Housing

7.1 Planning Consultation 2022/139/PPP – West Houland, Bridge of Walls

After a brief discussion on Planning Consultation 2022/139/PPP, members recommended approval of the application.

Action: The Clerk to inform the Planning Department of the decision to recommend approval of this application.

7.2 Social Housing Development in Walls

The Chair expressed his optimism that construction work on the site may commence in the near future.

8. Roads

8.1 Designated Disabled Parking Space at Walls Health Centre

The Clerk described how he had been approached by a member of the public whose close relative has mobility problems. The point was made that there used to be a signpost in front of one of the parking bays at the Walls Health Centre indicating the space closest to the entrance was for people with disabilities. The post has been removed and on recent visits to the Health Centre the person with restricted mobility has found it more difficult to access the building. It was also pointed out that painted disabled parking spaces at the Bixter Health Centre car park have worn off.

Action: The Clerk to request that the Health Board reinstate disabled parking at both sites.

8.2 Re: 8.1 of 5/22 Contents of Email from Mr N Hutcheson

The widening of the A971 between the Murrister Quarry and Da Punds was discussed with such issues as the business case and the short-term measure of resurfacing being considered. The vulnerability of the Bridge-of-Walls was highlighted, and the Clerk was asked to forward photographs to the Councillors of the bridge under water during a very high tide.

Action: The Chair to discuss the matter with Mr Neil Hutcheson.

9. Papa Stour Ferry update

J Puckey provided a verbal update on matters relating to the Papa Stour Ferry Timetable. She raised the following points:

- The sailings on Friday 3rd June took place after an intervention by the Chief Executive.
- J Puckey gave an hour long interview to Shetland News concerning the failure of the SIC to implement Monday sailings in exchange for the removal of the air service to the island.
- Mr M Craigie (ZetTrans) and Mr A Inkster (SIC Ferries Dept) and an additional two officials will visit Papa Stour on Friday 17th June to hold a meeting with residents regarding the ferry timetable. (J Puckey to investigate if an additional ferry can be scheduled for that day to permit crofters and Councillors to attend.)

- There is a sense of urgency regarding this matter given that this summer builders are due to commence work on the Papa Stour Kirk as well engineers to carry out road repairs.

10. Shetland Community Benefit Fund (Including Funding request by Shetland Amenity Trust for £1000)

A request for £1000 from the SCBF towards the costs of extending the Amenity Trust's Nursery to enable them to grow more indigenous trees was approved.

Action: The Clerk to complete and return the SCBF Form.

11. Financial Update (Including Annual Accounts for 2021/22)

The Clerk provided a financial update. That the 2021/22 Annual Accounts be approved was proposed by G Jamieson and seconded by I Sandison.

12. Funding Request from Papa Stour History and Community Group

(J Puckey declared an interest in this matter.)

It was agreed to send a grant application form to Mr Bardell.

Action: Clerk to send A grant application form to Mr P Bardell.

13. Walls Public Toilets (See email from Andrea Watt of 25th May.)

13.1 Potted History

I Sandison provided a potted history of the Walls Public Toilets stating that the project had been initiated by the Waas Community Development Group in 2009.

Subsequently, they were taken over by the SIC who, at a time when austerity measures were being implemented, ceased their involvement in them. The Waas Community Development in the form of Andrea Watt has taken responsibility for their upkeep for the past ten years but she has now indicated she is no longer able to carry on with this work. There is currently approximately £4k in the Waas

Community Development Group funds but annual insurance costs £700 and the electricity bill also need to be paid.

13.2 Options for the Future

Members considered requesting the SIC to take over the running and cleaning costs, but it was felt that they would be very unlikely to agree to this. Given the current situation in Aith and Skeld, it was suggested to advertise for a group of volunteers to clean and maintain the toilets on a rota basis.

13.3 The Community Defibrillator

It was noted that the community defibrillator is attached to the toilet building and receives its power from the toilets.

Actions: 1. A poster to be placed in the Walls Shop seeking volunteers to look after the public toilets.
2. Clerk to discuss the matter of the defibrillator with R Fraser.

14. Correspondence (including emails)

14.1 Council Customer Survey – (Email from M Duncan of 27th May)

The Chair asked if anyone had completed the survey. One had completed it, and another had made a start but felt most of the questions were not relevant.

14.2 Scottish Land Commission Virtual Public Meeting

The Scottish Land Commission are holding a public meeting via Zoom relating to land use in Shetland on Thursday 16th June. Members were invited to take part if they wished.

15. AOCB

15.1 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Chair expressed his gratitude to everyone on the Westside who had participated in events relating to the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

15.2 School Catchment Areas on the West of Shetland

Issues relating to the schools' catchments areas on the westside of Shetland were discussed. Cllr Peterson stated that only the Scottish Government can alter the catchment areas. Given that a query has been raised concerning one of those areas and subsequent issues relating to school transport, Cllr Peterson is going to arrange a meeting with the Head of Transport.

Action: Cllr Peterson to arrange a meeting with the Head of Transport.

15.3 Walls Play Facilities

I Sandison stated she had spoken with Mr M Malcolmson regarding parking at the Walls Play Area and having the fence surrounding it painted. She indicated that neither of these items have been budgeted for, but that it may be possible to get paint for volunteers to use. I Sandison went on to say that three items of accessible play equipment are due to be installed in the Happyhansel School Playground over the summer.

16. Date of Next Meeting

After a brief discussion it was agreed to hold the next meeting via Zoom.

The Chair thanked all present for their attendance.
The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 2nd August.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.