

# Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Skeld Hall on Monday 16 May 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest	Mrs S Deyell
	M Bennett	Mrs J Fraser
	A Johnston	
Ex officio:	Cllr Liz Peterson	Cllr John Leask
In attendance:	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special mention for our two recently appointed SIC Councillors. He said he hopes they will enjoy their new role.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mr G Morrison, Ms D Nicolson, Mr J D Garrick, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

**MINUTES & REPORT:** The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mr M Bennett.

**BUSINESS ARISING:** **Police:** An email was received from PC M MacKinnon requesting the dates of the Community Council meetings for the year which she will pass on to our allocated Officer, PC A Darnowska. This had been sent.

**Broadband:** A discussion regarding the R100 scheme and broadband provision in this area took place to bring the Councillors up to date with what has been happening.

**Road Matters:** **Road past Garderhouse:** Cllr C Hughson had contacted Mr N Hutcheson at the Roads Dept before the end of April who had informed her that the design work for Phase 2 was being worked on and should be completed in June for a July start on site. The possible delays to this timeline are the inability to get early entry to the site from the land owner and any postponement resulting from reduced availability of bitumen binder following the trade embargo of Russia. The bitumen supplier is hopeful that by May they will have agreed, tested, etc. alternative supplies of crude oil for refining into bitumen and they do not expect the current shortage to last and do not expect bitumen supply to be a problem for the project.

Since that time, Cllr L Peterson had asked Mr N Hutcheson for an update and had been informed that the intention is now to tender for a contractor in July and they are aiming for works to commence on site in August.

The contractor has not yet started on the provision of the barriers and the side of the road is only protected by traffic cones. Cllr L Peterson agreed to check with Mr N Hutcheson as to when a start will be made.

**Surface dressing programme:** Mr N Hutcheson also added that unfortunately the surface dressing programme for this year has been cancelled because the specialist bitumen binder used for surface dressing is not available. This is due to the USA's trade embargo of

Venezuela, including the crude oil from which the bitumen is refined. The surface dressing programme will now be done in 2023. However, Mr N Hutcheson said that the bitumen binder used for re-surfacing is different from the standard grade of bitumen used when making bitmac and asphalt and that there is now no issue with the supply of these standard bitumens and the re-surfacing of the road at the Scord of Weisdale will not be affected. The jet patcher will arrive in Shetland next week for a 4 week visit during which it will be repairing roads in the West Mainland including the A971 between the Brig o' Walls and Walls, Cott, Tumblin, Vementry and Sefster.

Roads Reports: Reports received and circulated to the members.

Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction: No further information.

Viking Energy Wind Farm: The minutes from the meeting of the Viking Community Liaison Group held on 19 April was received and circulated to the members. It was noted that work is ahead of schedule.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) Advance Grant Scheme (AGS): The members of the Skeld Hall Committee are delighted with the grant they received and hope that the work can go ahead soon.

AGS Annual Review survey: A message was received from Ms Eleanor Gear at SCBF giving details of an online survey to gather information from Community Councils and Community Council clerks on their experience. The survey must be completed by 11 June 2022 and SCBF will then use these responses to make any identified and agreed improvements to the scheme. This will be done.

A further application was received and considered:-

180225 – Shetland Bus Friendship Society (Scalloway Museum) to construct a replica WW2 ships' cradle as well as enhance the existing slipway. They requested £1,000 towards their project.

The members can see the benefit of this project but, as it is not in our area, only £500.00 (50% of their request) will be granted.

Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund: All the grant finance has been dispersed to the groups who are now providing the required paperwork to complete the scheme. Mrs R Fraser is taking care of the Scottish Government Report. A further meeting of the Working Group will be held to tidy it all up.

Community Development Fund – Distribution 22/23: The CDF grant had been applied for and approved. The Chairman signed the Letters of Offer and one copy will be returned to the Grants Unit. No project has yet been suggested.

Core Funding: The core funding for 2022-23 has been deposited in the Community Council's bank account.

Funding: Various funding information was received from Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

Association: The papers relating to the next Association meeting on 14 June were received. None of the members present volunteered to attend.

Mrs S Deyell had volunteered to serve on a short life working group which is being organised by Mr M Duncan to promote the 2022 Community Council elections. The Chairman thanked her for taking part.

Orion Project: On going.

Turning area at inner end of Sandsound road: Sign still not provided.

Children at Play signs at Skeld: Signs are now in place.

Financial application: The mother of the child who benefitted from the grant given to the Open Door Drama trip grant sent a note of thanks.

Speed of traffic passing Cake Fridge: A reply was received from Mr Neil Hutcheson at the Roads Dept. saying that the most appropriate solution would be to erect 'pedestrian in road ahead' signs (one on each side of the Cake Fridge ) with a distance plate underneath and 'SLOW' marking on the road opposite the signs. The Clerk checked with the members who agreed that this would be good. The Clerk then sent a message to Mr Hutcheson asking him to order the signs and have them erected as soon as possible.

**Brig at Burn of Lunklet:** It is now some considerable time since an accident occurred at the Brig of Lunklet when one of the parapets was dislodged and fell into the burn. Information will be sought by the Councillors as to when it will be replaced.

**Lights at Bixter Play Area:** A reply was received from Mr M Malcolmson, Team Leader – Leisure Facilities, saying that lighting is not something that they would be encouraging or installing in any of their play areas in Shetland. Shadows and shaded areas caused by unnatural lighting make play areas unsafe to use as children cannot gauge distances, heights, etc. Lighting is also expensive to install, maintain, run and economically unviable, especially as they would be used solely during the winter months when the weather is poorest and play areas are used least.

**Bin at Sand beach:** A reply was received from Ms Paula Nicolson, Waste Operations Officer, saying that she will ask the supervisor if they have a bigger bin in stock to replace the broken one at the beach.

**Election Hustings:** The Hustings held in the Aith Hall on 21 April had been successful.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** The following planning applications were considered and welcomed:-

2022/111/PPF Change of use, conversion and extension of existing shed to form a new dwelling at Roadside, East Burrafirth, ZE2 9NE by Ms Lynn Johnson.

2022/091/PPF To provide a new access road from the public road to Old Schoolhouse and install a new septic tank with foul water soakaway at Old Schoolhouse, Sandsound, Tresta by Mrs Christine Harcus.

2022/132/PPF Erect dwelling with detached garage and heat pump at Plot, Twatt Bixter by Mr John Robert Manson.

**CC INSURANCE CERTIFICATE:** The Community Council's current Insurance Certificate was received from Mr M Duncan.

**SKELD HIDE:** The Non-Domestic Rates 2022/23 notice was received and noted.

**NHS SHARE - SCOTTISH HEALTH REGISTER:** Information was circulated to the members requesting volunteers who are interested in research for improving healthcare.

**SCOTTISH ASSOC OF CCs:** Online survey set up by the Scottish Association of Community Councils to hear from Community Councillors in rural and island communities to find out what additional support they need to engage with each other and with other local organisations.

**SPPC NEWSLETTER:** A Newsletter was received from Shetland Public Protection Committee.

**MEETINGS IN FUTURE:** A message was received from Mr M Duncan asking for the format of our meetings just now and going forward.

This Community Council has now held 3 face to face meetings and those present felt that this is the preferable option. One of our members had sent a message suggesting hybrid meetings but some of the venues we use do not have 4g provision. It was agreed that, should circumstances change, we would revert to WebEx.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 13 June 2022 at 7.30pm in the Rankin Lounge, Aith.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm