

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH MAY 2022 AT 7PM (WITH A WEBEX OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

Roy Buckland
Murray Cooper
James Rendall, Chair

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

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

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 23rd March 2022 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/1 SIC Ferries – Complaint, Ferry Services Issues Logs & Meeting, 1st June 2022

At the February Meeting, Members had again expressed disappointment and concern that issues that the community had raised since connection issues were first raised in April 2021 regarding the Saturday Timetable and latterly with the Bluemull Sound January to February 2022 Timetable and Ferry Services Issues Logs had still not been satisfactorily resolved (Appendix A refers in detail).

All correspondence had been forwarded to SIC Chief Executive and SIC Director of Infrastructure Services (2022-02-4.1/3 Minute refers). SIC, Chief Executive, Maggie Sandison, had advised in February, 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 received had advised 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 to FCC. SIC Ferries had also advised around that time, 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.

Alongside this, a Meeting hosted by SIC Ferries & Transport Planning had taken place on the 23rd March, with a focus on consulting on the Summer Timetable. Whilst appreciative of the time constraints in engaging with all CC's, there was insufficient time to fully discuss and consider the above 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 inevitably having issues specific to their area and completely different to those for Bluemull & Yell Sound.

Following this, Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries had advised FCC, that he was very keen to build a better working relationship with Community Councils in general and whilst he felt there are larger issues to be looked at by ZetTrans and the SIC collectively, he felt that more operational day-to-day issues could be more easily looked at, such as succession planning, emergency timetables and slight amendments to timetables by SIC Ferries. Mr Inkster had reiterated that he was keen to build a collaborative format, where issues facing the service are discussed and that whilst it may not be possible to solve all the problems, that solutions are found which will make a difference and increase understanding of the current challenges being faced.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.1 Islands with Small Populations

4.1/1 SIC Ferries – Complaint, Ferry Services Issues Logs & Meeting, 1st June 2022

Whilst Members were both understanding and appreciative of the considerable constraints currently being experienced by SIC Ferries, disappointment was again expressed at the considerable time lapse and time spent liaising with SIC Ferries since the March Meeting regarding availability to meet and discuss issues further. Following a lengthy discussion, Members highlighted the following outstanding points and concerns:

- Connection issues with the Saturday Timetable on Bluemull & Yell Sound
- Ongoing late departures - 1120 sailing from Gutcher
- 1220 and 1230 sailing from Gutcher on a Monday
- Issues with booking 2140 from Hamars Ness and 2230 from Ulsta
- Further consideration of priority spaces for Fetlar traffic 0755 via Belmont (0825)
- Ongoing disparity with crew rest hours on Bluemull Sound
- Further consideration of the needs of the ferry service, alongside necessary crew rest hours and maintenance
- Further discussion surrounding succession planning for Fetlar Ferry Service
- Consideration of an improved emergency timetable in the event of breakdowns, planned docking and maintenance
- SIC/Zetrans actions and feedback to Ferry Service Issues Logs

A Meeting had been confirmed for the 23rd May, however, owing to a family bereavement, Mr Inkster, had re-scheduled the Meeting. (Minute 1st June 2022 refers).

Action – Clerk to include all of the above points and circulate an Agenda ahead of the joint Meeting with SIC Ferries and FCC.

4.1/2 NHS & FCC Joint Public Meeting – Nursing – 1st April 2022

NHS Shetland had advised in March that unfortunately one of the post holders had resigned from post as NDI nurse for Fetlar. A joint FCC & NHS Public Meeting had been held on the 1st April 2022 to allow residents the opportunity to be involved and express their views on nursing going forward. The Meeting had discussed the current situation with nursing in Fetlar and was followed by Q & A's.

Following the Meeting, NHS Shetland had provided an update for Healthcare Services for Fetlar, including the changes to the nursing service alongside an update on delivery of medication. A follow up Meeting is to be held in 3 months' time to give residents the opportunity to give further feedback and to discuss any further concerns or issues surrounding the nursing service. The Clerk confirmed the update from the NHS had been circulated to the email contacts list (Appendix B refers).

Appreciation and thanks had been noted from the community and by Members for the NDI nurse for "stepping up" following recent changes to the nursing service.

4.1/3 GP Visits

The NHS had confirmed there would be a monthly GP Clinic in Fetlar for the foreseeable future and visit from the GP once a month on a Friday morning. On both occasions during face-to-face GP visits in March and April, the Clinic appointments had not been filled and unfilled appointments had been used to review patients with long term conditions rather than waste the appointments. The NHS felt therefore, that a monthly clinic is sufficient in meeting the health needs of the island at present, which would continue to be monitored and reviewed, as necessary.

It was noted that a month was a long time without a GP visit to the island and a lengthy discussion followed surrounding GP visits and the dial-a-ride service being used to take patients out to Yell in between monthly visits. The idea of being linked to the Unst rather than the Yell Health Centre was also brought up. This suggestion would involve consultation with the community and NHS, with a number of factors having to be considered such as timing, how often the GP from Unst could visit, how ferries could link in with patients travelling to Unst for appointments, delivery of medication and such like.

Action – Clerk to forward on the above points to NHS Shetland.

4. ONGOING BUSINESS

4.2/1 New Fetlar Community Broadband Project

Ian Brown, Shetland Broadband (SBB) had advised that the Scottish Government had approved the new Fetlar Community Broadband Scheme on the 12th May, with a deadline for delivery of the project extended to the end of June owing to logistics and the amount of work required. Various updates from SBB on the project had been forwarded on to the email contacts list.

Mr Brown had added that the original plans had been to re-engineer the back haul link and effectively take it over from the SIC at the end of May, with the rest of the network worked on and completion intended for the end of June. However, the SIC linked had failed owing to a radio failure earlier in May and the SIC had suggested a quicker solution would be to pass it onto SBB.

Further, SBB engineers had been on site earlier in May to resolve issues on the mast, which was then followed by installation of the back-up link and completion of a new main link by the end of May. This will provide a new dual link network, with the main being high speed and second being “pretty fast”. Mr Brown had concluded that whilst this will not guarantee there will be no outages, will mean that a single radio failure does not bring everything to a halt.

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 25th May 2022 as circulated ahead of the Meeting.

The accounts to 31st March 2022 were duly approved for onward submission to Voluntary Action Shetland for independent examination.

The following invoices had been approved for payment:

- Bridgette Thomason – Clerk’s salary – Apr & May - £593.20
- Accrued expenses 2021/2022:
 - Bridgette Thomason – Clerk’s salary – Mar balance - £11.60 (£296.60 due, £285.00 paid March 2022)
 - Bridgette Thomason – Jan, Feb and Mar 22 – quarterly telephone & internet allowance - £30
- Bridgette Thomason – out of pocket expenses repaid – Amazon – ink cartridges - £67.74

The Association of Shetland Community Councils (ASCC) had forwarded on the Employers Liability Insurance Certificate to 2022/2023. Noted.

5.2 Association of Shetland Community Councils – Meeting – 14th June

Working papers and a Meeting update received from the ASCC had been circulated ahead of the June ASCC Meeting. ASCC agenda item - Community Council Core Funding, was discussed and it was agreed that the Chair would contact the ASCC to request an annual increase in core running funding to cover inflationary administrative costs and salary uplifts and ask if a review of the monthly allocation of hours for FCC’s Clerk could be considered, as this has been insufficient for some time now in meeting the workload and issues being faced by the community.

Action – Chair to send on apologies and the above points to the ASCC ahead of the Meeting on the 14th June.

5.3 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) Grant Applications:

Members approved the following grant payments to be drawn down in advance from next year's 2022/2023 Advance Grant Scheme allocation for Fetlar:

- Ability Shetland - £100 - part award towards their Additional Support Needs (ASN) Holiday Club project. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE, CORE FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

5.3 Shetland Community Benefit Fund (cont)

Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) Grant Applications:

- Shetland Family History Society - £100 - part award to help promote the study of family history and genealogy in Shetland and proposed worldwide project. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper
- Brough Lodge Trust - £1,500 - full award towards making a video pitch of the proposed new-build development at the Brough Lodge site. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper

Members agreed that priority would be given to local projects, with part grant awards of £100 made going forward to all AGS grant applications received from Shetland wide groups. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Roy Buckland.

Action - Clerk to advise SCBF of the approved grant payments and send completed feedback forms.

Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) Grant Applications:

SCBF had recently examined their policies, procedures and governance arrangements and whilst the 'Board Health Check' had been generally very positive about their governance and recognised the important steps Directors had taken, the process had identified some areas where procedures could be improved. One of the issues highlighted concerned possible confusion about the role of a Community Councillor once nominated and elected as a SCBF Director.

Once elected to the SCBF board, the Director has a separate legal responsibility and it is important that they undertake their SCBF role completely independently from their role as a Community Councillor, or indeed any other outside interests and responsibilities and ensure they always act in the best interests of SCBF. The consultants felt it was important that CC's and Directors fully understood the separate legal responsibilities when elected as a SCBF Director. Noted.

AGS Annual Review Survey:

SCBF had provided an on-line survey for CC's, CC Clerks and for both successful and unsuccessful applicants asking for comments on the AGS grant process, on how well the scheme is being run, the documentation and the question of Shetland-wide applications and other issues.

Members felt that the contact with SCBF had been excellent and were happy with the forms, guidelines on the SCBF website and information received about a grant application. With reference to applications from Shetland wide groups, FCC would like to see a separate fund for these and as previously noted, priority will be given to applications for local projects and activities.

Action - Clerk to complete the survey and also submit on behalf of FCC as above.

5.4 Da Voar Redd Up

Members had previously agreed that owing to the lambing, the Redd Up in Fetlar would be later this year.

It was agreed to award £100 to any local group/organisation interested in leading on the Redd Up, which involves completing a registration form to Shetland Amenity Trust, ordering gloves, bags and such like with FCC sending round flyers advising on details of the Redd Up to every household when a date is confirmed and local group sponsored.

Action - Clerk to circulate this information to the email contacts asking any group who are interested to contact FCC as soon as possible.

5.5 SIC – Community Development Fund

FCC had been successful in securing £3,000 from the SIC's Community Development Fund for providing financial assistance to local groups and organisations through 2022/2023 for projects.

Action - Clerk to circulate the availability of grant funding to the email contacts list, with any group looking for funding for a project being encouraged to make an application to FCC as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE, CORE FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

5.6 Community Hires 2022/2023

SIC Transport Planning had confirmed FCC's Community Late Ferry Hires Allocation for 2022-2023, being 4 hires for both Bluemull and Yell Sound.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Fetlar Public Bins & Commercial Waste

FCC had previously received concerns from residents regarding commercial waste being disposed of in the bins at the loch of Funzie and campsite. SIC Waste Management Officer, Paula Nicolson had passed these concerns on for the attention of their team in April.

Since then, further concerns had been received from residents and Members agreed to ask SIC Waste Management to arrange for signage to be put in situ to help avoid waste of this nature being put in the public bins in the future and pass on further concerns received from residents.

Juliet Bellis advised that waste had not been collected for some time from the public litter bin at the Shop/Post Office.

A suggestion was made that public litter bins could be lined with a black bag for ease of emptying and putting in the caged vehicle with having no "essy cart".

Action - Clerk to contact Ms Nicolson and ask if the above issues could be looked into further by Waste Management Services.

6.2 Tunnel Vision – Inter Island Tunnels – Beatrice Wishart MSP & Alistair Carmichael MP – Fetlar Visit 15th August

Beatrice Wishart MSP and Alistair Carmichael MP had advised that following on from their 'Tunnel Vision' event in February, they would be hosting follow-up public meetings in the isles, with a meeting planned for Fetlar on the 15th August, with letters detailing the event being sent to all residents by them in May.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 SIC – Invitation – Final Community Conversations Workshops throughout March
- 7.2 Fetlar Welcome Pack – Final Draft
- 7.3 SIC Planning – Services from Planning Aid Scotland
- 7.4 Fetlar Clinic – Covid Guidance & Clinic Updates
- 7.5 Shetland Wide Climate Conversation Workshop – 7th April
- 7.6 Strategic Transport Project Review 2 – Formal Consultation Closing 15th April
- 7.7 Police Scotland – Police Report
- 7.8 ZetTrans – Regional Transport Strategy – Draft Case for Change/Public Survey
- 7.9 SIC Environmental Services – Fetlar Waste Collection Calendar
- 7.10 AbilityNet – ConnectingU Device Scheme Closing 9th May

All other correspondence had circulated in between Meetings.

8. MEETING DATES

8. Date of next Meeting:

- Tuesday, 19th July at 7.45pm (previously 12th July)

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