

# Fetlar Community Council

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL ON TUESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.45PM (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  
Michael Duncan, SIC Community Planning & Development  
Robert Thomson, SIC Elected Member  
8 Members of the Public

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Julie McGuire and Mike Fogarty. Tom Thomason has tendered his resignation.

### 2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – Murray Cooper, seconded – Roy Buckland.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Roy declared an interest in item 4.2 Community Maintenance Post.  
Robert declared an interest in item 7.2 SIC Planning.

### 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

#### 4.1 Islands with Small Populations (IWSP)

##### 4.1/1 SIC Ferries

- Ferry Succession Planning. The Clerk had emailed Andrew Inkster and all three North isles Councillors to discuss this. No response has been received. This issue is becoming more critical.

**Action:** Ms. Browne to contact all participants again.

- Emergency Timetable. Ms Browne had contacted Andrew Inkster, Unst and Fetlar Community Council about this. Mr Rendall had responded, but no one else. Mr Rendall would prefer a face to face meeting. The group discussed the likelihood of a long period of drydocking, where only one ferry could be available. It is hoped that won't be as likely as the specific cause of this has been resolved, however all agreed it would be wise to be prepared.

**Action:** Ms Browne will contact all participants about the Emergency timetable again.

- Water supply at the toilets at Hamars Ness. The Clerk has contacted SIC Ferries, Transport Planning, Waste Management Services and North Isles Councillors contacted reiterating previous concerns raised by FCC and those raised at the Meeting on 6th September. An Issues Log was also included in the correspondence. The SIC have the bowser, and have had staff check it over to make sure it is working. Arrangements will be made to get it up to Fetlar but considered it to be a low priority over winter, due to more rain water and less usage. However tourists have reported at the shop that the toilets are not working this week. It was decided it would be wise to ask for the bowser to be moved to Fetlar as soon as possible.

**Actions:** Mr Rendall will check the toilets.

Councillor Robert Thomson will contact Ferry Services regarding moving the bowser to Fetlar.

##### 4.1/2 Community Maintenance Post

The Community Maintenance Person has resigned. The group discussed what might happen next. Members of the public asked about the role and responsibilities of the post. It was agreed that the group would ask Carl Symons SIC Executive Manager to attend the next Fetlar Community Council meeting and if they intend to advertise for a new postholder.

**Actions:** FCC to find roles and responsibilities considered for the post initially.

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

### 4.1 Islands with Small Populations

#### 4.1/2 Community Maintenance Post (contd.)

**Actions(contd.):** Ms Browne To email Carl Symons to invite him to the next FCC meeting and to ask if they intend to advertise for a new postholder.

#### 4.1/3 IWSP Strategic Delivery Group Meetings - Update & Feedback

Juliet and Murray raised ferry succession planning as a priority at the Strategic Delivery Group of the Locality Plan for Shetland's Islands with Small Populations.

Murray Cooper has stood down as representative on the Strategic Delivery Group. Juliet Bellis is continuing as a representative for Fetlar. Frances will write an email for the new clerk to send out once appointed, explaining the islands with Small Populations project and requesting a new representative from Fetlar.

#### 4.1/4 IWSP Priorities

**April 2021 - priorities for Fetlar reviewed and updated as follows:**

- Broadband and connectivity - impacts and has knock on effects on all of the priorities below
- Resolve outstanding NHS actions & nursing - no resident nurse
- Fetlar Ferry Succession Planning
- Attract new residents – marketing & promotion - Tourism Group & sub group set up to draft and formalise a "Welcome Pack" for Fetlar
- Potential of Local Lettings Policy – consider setting up a working group
- Community Growing Project (Fetlar Community Association)
- Explore commuter ticket on the ferry – fares need to be equitable/considered within current "Fares Review"
- Tourism - link with other Isles and "North Isles Golden Triangle"
- Decentralise office-based posts

The group discussed the priorities for Fetlar set by the community (as above). Some of the priorities, such as Nursing, and the Growing Project have been achieved. Broadband and connectivity is also close to being achieved. Members of the public expressed frustration at the lack of progress on some priorities, including the local lettings policy and the commuter ticket for the ferry. Ms. Browne asked all present if they would be happy to see the six monthly drop in session with key agency staff reinstated. It was agreed to organise for February. It usually coincides with an FCC meeting, so the staff can attend the meeting also. Ferries and housing are live issues at the moment, so it was thought inviting directors with responsibilities for this would be useful. The group agreed that renewing the priorities at the same time would be sensible.

**Actions:** Ms Browne to start planning the drop in session and when emailing about new IWSP representative to include the current priorities.

Ms Browne will also email officers leading on IWSP and express concern about lack of progress on some of the priorities.

#### 4.2 Promote Shetland/Fetlar Coverage

This item is in response to a suggestion from Pierre Cambillard regarding the possibility of Promote Shetland hosting a special feature on Fetlar. Pierre has stated he is happy to help with this in any way. It was agreed to defer this to the November meeting, as Mike Fogarty attended a meeting relevant to this and can feedback to the next FCC meeting.

**Action:** Mike Fogarty to feedback to next meeting.

#### 4.3 SIC Invite – Sep 22 & Brough Lodge Retreat Project

Mike Fogarty attended this event and can feed back to next FCC meeting.

Historic Scotland have responded to Pierre about the Brough Lodge Retreat.

**Action:** Mike Fogarty to feed back to next meeting.

#### 4.4 Vodafone – Plans to Decommission Rural Open Sure Signal Devices in Fetlar

The clerk contacted Vodafone again about this. She has received no response. This was noted.

#### 4.5 Roads Signage & Markings

This work is now complete, and this item can be removed from the agenda.

#### **4.6 Cattle Grid near Brough Lodge/Devil's Elbow & Ongoing Issues with Dead Hedgehogs**

The Clerk emailed Mr Hutcheson of the Roads department after the September FCC meeting regarding this cattle grid. Mr Hutcheson replied that it is due to be replaced with a Hopkins type(which includes ramps) later this year or early next year. They plan to fit ramps to the other cattlegrids on island. This was forwarded to the residents email list. The Cattle Grid has deteriorated since then. He also responded that ramps will be fitted to all the cattle grids, for the safety of animals. Mr Rendall has contacted roads to let them know this, and the foreman has been in to look. It has since deteriorated further and is in need of urgent repair

**Action:** Mr Duncan to email Roads and explain this and let SIC Roads know it needs urgent attention.

#### **4.7 Bus Service**

R.G Jamiesons have agreed to investigate a service that goes from Gutcher to Aywick or R.S Henderson in Cullivoe.

#### **4.8 Welcome Pack**

The Clerk sent out an updated Welcome Pack. A member of the public had contacted the community council to raise concerns that their and other artists/ craftmakers had not been included in the pack. Ms Browne who is working on the pack with three members of the community, apologised for this and was able to let the member of the public know that their details had been added. Ms Browne proposes to send the Welcome Pack out to the community again once the new clerk is in place to give other craft makers the opportunity to ask to be included. The member of the public also raised concerns about lack of information about how the pack is being created and maintained. Ms Browne acknowledged this issue, and will rectify it.

**Actions:** Ms Browne to ask new Clerk to circulate pack, and in same email will let everyone know how the pack can be updated.

#### **4.9 Bulky Waste Uplifts & Skips**

Following recruitment of a relief CMP, SIC Waste Management Services had confirmed that they were happy for bulky waste to be taken down to Lerwick by the Community Maintenance Person and a relief to assist with heavier and bulkier items. Roy Buckland had agreed to be the point of contact locally for this. There wasn't high response to this at the time, with 2 residents coming forward for the service.

James Rendall has contacted Garriocks about costs of hiring a skip. He has not received a response as yet. Ms Browne reported that although Unst Partnership run a skip scheme with membership and one off payment options it runs at a loss. Unst Partnership seek some funding every year to make it cost neutral.

#### **4.10 Abandoned Vehicles**

The car has been removed from Aith Beach. Robert Thomson has looked into this recently for a resident.

**Action:** Robert Thomson to email information discovered to resident.

### **5. FINANCIAL UPDATE, CORE FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION**

#### **5.1 Financial update, core funding and administration**

Ms Browne summarised current restricted funds within FCC's Core Running Budget and Community Development Fund to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as circulated prior to the Meeting.

The following invoices had been approved for payment:

- Bridgette Thomason – Final Clerk's Salary - Sep - £296.60
- Bridgette Thomason – Jul, Aug, Sep - quarterly telephone & internet allowance - £30.00
- Fetlar Community Association – hall hire - Sep Meeting - £30.00
- Voluntary Action Shetland – Independent Examination YE Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 22 - £70.00
- Bridgette Thomason – out of pocket expenses repaid – Microsoft 365 Office Package for FCC Laptop - £64.80 (personal license previously used)

#### **5.2 Association of Shetland Community Councils – Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Mr Duncan updated FCC on the meeting. Items discussed were:

- Place Plans, including strategic work done and the current work in the North Mainland,
- the ASCC agreed to write to Northlink regarding the difficulties booking travel.

- The final item was proposed options regarding the community council elections in light of the forthcoming Community Council review.

### 5.3 Shetland Community Benefit Fund.

There is £8,100 in the budget for Advance Grant Scheme the remainder of the term. This can be drawn down during the year, or deferred. If a big project comes forward, funds can be brought forward from next year.

There is a consultation happening on what might be included in the main fund.

A decision on the Mind Your Head application was deferred until the next FCC meeting.

### 5.4 SIC – Community Development Fund – Grant Applications

The Clerk has paid out the below grants following the September meeting.

Charlie Thomason Memorial Fund - adult defibrillator electrodes & shipping - Full grant award £62.39

Fetlar Bee Keeping Group – purchase of 6 beehives, bees including queen, apiary tools and protective gear - Part grant award £2026.61

Fetlar Museum Trust – 2 new display cases, LED lighting & shipping for housing Museum artefacts currently not on display - Part grant award £911.00

The Fetlar Bee Keeping Group have returned their grant. The Fetlar Community Council could therefore decide to fund the whole grant to the Fetlar Museum Trust. This decision was deferred to the following meeting when more Community Councillors will be present.

A member of the public asked if it would be possible to apply for a grant from this fund to improve the road to the airport as it is in poor condition and is used for ambulance transfers. The landowner is not willing to pay for the improvements. The potential costs were discussed and thought to be high.

**Action:** Community Councillors to decide on Fetlar Museum application at next FCC meeting.

The member of the public will look into the issue of repair to the airport road further.

### 5.5 Late Community Hire Request – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

SIC Ferries confirmed the late hire request as follows:

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

Departing Gutcher via Belmont to Hamars Ness at 0145 hrs

Unst CC & R J Jamieson's have been informed.

To date, FCC have used 2 hires on Bluemull Sound (including the above) and 1 hire on Yell Sound. This is of their annual allocation of 4 community hires.

### 5.6 Recruitment of New Clerk, Agreement & Contract Appointment

Deferred till next meeting

### 5.7 Community Council Elections 2022

Details of the forthcoming CC Elections had been received and the Election Timetable was noted as follows:

Notice of election	15 <sup>th</sup> September
Closing date for nominations	13 <sup>th</sup> October
Notice of poll/uncontested election	14 <sup>th</sup> October
Issue of postal ballot papers by	28 <sup>th</sup> October
Closing date for return of ballot papers	24 <sup>th</sup> November
Election day	24 <sup>th</sup> November
Verification and counting of votes	25 <sup>th</sup> November

All existing CC Members will continue until midnight on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and the first Meeting of the new CC must be held within one month of Election Day, that is, by the 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**Action:** All to encourage people to apply to be a councillor on Fetlar Community Council

### 5.8 FCC Associate Members – Vacancies

Both James Smythe and Tom Allen have resigned as Associate Members so there are also 2 vacancies for associate members.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 Shetland Islands Council – Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2022-2028

Billy Mycock has written to ask if he could attend a Fetlar Community Council meeting to discuss the new Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. He will be invited to the next meeting.

**Action:** Frances to invite Billy to next meeting.

### 6.2 Fetlar Community Association request

Fetlar Community Association are investigating putting a solar array on the Fetlar Hall roof. They would also like to investigate whether the Fetlar Community would be interested in a renewables project for the whole of Fetlar, to help the island be closer to net zero. To start this process they asked if Fetlar Community Council would be willing to host a meeting for residents to discuss this. James agreed that Fetlar Community Council could host this meeting.

**Action:** FCA and FCC to work towards finding a time for the meeting.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

### 7. Correspondence – deferred until next meeting.

7.1 Police Scotland – CC Briefing Paper – August/September 2022

7.2 SIC Planning – 2022/234/PFF:

Proposed Development & Upgrade – Fetlar Mast

## 8. MEETING DATES

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November (previously 15<sup>th</sup> November)

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