

# Fetlar Community Council

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL ON TUESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.45PM (WITH A WEBEX OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

### PRESENT

Roy Buckland  
Murray Cooper  
Mike Fogarty, Vice Chair  
Julie Maguire  
James Rendall, Chair  
Tom Thomason

### IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group  
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development  
Dana Jamieson, Yell Police Station (joined remotely)  
Bridgette Thomason, Clerk  
6 Members of the Public

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Michael Duncan and James Smythe.

## 2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 had been circulated and were taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper.

Minutes of the Meeting with SIC Ferries held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 had been circulated and were also taken as read and adopted. Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Murray Cooper.

The Decision Making Records from the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 had been circulated and both were also taken as read and adopted. Proposed – Murray Cooper, seconded – James Rendall. (Decision Making Records have now ceased being used with face to face meetings resumed).

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

### 4.1 Islands with Small Populations

#### 4.1/1 SIC Ferries – Operational Issues Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Andrew Inkster, SIC Ferries had advised FCC previously that he was very keen to build a better working relationship with Community Councils (CC's) 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.

Following this, a Meeting with SIC Ferries had been arranged to discuss operational issues further (Minute 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 refers in detail).

Following the June Meeting, in August, Mr Inkster had sent on his sincere apologies for the time taken in responding, namely owing to ongoing difficulties with the service, coupled with staff holidays and sickness. Mr Inkster had provided an update and feedback as follows:

- Connections issues/proposed changes - Saturday Timetable - Bluemull & Yell Sound

SIC Ferries have decided to include Fetlar in their ongoing crew review. This will give options to provide a better service on Saturday, however, will require consultation with crews and Unions, with initial contact made and discussions continuing as quickly as possible.

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

### 4.1 Islands with Small Populations

#### 4.1/1 SIC Ferries – Operational Issues Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

- 1115 sailing from Gutcher owing to late departures with the current 1120 sailing  
As this sailing only applies in the Summer, SIC Ferries will look at addressing this issue for next year's Summer timetable, the plan would be to have the Bigga leave berth at 1115, which will also need to be discussed with crew.
- 1220 and 1230 sailing from Gutcher on a Monday  
Mr Inkster advised this matter had been resolved with crews, with the Geira now doing maintenance at Cullivoe and therefore doing the 1230 sailing to Hamars Ness.
- Disparity with crew rest hours on Bluemull Sound  
Marine Supt. Alastair Danabie had confirmed that crews are to have their meal at Cullivoe or Hamars Ness before resuming service. Mr Inkster had explained that this matter needs more attention and is also to be picked up as part of the crew review, where maintenance and drills will be built into any new arrangements.

A review of the service and options being considered to provide a better service on a Saturday was welcomed, this will inevitably take time with consultation with crews and Unions.

Ferry Succession Planning was identified by the community as one of the main priorities within the Islands with Small Populations Project (IWSP Priorities – page 3 refers). With the ongoing considerable constraints being faced by SIC Ferries on a daily basis, increasing reliability of agency staff to provide crew cover, this naturally results in less time and resources for forward and succession planning. Collectively, succession planning would help to make Fetlar a more sustainable and viable community as a whole, with local jobs available and benefits to both the Ferry Service and the community alike.

**Action** – Clerk to contact Mr Inkster and all 3 North Isles Councillors and invite them to discuss Fetlar Ferry Succession Planning further.

#### Emergency Timetable

Frances Browne had kindly offered previously to arrange a Meeting between Yell, Fetlar & Unst CC's and SIC Ferries to create an Emergency Timetable for Bluemull Sound.

Ms Browne explained that Yell CC had noted that they could meet, however, as this directly impacts the service on Bluemull Sound, felt it would be more beneficial for Fetlar & Unst CC's to meet with SIC Ferries. Yell CC are fully supportive of a new Emergency Timetable for Bluemull Sound. Unst CC had also advised that they were keen to meet and discuss this further.

With the upcoming docking schedule which includes the Bluemull Sound vessels, it was agreed to arrange a Meeting as soon as possible to discuss and create an Emergency Timetable for Bluemull Sound.

**Action** – Ms Browne to contact Unst CC and SIC Ferries and arrange a Meeting.

#### Water supply at the toilets at Hamars Ness

Ongoing issues with the water supply at the toilets at Hamars Ness and time constraints with deliveries of water had been raised again at the June Meeting with SIC Ferries. SIC Ferries had agreed to purchase a new bowser, with deliveries of water to be made in the meantime to keep the toilets operational.

An update had been sent onto SIC Ferries at the end of June, advising that Ness Engineering had fixed the pressure set, which results in the system pumping water, even if there's not enough water. FCC had therefore asked if the new water bowser could be delivered as soon as possible to overcome ongoing issues with the water supply in the toilet facilities in Hamars Ness. In response, Mr Inkster had advised a new bowser had been ordered and the bowser is to be based in Fetlar. Unfortunately, the delivery had been delayed, which Mr Inkster had confirmed was being chased up and in the meantime, reassurance had been provided that deliveries of water were being made to keep the toilets operational.

Concern and frustration at the time this issue had taken to be actioned was expressed. It was agreed that further correspondence would be sent to SIC Ferries reiterating previous concerns and impacts that an inadequate water supply at the toilet facilities has on residents, tourist and visitors to the island. A Ferry Services Transport Issues Log is also to be completed. Residents also discussed raising this issue on an individual basis.

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

### 4.1 Islands with Small Populations

#### 4.1/1 SIC Ferries – Operational Issues Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Water Supply at the toilets at Hamars Ness

**Action** – Clerk to contact SIC Ferries, Transport Planning, Waste Management Services and North Isles Councillors reiterating previous concerns raised by FCC and those raised by members of the public in attendance and an Issues Log is also to be sent on.

#### Islands with Small Populations Project - Fetlar 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

#### 4.1/2 NHS & FCC Joint Public Meeting – Nursing – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

A circular had been sent to every household regarding the follow up joint NHS & FCC Public Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 allowing residents the opportunity to give further feedback and to discuss any concerns or issues surrounding the nursing service.

Those present felt the joint Public Meeting had gone well with no concerns and issues raised by residents regarding current nursing provision.

Kim Anderson, NHS Shetland had passed on her thanks to FCC for the positivity shown in relation to the Fetlar nursing service. Ms Anderson hopes to visit again in November and had reiterated that if any issues should arise to contact NHS Shetland in the meantime.

#### 4.1/3 GP Visits & Healthcare

The NHS had previously confirmed there would be a monthly GP Clinic in Fetlar for the foreseeable future/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 them.

Following further concerns raised at the May Meeting regarding the reduction in visits by the GP to a monthly basis rather than fortnightly, NHS Shetland had been contacted and had provided further clinic statistics:

- The GP Clinic held in Fetlar has availability for 8-9 clinic appointments
- If a patient needs to be seen at home that takes up the equivalent of 2 clinic appointments owing to travel
- There have been slightly more than 50% take up in appointments

The NHS therefore felt that a monthly clinic is sufficient in meeting the health needs of the island at present, which will continue to be monitored and reviewed, as necessary.

The general feeling of those present was that the nursing service was “pretty good”, notably in comparison to other areas of Shetland and on the mainland.

At the May Meeting, the idea of being linked to the Unst rather than the Yell GP practice had also been discussed. This suggestion will require 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. Lisa Watt, Primary Care Manager, NHS Shetland deals directly with GP provision and can discuss this further should the community wish to do so.

NHS Shetland are also aware of the dial-a-ride service that is provided in Yell if anyone from Fetlar needs to use this service to see the GP in Yell. This service can be used for anyone who is having difficulty travelling to Yell to see the GP face to face rather than a telephone consultation.

## 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

### 4.2 New Fetlar Community Broadband Scheme

The Scottish Government had approved the new Fetlar Community Broadband Scheme on the 12<sup>th</sup> May with a deadline for delivery of the project extended to the end of June owing to logistics and the amount of work required.

Shetland Broadband (SBB) had previously advised that a new fibre connection point had been installed in Mid Yell, with new radios, routers and “electronic plumbing” in place at Mid Yell, the Fetlar mast and Fetlar hall and a backup radio link installed which is twice as fast as what was previously in situ.

Various updates from SBB had been forwarded onto the email contacts list in between Meetings alongside details of where new routers could be sourced if required.

SBB had provided the following update in September:

- The main task is complete, with some bits of the network not working as well as SBB would like and some re-engineering work to be done
- SBB had been short of “kit” due to chip shortages, no containers, lock downs and such like
- Manpower had also been at a premium during the summer owing to Covid and annual leave
- SBB hopes that all outstanding issues will be resolved through September
- Billing is only to come into effect from 1st October onwards owing to service interruptions experienced during the main rebuild

Some of those in attendance reported issues with their new broadband, whilst others were finding the new broadband service very satisfactory. Whilst the Scottish Government Broadband Voucher scheme was in place, everyone that applied effectively were connected for 'free' to the new network and unfortunately anyone now wanting to join the scheme has to pay the connection costs.

**Action** – Clerk to send the above update from SBB to the email contacts list and note that if anyone is having issues with their broadband supply or has any questions on the new CBS for Fetlar, to contact SBB directly for advice and support.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as circulated prior to the Meeting.

Decision Making Record on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 refers to the approved increase in the Clerk’s hourly rate in line with the H2 recommended pay scale to £15.17 per hour (£14.83 per hour previously) from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 onwards. Budget projections had been updated accordingly and venue hire costs increased to meet new hall hire costs of £10.00 per hour (£7.50 per hour previously).

The following invoices had been approved for payment:

- Bridgette Thomason – Clerk’s salary – Jun, Jul & Aug - £889.80
- Bridgette Thomason – Apr, May and Jun 22 – quarterly telephone & internet allowance - £30
- ICO – Data protection renewal - £35.00
- Bridgette Thomason – out of pocket expenses repaid – Norton – Internet Security - £74.99
- Fetlar Community Association – hall hire May & Jun Meetings - £52.50

### 5.2 Association of Shetland Community Councils – Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> June & 13<sup>th</sup> September

Working papers, requests for Agenda items and Meeting updates received from the ASCC had been circulated ahead of the June and September ASCC Meetings.

The Chair had sent on apologies to the ASCC for the June Meeting and had referred to the ASCC Agenda item – Community Council Core Funding, with the following suggestions put forward:

- An annual increase in core running funding to cover inflationary administrative costs and salary uplifts as per SIC/ASCC recommendations in line with H2 pay scale
- Consideration of the £3,000 CDF funds for financial assistance to local groups (applied for annually) to be included and restricted within core running funding
- Review of the monthly allocation of hours for FCC’s Clerk as the hours are insufficient and have been for some time in meeting the workload and issues being faced by the community

## 5. FINANCIAL UPDATE, CORE FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

### 5.2 Association of Shetland Community Councils – Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> June & 13<sup>th</sup> September

The ASCC had provided an update following the June Meeting:

- Shetland Community Benefit Fund Chair, Chris Bunyan had provided an update on SBCF plans to consult on the future use of its funds and had answered questions on the scheme
- Issues about parking in inappropriate places such as turning points, laybys and blocking roads. A number of ideas had been raised to remind drivers
- Community Council core funding has not changed for a number of years. The existing core grant funding calculations and options for the Community Development Fund were discussed. The ASCC is to contact SIC Finance in the first instance to request an annual increase in funding
- Update on plans to publicise the 2022 Community Council elections. The ASCC had applied to the CDF fund to help cover the cost of the agreed action plan
- CC's encouraged to discuss publicity and to actively promote the elections locally over the coming months and may wish to use some of the ideas and/or start conversations highlighted with potential candidates

**Action** – Clerk to send on apologies to the ASCC for the September Meeting as no one from FCC is able to attend/join remotely on this occasion.

### 5.3 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) Grant Applications:

Members approved the following grant payment from the 2022/2023 AGS allocation of funds for Fetlar:

Shetland Recreational Trust - £100 - award towards project cost for supporting and developing activity for all people in Shetland. Proposed – Roy Buckland, seconded – James Rendall.

Decision Making Record on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 refers to the following draw down in advance grant award approved in between Meetings:

Shetland Amenity Trust - £100 – award towards project costs to expand SAT's tree nursery production and planting for recreational use, amenity, natural heritage conservation and habitat restoration.

At the May Meeting, Members had agreed that priority would be given to local projects, with part grant awards of £100 being made to all AGS grant applications received from Shetland wide groups.

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

2022/2023 AGS Funds:

SCBF had advised that as FCC had supported AGS grant applications totalling £11,900 in the past year through the benefit fund, with a drawdown of £1,900 in advance made from the 2022/2023 annual allocation of £10,000 (which runs from September each year), FCC therefore had funds of £8,100 remaining following approval of the above grant awards to SRT and SAT.

AGS Annual Review Survey:

SCBF had previously 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. At the May Meeting, FCC felt that contact with SCBF had been excellent and there were no issues with the forms, guidelines on the SCBF website and information received about a grant application. With reference to applications from Shetland wide groups, FCC had intimated they would like to see a separate fund for this, with priority given to applications for local projects and activities.

Following this, SCBF had provided a link to the consultation report and main conclusions. The review responses had been considered by SCBF Directors in July who made the following decisions, which had been circulated in between Meetings:

- Many of the issues or questions raised by both CC's and applicants could be answered by separating the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) into two documents, one for applicants and one for CC's with better explanations given for some questions - actioned and revised documents available on the SCBF website
- The scheme is to continue being open to applications from Shetland-wide bodies and a clearer statement on the procedure and rules on forms and on the website FAQs
- Rules clarified on any second or subsequent applications, which can only be accepted 12 months after the date of the grant offer letter following a successful application

## 5. FINANCIAL UPDATE, CORE FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

### 5.3 Shetland Community Benefit Fund

AGS Annual Review Survey (cont):

- A maximum of 250 words per section is now stipulated on application forms
- Because some CCs are less than prompt in notifying SCBF of a decision, or indeed, making any decision, if SCBF hasn't been notified of a decision by a CC by 10 weeks after an application has been received, then SCBF will assume it has been refused and the applicant and CC notified. If a CC knows there will be a delay in considering an application, they are asked to contact the SCBF Admin Officer
- Changes to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022
- The grant scheme has already supported many excellent projects and SCBF directors had noted their appreciation and the contribution that CCs have made in making the scheme successful

### 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. At the May Meeting, it had been agreed to award £100 to any local group/organisation interested in leading on the Redd Up. The Clerk confirmed that this information had been circulated to the email contacts in June, with a further reminder sent in July, with no local group coming forward to date.

Members of the public expressed their concerns, disappointment and frustration that the Voar Redd Up had not been undertaken and that whilst no group had come forward asked why FCC had not undertaken the Redd Up themselves.

FCC explained that the Redd Up involves a local group completing a registration form to Shetland Amenity Trust, ordering gloves, bags and such like with FCC able to send round flyers publicising details of the Redd Up following a local group being sponsored and a date confirmed.

Further discussion took place regarding the Redd Up, with the following points highlighted:

- Issues with litter on some of the beaches, roadsides and fly tipping in some areas around the island
- The use of wheelie bins similar to what is used in Yell was suggested, although noted this could be an issue when waste is being collected with having no "essy cart"
- A number of residents are gathering waste on a regular basis from roadsides and beaches when out walking
- Shetland Amenity Trust can be contacted for getting any Redd Up waste collected

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

The Clerk confirmed that the availability of £3,000 in funding to assist local groups with projects had been circulated to the email contacts in June, with a further reminder sent in July. Local groups looking for funding for a project had been encouraged to make an application to FCC as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

CDF grant applications totalling £4,092.39 had been received. With £3,000 funding available the following grant requests were duly considered and approved as follows:

- Charlie Thomason Memorial Fund – adult defibrillator electrodes & shipping - £62.39  
Full grant award £62.39  
Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Roy Buckland
- Fetlar Bee Keeping Group – purchase of 6 beehives, bees including queen, apiary tools and protective gear - £2,880  
Part grant award £2026.61  
Proposed – James Rendall, seconded – Roy Buckland
- Fetlar Museum Trust – 2 new display cases, LED lighting & shipping for housing Museum artefacts currently not on display - £1,150  
Part grant award £911.00  
Proposed – Mike Fogarty, seconded – Tom Thomason

**Action** – Clerk to administer grant payments and include Ms Browne's offer of assistance to the local groups who had received a part grant award. Contact details for the SCBF fund to help meet project shortfalls are also to be included.

### 5.5 Late Community Hire Request – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 & 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

SIC Ferries had confirmed the late community hire request for the 24<sup>th</sup> September for the community event in Fetlar - Karan Tweed and Haltadans in between Meetings - departing Hamars Ness at 0100 hours to Gutcher via Belmont (if necessary) and departing Ulsta at 0200 hours.

## 5. FINANCIAL UPDATE, CORE FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

### 5.6 Late Community Hire Request – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 & 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 (cont)

A late community hire request for the 23<sup>rd</sup> October for R G Jamieson's, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration had been received – departing 0130 hours or later (if possible) from Gutcher to Hamars Ness via Belmont.

**Action** – Clerk to contact SIC Ferries regarding the above request and liaise with R G Jamieson's and Unst CC.

### 5.7 Clerk's Resignation, Recruitment of New Clerk, Agreement & Contract Appointment

The vacancy for Clerk had been advertised locally by way of a mail shot to all households, emailed to the contacts list and added to the "Everything Else Fetlar" Facebook page, noting a closing date of 14<sup>th</sup> September. The agreement and contract appointment acceptance had been drafted and operational duties will be handed over at the end of September.

### 5.8 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** – Clerk to contact the ASCC for promotional materials to circulate locally.

*(Subsequent correspondence received from the ASCC included a report and covering email from SIC Governance & Law regarding the question of whether the SIC should proceed with elections for CC membership and asking for consideration of options presented in that regard. These considerations will recognise that the CC scheme is due to be reviewed and that the review is due to commence before the end of this calendar year.)*

Ms Browne left the Meeting at this point to catch the ferry. As Unst CC had kindly offered the loud speaker equipment to trial, Dana Jamieson who had joined the Meeting remotely also left at this stage.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 Fetlar Primary School - Mothballed

Councillor Ryan Thomson had been in touch in June regarding the mothballing of the Fetlar Primary School and had advised that Councillor Anderson was working on the morning of the Meeting when this had been discussed and he himself, had been travelling on a train on the mainland and was therefore unable to attend and join the Council Meeting either.

Further, that whilst it was far from ideal that neither could attend, Mr Thomson had explained that they were both fully aware that SIC Education had been in contact with FCC and that the mothballing of the Fetlar Primary School was imminent with no chance of it being proposed to be closed permanently and that it was also going to be rightly highlighted during proceedings of the necessity to 'unmothball' the school as soon as it is required.

On another note, Councillor Thomson had advised that with the by-elections due in August 2022 for the vacant seat in the North Isles, a decision had been reached to leave one of the functional committees to whoever is successful in the By-Election. In the meantime, Councillor Anderson and Thomson would try to attend meetings.

### 6.2 Beatrice Wishart MSP – Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Internal & External Ferry Provision

Beatrice Wishart MSP had advised that following the receipt of a public petition regarding the unreliability of ferries which results in losses to island economies and is restrictive to islanders, the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee had opened an inquiry into the state of ferry services, which covers all Scotland's ferries, not just the Shetland service. Ms Wishart had encouraged responses to the enquiry.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.3 Letters of Support

The following letters of support had been sent in between Meetings:

- Shetland Table Tennis Association for their proposed regeneration project
- Tingwall Agricultural Museum & Heritage Centre for their project aimed at building a suitable facility to house the extensive collection of agricultural artefacts
- Shetland Islands Citizen Advice Bureau for their funding bid to further developing a Community Based Energy and Benefits Advice to better meet the needs of people living in rural communities and island areas

### 6.4 Promote Shetland/Fetlar Coverage

Pierre Cambillard had contacted FCC regarding the possible use of Promote Shetland to have a special feature on Fetlar, especially with the new Community Broadband Scheme and infrastructure now in place and with the Fetlar Primary School now mothballed.

Mr Cambillard explained that he had spoken to Alastair Hamilton, who is willing to write a supportive note to Promote Shetland if FCC are in agreement to asking for Promote Shetland/NB Communication for a video to promote settling in Fetlar, within their Promote Shetland activities, with no cost to FCC. Mr Cambillard had concluded that he was happy to assist further and help in any way.

**Action** – Agenda item to be carried over to the next CC Meeting for further discussion and consideration.

### 6.5 Tunnel Vision – Inter Island Tunnels – Beatrice Wishart MSP & Alistair Carmichael MP – Fetlar Visit 15<sup>th</sup> August

Beatrice Wishart MSP and Alistair Carmichael MP had previously advised that following on from their 'Tunnel Vision' event held in February, they would be hosting follow-up public meetings in the isles, with a meeting held in Fetlar on the 15<sup>th</sup> August. Letters detailing the event had been sent by them to all residents in May with the following points discussed:

- How to take the case forward for fixed links
- The formation of Tunnel Action Groups – led by communities
- Discuss any concerns or worries in an open forum

An information sheet had been included recapping the previous event and setting out more details of their future plans. Whilst in Fetlar, they had also offered a "garden gate chat" to discuss any other issues, with contact details provided for anyone wishing to get in touch.

Mr Cooper and Mr Fogarty had attended the event on behalf of FCC. The event and inter island tunnels was discussed further, the general feeling of those present was in favour of tunnels for both economic and social reasons. As it is likely that it will be a number of years before this can be realised, in the short term, this has implications for existing transport provision with an ageing fleet of ferries, ongoing maintenance required and ferry replacements required in the interim period.

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

Following correspondence received earlier in January regarding Vodafone's potential plans to retire some old 3G technology devices called Sure Signal and Rural Open Sure Signal in Fetlar. Vodafone had advised further that since the devices were installed several years ago to boost the 3G coverage in the area, they had since then made improvements to the coverage available from the main network.

Further, Vodafone had been in touch with the site owners at the sites listed below who currently host the devices, and their partner NET had subsequently visited each of the following properties:

- Fetlar Interpretive Centre (Museum Trust),
- Fetlar Community Hall;
- Fetlar Fire Station, Stakkafletts;
- Fetlar Primary School,

As part of the visit, NET performed a number of walk and drive trials on the island to check the quality of 2G and 4G coverage across the community. The tests showed that there are good levels of both 2G and 4G coverage in the area, which means the community can continue to enjoy reliable mobile coverage without the need for the dated Sure Signal equipment and therefore they would now start work to remove some of these devices as part of their network modernisation programme, which is improving the 4G and 5G experience for their customers.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **6.6 Vodafone – Plans to Decommission Rural Open Sure Signal Devices in Fetlar (cont)**

A resident had contacted Vodafone on a number of occasions about the mobile signal in their house being non-existent. Concerns had also been passed onto FCC in between Meetings and further clarification had been sought from Vodafone regarding the mobile signal for certain areas on the island.

**Action** – Clerk to contact Vodafone again and ask for an update on the above concerns previously raised.

### **6.7 SIC Invite/Brough Lodge Retreat Project**

Dennis Leask, Chair, SIC Development Committee had sent an invite to a presentation by the Brough Lodge Trust on ShetlandPeerieMakkers and the future of Brough Lodge in Fetlar.

The presentation is on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and will include the following:

- Dennis Leask – Welcome
- Pierre Cambillard - Introduction/ video and facts on ShetlandPeerieMakkers
- Drew Ratter – Project Description Brough Lodge
- Video: Building, Brough Lodge 3D interactive model of re-development.
- Questions
- Close

Mr Fogarty advised he would be able to attend on behalf of FCC.

### **6.8 Roads Signage & Markings (Deferred Agenda Item 4.3 – 2022-02-08)**

SIC Roads had confirmed in 2021 that when restrictions had eased and the white lining squad could come to Fetlar, that markings are to be reinstated where necessary to clearly indicate to drivers what they can and cannot do. At that time concerns had been sent onto SIC Roads following members of the community reporting some “near misses” with cars pulling out when they should have given way - especially with visitors and those not so familiar with the roads on the island.

It was agreed to contact SIC Roads for an update on line markings. New markings being carried out at the Hamars Ness ferry terminal were noted.

**Action** – Clerk to contact SIC Roads for an update on the remaining line markings on Fetlar.

### **6.9 Cattle Grid near Brough Lodge/Devil’s Elbow & Ongoing Issues with Dead Hedgehogs (Deferred Agenda Item 4.4 – 2022-02-08)**

In November 2021, SIC Roads had confirmed that the cattle grid near Brough Lodge/Devil’s Elbow is to be replaced with a prefabricated Hopkin’s type in 2022. At that time, SIC Roads had confirmed that the Area Foreman would install a ramp the next time they were in Fetlar to help reduce the number of dead hedgehogs being found.

Members of the public expressed disappointment at the time this issue had taken to be resolved with a number of hedgehogs continuing to die in a number of cattle grids across the island. Mr Raymond Imrie shared photographs of some of the hedgehogs found dead in the cattle grids.

**Action** – Clerk to contact SIC Roads for an update on the replacement cattle grid near Brough Lodge/Devil’s Elbow and also forward on the above concerns from residents and ask if ramps can be installed in all of the cattle grids to make them more hedgehog friendly/provide an outlet for them to escape.

### **6.10 Community Notice Board**

The suggestion for having a community notice board was raised by members of the public in attendance, with some folks preferring this to emails or Facebook as a method of communication. Currently, there is a community notice board in the shop, at the hall and in the waiting room at Hamars Ness.

In February, interest had been expressed for an external community notice board and it had been agreed at that time, that due consideration would be given to any local group or organisation who applied to the SIC’s, Community Development Fund for this.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.10 Bus Service

A member of the public had spoken with Mr Buckland previously about the idea of having a dedicated and exclusive bus service direct from Fetlar to Lerwick every week. It was noted that R G Jamieson's provide a service, albeit from Gutcher to Lerwick, with drop off and collection points in most locations in Lerwick, however, this does not provide a service from Fetlar direct to Lerwick, with the Fetlar dial-a-ride not suitable for anyone with a disability or restricted movement.

### 6.11 Public Payphone

A member of the public raised the issue of having no public payphone/phone kiosk on the island. British Telecom had advised a number of years ago (in 2019), that they no longer either replaced the doors on the kiosk nor provide a payphone service for this type of kiosk any longer.

### 6.12 Other Concerns and Issues Raised

Mr Raymond Imrie explained that he had a number of issues which had been brought to his attention and he would like to raise some questions on the concerns he had become aware of:

- a) Why has no information on FCC been circulated to the community? For example, Minutes to keep folks updated with matters arising and FCC Meeting dates advertised, Agenda's circulated to allow residents the opportunity to attend FCC Meetings and bring up any issues or concerns they may have

Why have new residents not been handed out Welcome Packs by FCC Members? This contains useful information which would help new residents greatly

Why have new residents not received a door to door visit and introduction from FCC Members or been informed of their respective roles?

**Actions implemented following the Meeting** – Circular sent to all households and the email contacts list detailing information on FCC including a website link to where information on CC's can be found for accessing FCC's Minutes and Meeting dates alongside details of Members, their role, email addresses and ex officio/SIC North Isles Ward Councillors. For all new residents, the finalised "Welcome Pack" had been attached and circulated by email.

Sincere apologies from FCC were made to everyone, most especially to new residents (Appendix A refers in detail)

- b) Why is there no facility for residents to dispose of bulky waste? This results in bulkier waste items and white goods being "dumped" and fly tipped in areas around the island which is very unsightly

Why is there not a Community Skip Scheme in Fetlar similar to what is being provided in Unst and Yell?

Background - following enquiries locally about collection of bulky waste and community skips in August 2021, FCC had contacted SIC Waste Management Services seeking advice on the best possible solutions for overcoming this. FCC have for a number of years no longer received an annual allocation of community skips from the SIC.

In October 2021, SIC Waste Management Services had advised that their preferred solution in overcoming this issue would be to identify and employ a relief to assist the Community Maintenance Person (CMP) to do a "dump run" so that they could assist with manual handling, with a regular collection, for example, on a quarterly basis being scheduled.

SIC Waste Management Services had also intimated that utilising Waste Management Operations would necessitate that charges are levied in one form or another and would result in further pressure on the SIC given the existing demands on their HGV drivers.

At that time, following recruitment of a relief CMP, Waste Management Services had confirmed that they were happy for bulky waste to be taken down to Lerwick by the CMP and a relief to assist with heavier and bulkier items.

Mr Buckland had previously agreed to be the CC point of contact locally to co-ordinate this with the CMP. A notice had been circulated on Facebook with only 2 residents responding and requesting uplift of bulky goods.

**Action** – Carry this Agenda item over to the next CC Meeting for further discussion and consideration.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Other Concerns and Issues Raised (cont)

- c) Why have the abandoned vehicles moved to Hamars Ness not been uplifted?

Why has the vehicle not been removed from the beach at Aith?

Mr Fogarty explained that the vehicles had been on private land in Funzie and following discussion, members of the local community had moved them down to Hamars Ness. Unfortunately, during transit the windows had been smashed and since then waste had been fly tipped in them. In their current state, Shetland Amenity Trust will no longer uplift them.

**Action** – Mr Fogarty and the Clerk to liaise with SIC Waste Management Services on the best way to overcome this issue. Clerk to also contact the owner of the vehicle at the beach of Aith and ask that it is removed.

- d) What is happening with the Community Maintenance post?

SIC Waste Management Services had previously confirmed that community based posts are closely managed in consultation with CC's and in turn, CC's are aware that they are the only body the SIC will directly communicate with in the day-to-day management of community based roles and associated tasks. The SIC are currently looking into employing a relief to assist and potentially expand the services which can be delivered in this and other areas of the role as appropriate.

- e) Why have FCC not sought funding and provided financial support for a new hall roof?

FCC explained that it was not the responsibility of the CC to seek funding for a new hall roof. Funding for a new hall roof is something that Fetlar Community Association can undertake on behalf of the hall.

FCC apply to the SIC's Community Development Fund each year for £3,000 to be distributed to local groups for projects and activities alongside the £10,000 AGS grant allocation from the Shetland Community Benefit fund. This allows £13,000 in financial assistance to be awarded to any local group who applies to these funds for local projects and activities on the island.

Mr Imrie concluded that it was neither his, nor the intention of the other new residents, in making any of the issues and questions raised personnel, it was merely to highlight the issues that had been brought to his attention, so that they could be given due consideration and allow discussion to take place to help overcome them.

Other issues and concerns raised and covered as follows:

- Agenda Item 4.1.1 Toilet Facilities at Hamars Ness
- Agenda Item 4.1.3 Dial-a-Ride Service to Access Healthcare in Yell
- Agenda Item 5.4 Da Voar Redd Up
- Agenda Item 4.2 Community Broadband Scheme
- Agenda Item 6.9 Ongoing Issues With Dead Hedgehogs
- Agenda Item 6.10 Community Notice Board

Now that FCC are aware of the issues and concerns raised at the Meeting, they can assist and work with the community in overcoming these and finding solutions as far as possible going forward.

The monthly allocation of hours for the Clerk are insufficient and have been for some time in meeting the workload and issues being faced by the community, alongside this FCC Members are in an unpaid position and undertake their role on a voluntary basis.

Over the last number of years, the Islands with Small Populations project and the priorities highlighted within, has taken up a considerable amount of time and resources, more so with the work involved in securing a nursing service for the island, a local CMP, connectivity/broadband, transport provision - ferry operational issues and succession planning for the Fetlar Ferry Service. Over the last couple of years, this has been exacerbated with Covid, with face to face Meetings just resuming, all of which has resulted in less time for all the other issues that are equally as important to everyone and which also requires due time and consideration and has inevitably resulted in other matters falling by the wayside. With the forthcoming CC elections, it is an opportunity for residents to put themselves forward for election as a Member or apply for the position of Clerk.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

### 7. Correspondence

- 7.1 SIC Ferries – Ferry Bookings/Urgent Hospital & Medical Appointments and Essential Maintenance Gutcher Linkspan – September
- 7.2 Ness Engineering – Boiler Servicing – Proposed Visit to Fetlar
- 7.3 Beatrice Wishart MSP – Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Ferry Provision
- 7.4 Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau – AGM/30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & CAB Report 2021/22
- 7.5 CLS Living Well Hub – Electricity Vouchers
- 7.6 SIC – Consultation on Energy Development Principles
- 7.7 Chris Blandford Associates – Shetland Strategic Tourism Development Plan – Workshops – 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August
- 7.8 Fetlar Community Association/Alistair Carmichael MP – Bottle Banks Overflowing at Fetlar Hall
- 7.9 NHS – Free Period Products
- 7.10 Police Scotland – CC Briefing Paper June/July 2022

All other correspondence had circulated in between Meetings.

## 8. MEETING DATES

8. Date of next Meeting:

- Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October (previously 4<sup>th</sup> October)
- 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.

Appendix 1

# Fetlar Community Council

At our recent Community Council Meeting, residents who attended the Meeting asked if more information on Fetlar Community Council could be circulated to the community, for example, Minutes to keep folks updated with matters arising and FCC Meeting dates advertised, Agenda's circulated to allow folks the opportunity to attend FCC Meetings and bring up any issues or concerns they may have.

There are also residents who are unaware of who the Fetlar Community Council Members are and their respective roles. With this in mind, we have provided a link below where information on Community Councils can be found at:

[shetland.gov.uk/community/community-councils](http://shetland.gov.uk/community/community-councils)

Here, you will find details of what CC's are, being a Community Councillor, Community Council Funding, the Association of Shetland Community Councils along with guidance. The website also provides a link to FCC's Minutes and Meeting dates.

Please also feel free to contact any of our Members with any questions, concerns and issues you may have. Their details are below for ease of reference:

- James Rendall, Chair, 4 Stakkafletts  
Email - james.rendall31@gmail.com
- Mike Fogarty, Vice Chair, Toft, Funzie  
Email - michael.fogarty@talktalk.net
- Roy Buckland, Elected Member, Lower Ness  
Email - roybuckland@live.co.uk
- Murray Cooper, Elected Member, Lower House, Gord  
Email - poultryzen@btinternet.com
- Julie Maguire, Elected Member, 5 Stakkafletts  
Email - shetlandclimber@gmail.com
- Tom Thomason, Elected Member, Houbie  
Email- thomason146@btinternet.com

Ex Officio/SIC North Isles Ward Councillors:

- Duncan Anderson  
duncan.anderson@shetland.gov.uk
- Robert Thomson  
robert.thomson@shetland.gov.uk
- Ryan Thomson  
ryan.thomson@shetland.gov.uk

For all our new residents, there is a "Welcome Pack" for Fetlar which is now available. Please don't hesitate to get in touch by email - fetlarcc@yahoo.co.uk for a copy and/or if anyone would like to be included on the email list to residents, we can also add you onto this.

Our most sincere apologies to you all, most especially to our new residents.

*15/09/2022 Circular to all Fetlar Households*