

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2022 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 7.30PM

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ BY THE CLERK.

Nominations for chair were called for but none were forthcoming. Mr C Clark agreed to stand in as interim chairperson for the meeting.

B. PRESENT	Mr R Skinley	Mrs P Christie	Mrs M Davis
EX OFFICIO	Mr B Peterson		
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes Mr G Murray	Mrs A Arnett (from 7.38pm)	Mr P Coleman
CHAIRPERSON	Mr C Clark (interim)		
APOLOGIES	Mrs S Wishart Mrs L Johnston	Mr M Duncan Mr S Douglas	Mr E MacPherson Mr A Duncan
NOT PRESENT	Mr R McGregor	Dr A Armitage	

Information – due to the Covid-19 Virus pandemic meetings are being held online.

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 August were approved on the motion of Mrs M Davis and seconded by Mr C Clark.

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. Torches for School Bairns

An email dated 6.9.22 from Road Safety Officer Elaine Skinley was read and noted. She only has enough torches available for the campaigns she is running this year so does not require the support of the Community Council to distribute extra to schools in the area.

ACTION: Clerk to reply to say we would be willing to help distribute torches if she needed the support of the Community Council in the future.

2. End of Free Hot Meals – Meeting, Leaflet and Letter

The clerk, Mrs A Arnett and Mrs P Christie organised a meeting following the end of the free hot meals project administered by the Community Council – the funding had come to an end. The meeting was held in the Cunningburgh Hall and was well attended by community groups who shared all the projects and support which they provided for the community. There is far more going on collectively than anyone attending realised and it was a very useful meeting for all concerned.

A letter explaining that the free hot meals project was coming to an end was delivered to all recipients of meals along with a leaflet explaining all the other support available and including a survey to gather views on the success of the project and to identify need still in

the community. Despite providing stamped addressed envelopes there have been very few surveys returned, so it is hoped this is an indication of the fact that those still in need have been able to access the other support detailed in the leaflet.

3. Police Figures

An email replying to the Community Council's request for more detail about the police figures, dated 1.9.22 from PC Malcolm Mcleod, was read and noted. He was unable to go into any more detail than the figures presented but said that the fact our area has 'virtually been crime free' was good news. He was able to say that the numbers reflected can be affected by many variables and figures do not always reflect crimes.

Regarding the drugs figures he said: "The DAD Patrol Offices with the dogs are very effective and detect lots of parcels every day in the local Post Office."

4. Hybrid Meeting Equipment

An email from Michael Duncan dated 30.9.22 regarding hybrid meeting equipment was read and noted. There had been hopes that the SIC would be buying audio equipment for Community Council to allow them to hold meetings which were successful experiences for both people attending face-to-face as well as online, but budget pressures mean that it is not something they are looking to fund or organise in the foreseeable future.

Mrs Arnett was able to give more information about the equipment, stating that the high-tech version the SIC had been testing was approximately £500. It works very well as long as the internet signal is good, otherwise it can be problematic. Another staff member is trialling a £50 speaker which does seem to be working well so that is another option. There may be the possibility of borrowing the equipment for a trial if the Community Council wanted to try before buying their own.

Members were keen to hold face-to-face meetings if possible, but recognised the need to allow people to attend remotely too. It was decided to do either completely face-to-face or completely online meetings, alternating the two meeting styles from month to month. If someone is only able to attend remotely but it is a face-to-face meeting planned next, they will be added to the agenda for the following month.

2. POLICE REPORT

The police report for August and September stated:

There have been 6 incidents recorded for Gulberwick, Cunningsburgh and Quarff, which can be summarised as follows:

- Concern for Person (3)
- Vandalism
- Careless Driving
- Road Traffic Collision

3. FINANCE

The bank statement on November 22nd reads £12,232.96

The only activity in the account outwith the usual is the £25 membership payment to VAS, the Information Commission direct debit of £35, and the payments to The Kitchen Table for the Free Hot Meal Project.

Eleven weeks of meals totalled £2,310. The last week of meals was September 7th and only £40 of the grant money remained – the Communing Council agreed to pay the remaining £170 so that everyone requiring a meal got one.

None of our grant budget has yet been spent.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS & SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND UPDATE

There were four applications for the Community Council's own funding pot.

- Quarff Hall was granted the full amount requested for their senior citizens's Christmas meal - £150.
- The Gulberwick Hall was granted the full amount requested for the community bairns party - £100.
- St Magnus Church of Scotland was granted the full amount requested for poppy wreaths for Quarff and Cunningsburgh - £74.40.
- The Cunningsburgh Under 5s request for £100 towards their party was refused as members agreed to award them money towards the party in their application through the Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF)

There were three applications to consider from the Shetland Community Benefit Fund Advanced Grant Scheme.

- The application from the Shetland Islands Games Association was refused as it was a Shetland-wide application and members wanted to focus on awarding money to groups which are more clearly benefitting the Community Council area and which may not have access to other funding.
- An application from Mind Your Head was also refused on the same ground, but members decided to ask for figures relating to the number of people being supported in the GQ&C area in relation to the total number supported by the project. They may decide to award funds when they have received this information.
- The Cunningsburgh Under 5s were awarded part of the money they requested – they were awarded the full £200 they requested to go towards their Christmas party, but only £100 towards the £300 they requested for craft materials. The figure seemed excessive to members, especially as there was no quotes or detail supplied on what was going to be purchased or how many children would benefit.

Update from SCBF

Community Councils can now put a second application within 12 months of their last grant award where this would meet the criteria of improving poverty or welfare. Previously only one award could be made a year.

The consultation to generate ideas for the use of the larger part of the SCBF - £2.2M per year from 2024 – has now begun. IBP Strategy and Research are conducting the consultation on behalf of the SCBF and there will be various opportunities for members of the public, groups and community councils to give their views. There have been two specific sessions scheduled for community councillors, as follows:

- 24th November, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, by Zoom
- 6th December, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, Cullivoe Community Hall.

ACTION: Members to attend the consultation meetings if they would like to. Clerk to complete SCBF paperwork, inform CC applicants if they have been successful or not, and award money to those groups who have been successful. She is also to write to Mind Your Head asking for more information on how many people are using the service within our Community Council area.

5. ROAD ISSUES/CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS

Members were pleased to see that the work to upgrade and simplify the junction at the Black Gaet has been completed. Thanks were expressed to Cllr R McGregor for his campaigning and support on the issue, as well as the Roads Department for carrying out the work. Mrs M Davis did say she thought it was still not very well lit and this was a characteristic of many road junctions in Shetland.

ACTION: Clerk to write to those involved to express members' thanks for the work done on the junction and to ask if there are any plans to improve the visibility and lighting of the junction too.

6. GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATE

The group that meets to try to push forward development ideas for the community council area has met a couple of times since the last meeting to discuss next steps. It has been agreed that getting some small wins under their belt perhaps by providing something like benches for each community or LED bulbs for households may help raise the profile of the group. More community consultation as well as trying to attract new members to the group was also discussed.

Creating a constitution, and the form that the group should take was also discussed, but no decision was made as more research needs to be done into the various options.

It was agreed to plan a meeting for the new year.

ACTION: Clerk to put out some possible dates for the meeting in the new year to try and get a date in the diary.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications to discuss or comment on and only one which was on the planning application website for the area:

[2021/357/DCON1](#) and [DCON2](#): Discharge of planning conditions, Plot at Cunningsburgh

An email dated 22.9.22 passing on updates to planning legislation was read and noted. As well as Coronavirus Temporary Modifications now ceasing at the end of September, there were two pieces of regulations coming into force on October 1st:

- [The Town and Country Planning \(Pre-Application Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) (The PAC Regulations)
- [The Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(Commencement No. 9 and Saving and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) (The Commencement Regulations).

If members have any queries on the above they can send them to chief.planner@gov.scot, indicating that the query relates to 'The PAC Regulations', 'The Commencement Regulations' or both as appropriate.

8. COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2022 ELECTIONS

The new Community Council term comes into being at 11am on Thursday 24 November. The chair thanked all the members who were stepping down and was able to thank Mr R Skinley himself as he was attending the meeting. The Community Council was grateful for his hard work and service over the past six years.

The new term lasts just two years instead of the usual four due to the ongoing consultation into Community Councils. Members are hopeful that something positive will come out of it

and Cllr B Peterson said he had good hopes for the future too, stating that the intention of the consultation was certainly coming out of a good place. He cited examples of good work being done by Community Councils who worked in partnership with SKEOs and said that more of this could be done in the future.

A meeting within a month of the start of the new term has to happen so the clerk will send out an email with possible dates. It was agreed to have this face-to-face and that it can probably be a small affair, perhaps with only the members and clerk needing to attend as the main business is various housekeeping tasks.

ACTION: Clerk to send out email to set a date for a short meeting in December.

9. AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION – VISIT OFFERED BY LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

An email offering an information talk/presentation by the local Age-Related Macular Degeneration Support Group was forwarded on by Michael Duncan on 22.9.22 and was read and noted. Members agreed that they would like to take up the offer of the visit.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the group to ask them to come to a future meeting.

10. DA VOAR REDD UP – DECISION NEEDED WHETHER TO FUND LOCAL GROUPS THIS YEAR

Out of those groups who completed Voar Redd Ups in the GQ&C area, four have indicated that they would like funding from the Community Council. In past years it has been £50 per group and has been paid directly to a charity or local community or sports group.

Members agreed to fund the groups again this year.

ACTION: Clerk to contact each group to ask where they would like the funds to go and award them as necessary.

11. MEETING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR - DECISION NEEDED FOR 2023 DATES

Three options were put forward for meeting dates next year, none of which clashed with Sandwich or Dunrossness dates and could lead to difficulties for ex-officio members to attend.

Members agreed to go with Wednesdays. As Mr Clark has SCBF directors meetings every second Wednesday the clerk will look to see if she can move the two dates which clash with this. She will then put the new dates out to members and to Mr Duncan for adding to the SIC meeting calendar.

ACTION: Clerk to agree new Wednesday dates with members before sharing them with Mr Duncan. The short December meeting will also be decided at the same time.

12. AOCB

1. Thanks to Mr Skinley and other retiring members

Members wanted to again thank Mr Skinley and his fellow members who were stepping down from the Community Council. Everyone was grateful for the time and effort they put into their terms.

2. PB Project Funding

The clerk, Mr Clark and Mrs Christie worked on a grant application to get money to hold a Participatory Funding event and distribute funds to local groups and projects. The

application was to get through to the next stage – a public vote – and we have not had any news yet.

ACTION: Mr Clark to share any news he gets regarding the application.

3. Winter Activities Fund

Mrs Arnett explained that the SIC were administering a new fund called the Winter Activities Fund and they were aiming to have a decision to applicants within three weeks so that projects can start as soon as possible. Groups can apply to fund new activities or extend their current activities – eg a toddler group opening an extra day a week or a community hall opening to provide a warm space, meals and hot drinks. It can cover food and drink, staff costs and heating of warm spaces and applications are being accepted now.

She also shared details of the new hub which has opened up at St Ringan’s providing various support to people through the cost-of-living crisis.

People are also encouraged to get a benefit check at Shetland Citizens Advice Bureau – many people are underclaiming and extra money each week or month can make a big difference.

There is also the Money Worries Training which is free and open to all. It lets you know what support there is available for anyone who has money worries and gives you confidence to have conversations about it and to signpost to help. It is an hour-long course held online and can be booked through the NHS with various organisations being involved and publicising it. The courses are being held weekly at present.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be confirmed and will be sent out via email ASAP.

Meeting Ends – 8.32 pm.

CHAIR

12. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

February 2021 – Radicle Road – an SIC Roads engineer is to look at the road to see if any maintenance work can be done to the verges to improve the road for all users.

September 2021 – Heathery Park Path Clearing – a third meet-up to clear the last weeds off the path was unable to be organised. Members to look again in spring 2022.