

**GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th DECEMBER 2022
AT CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL AT 7.30PM**

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

B. PRESENT	Mr G Murray Mr C Clark	Mr E MacPherson Mr P Coleman	Mrs M Davis
EX OFFICIO	Mr A Duncan		
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes	Sgt B Alexander	
CHAIRPERSON	To be appointed during meeting		
APOLOGIES	Mr R McGregor PC M Macleod	Mr M Duncan	Dr A Armitage
NOT PRESENT	Mrs A Arnett	Mrs P Christie	Mr B Peterson

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 November were approved on the motion of Mrs M Davis and seconded by Mr C Clark.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The clerk asked for nominations and volunteers for the appointment of chair and vice chair due to the new Community Council term starting. There was some discussion and suggestions for the roles but for various reasons, most people felt unable to take on the responsibility.

Eventually two individuals agreed to take on the roles for six months to ensure officer bearers were in place.

Mr P Coleman was proposed for the position of chair by Mr Colin Clark and seconded by Mr G Murray.

Mr C Clark was proposed for the position of vice chair by Mr P Coleman and seconded by Mrs M Davis.

Both individuals accepted the posts, albeit reluctantly. Mr Clark has several other roles and responsibilities he undertakes for the Community Council so would prefer not to take on anymore, and Mr Coleman is a brand-new Community Councillor for Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh so would have preferred someone with more experience to take the role.

It was agreed to review the appointments in six months – at the meeting in June 2023.

ACTION: Clerk to inform council officials of the appointments and to note that it will be reviewed in June 2023.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that are not dealt with in other agenda items.

3. POLICE REPORT

The police report for October and November stated:

There have been 11 incidents recorded for Gulberwick, Cunningsburgh and Quarff, which can be summarised as follows:

- Assault (2)
- Concern for Person
- Drugs – Intent to Supply
- Drugs
- Possession (2)
- Fraud (2)
- Medical Matter
- Sudden Death
- Parking Offence

Sgt Alexander attended the meeting and explained that as he helps distribute the report and pull the figures together, he can give some further detail on the incidents. He said that with some of the incidents further enquiry discovers there is no crime to go forward. Something is often reported with good intent but a mistake has been made.

The drug incidents detailed are all from one event, though the crimes are reported and counted separately, and the two assaults are similar in that they were from one incident. This means that the figures often look worse than they are.

He was unable to find more information about the parking offence due to limited time before the meeting but said it was most likely to be something like a vehicle causing an obstruction.

Outwith the detail in the report Sgt Alexander spoke about the effect that the snow had on some areas, with vehicles abandoned in Gulberwick causing difficulties as both the gritter and the school buses were unable to pass one car as it was abandoned for almost a week. It was eventually moved by a local person with a tractor and Sgt Alexander said it is often people in the community who end up stepping in to support.

Cllr Duncan questioned whether the snow plough had tow ropes and promised to check.

Everyone present praised the community spirit shown by so many Shetlanders as well as the effort and hard work by SSE Engineers, community halls, the Coastguard, the gritters and snow plough drivers and all the emergency services.

Sgt Alexander finished up by explaining that the festive period will see the usual drink driving checks, checks of licensed premises and of places where reports of assaults have happened before.

Members thanked Sgt Alexander for attending.

---- Sgt Alexander left 7.50pm ----

ACTION: Cllr Duncan to check whether the snow ploughs carry tow ropes, and if not, will investigate whether this could be something that happens in future.

4. FINANCE

The bank statement on December 19th reads £11,882.29.

The only activity in the account outwith the usual is the new monthly direct debit of £11.28 to pay for the Microsoft License, and the payment of the grants awarded at the last meeting - £74.40 to the church for the wreaths, £150 to the Quarff Hall for the Senior Citizen's Christmas meal, and £100 to the Gulberwick Hall for the bairns Christmas party.

Community Council Liaison Officer/Grants Officer Michael Duncan has confirmed that everything is in order with our accounts for last year.

Only £324.40 of our grant budget has been spent.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS

For the benefit of the new members, the clerk together with the support of some members gave a small introduction to the grants awarded by the Community Council. She is to contact Michael Duncan after the meeting to ask if he has anything in writing explaining grants to new members, if not, she will draft something.

There was one new application for the Community Council's own funding pot and extra information from the Cunningsburgh Under 5s in relation to their applications last month.

- The Cunningsburgh Village Club/Cunningsburgh Youth and Community Centre was granted the full amount requested for general supplies - £755.
- Following extra information, the Cunningsburgh Under 5s was awarded £100 towards their party as requested.

There was one new application to the Shetland Community Benefit Fund Advanced Grant Scheme to consider, and further information on one of the applications received last month.

- The application from the Shetland Youth Orchestra was awarded £400 instead of the £391 requested for their summer school and instruments. Members were minded to award this despite it being an application from a Shetland-wide group as they felt music was so important to Shetland, and it has not been getting the support from schools it has got in the past.
- More information on last month's application from Mind Your Head was received. The information on the number of people being supported in the GQ&C area in relation to the total number supported by the project was unable to be supplied in the detail members would have liked due to the way that figures are gathered but members agreed to part-fund the project by awarding £500 towards it.

ACTION: 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 contact Michael Duncan to see if he has any information sheets on Community Council funding to give to the new members.

6. ROAD ISSUES/CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS

An email dated 1.12.22 from Neil Hutcheson at SIC Roads was read and noted. Members had asked if there were any plans to improve the lighting and visibility of the Black Gaet junction and Mr Hutcheson reported back that there was no justification for incurring the additional costs of installing and maintaining street lighting. The energy and carbon costs also need to be taken into account and go against the Council's environmental policies.

Cllr Duncan asked if there were still concerns about speeding and dangerous overtaking in some areas – if there was, he would make sure to take it up with the Chief Inspector and ensure extra speed checks and patrols were in place. There was some discussion about how it may be people speeding to get to flights or to ferries after being at the airport that may still be part of the problem. Members thanked Cllr Duncan for his offer and asked him to pass back that extra patrols would be welcomed, especially in Quarff but on the whole road from Lerwick to Sumburgh.

ACTION: Cllr Duncan to request extra speed checks and patrols.

7. GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATE

A quick update on the group that meets to try to push forward development ideas for the Community Council area was given for the benefit of the new members, encouraging them to be part of the group if they wish. At the last meeting it was 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.

Mr Clark has done some research and found out there are 673 households in the Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh Community Council area – the idea of supplying LED bulbs to each household was discussed. Ideas to secure high-speed broadband or generators for halls in the event of further weather-related power cuts were also discussed.

Plans for a meeting in the new year were brought up again.

ACTION: Mr Clark to send the project idea list to everyone and to put out suggested dates for a meeting of the group in the new year.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There was one planning applications to discuss:

[2022/310/PPP](#) Erect dwelling house, Plot 2 Adjacent to Kenwood, Cunningsburgh, ZE2 9HF

Members had no objections or comments to return.

One other application was on the website but no comment was required:

[2022/312/PPF](#) Erect extension to existing house, Lamnaberg, Wester Quarff, ZE2 9EZ

ACTION: Clerk to return the comment to the SIC Planning Department.

9. 2023 MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for the new year were agreed as follows:

11 January
15 February
22 March
3 May
14 June
23 August
4 October
22 November

The day has changed from a Tuesday to a Wednesday. Members agreed to try to continue to meet face to face in the Cunningsburgh School, but to allow the option of a hybrid or online meeting for visitors if required. The clerk explained that she would need support and advance notice to organise a hybrid meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to inform council officials and the school of the new meeting dates.

10. CLERK'S PAY

The new pay scales have been released and passed on by Michael Duncan the SIC Community Council Liaison Officer. Clerk's pay was advised to be set at H2 by the ASCC. The clerk left the room while members discussed the pay.

On returning to the room the clerk was informed that members agreed to both the increase in hourly wage and the award of backpay for the period in question – from April 2022 to the present.

ACTION: Clerk to transfer the backpay and adjust the direct debit for the wages as agreed.

11. AOCB

1. Peat Cutting Ban

Mr MacPherson brought up the proposals that had recently been discussed regarding the possible banning of peat cutting. Cllr Duncan has been vocal with his views that cutting peats for personal use should never be banned, especially as it is such a cheap source of fuel in a fuel poor community. Mr MacPherson called for the Community Council to support Cllr Duncan's campaign.

There was some discussion about the environmental concerns around the burning of fossil fuels but on balance, everyone present agreed that the benefits of personal peat use far outweighed the negatives. They supported personal peat cutting but not commercial peat cutting and agreed to support Cllr Duncan's campaign.

ACTION: Clerk to write an email to Cllr Duncan supporting his views on the need to continue allowing the cutting of peat for personal use.

2. Thanks from New Members

Both new members – Mr Coleman and Mr Murray – thanked everyone present for their kindness and welcome to the Community Council. Everyone else welcomed them again to the Community Council.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Michael Duncan to see if there is Community Council training planned.

3. School Thank You

It was agreed to purchase a thank you present for the school for allowing the use of the building for meetings.

ACTION: Clerk to purchase tea and coffee to be left at the next meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Wednesday January 11th 2023.
Meeting Ends – 9.01 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.

December 2022 – Roles of chair and vice chair to be reviewed at the June 2023 meeting.