

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
I Sandison (Vice Chair)
M Forrest
J Puckey
J Gear
L Moncrieff
J Laing
Cllr L Peterson

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk), R Fraser

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies

J Haswell, M Duncan

3. Declarations of Interest

I Sandison declared an interest in an item to be added to item 12 re: Community Development Fund Grants.

4. Police Report

The Chair referred to the police report of 9.10.22 which covered the months of August and September. He alluded to concern

with regard to the prevalence of missing persons, something that is listed in several area reports.

5. Minutes from 4.10.22

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 4th October 2022 was proposed by J Puckey and seconded by L Moncrieff.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 14 of 9/22 Dropped Kerb at Vagaland in Walls

Members were informed that this work has been completed.

Re:14.1 of 8/22 Defibrillator for West Burrafirth Pier

In response to a question on this matter, the Clerk stated that he was still awaiting a decision from Cooke Aquaculture.

Re: 14 of 10/22 AOCB (Track to Littla Boust, Sandness)

Cllr Peterson informed the members that she was still working on this matter and had nothing further to report at this time.

7. Housing

Members were disappointed to learn that there has been a further delay in the social housing scheme at Forratwatt in Walls. This is due to an administrative error on the part of the Crofting Commission regarding de-crofting the site. No progress can be made until this has been carried out.

8. Roads

8.1 Illuminated Traffic Calming Warning Sign at Kirkidale in Walls

M Forrest informed the meeting that the light has failed on the illuminated traffic calming sign at the entrance to Kirkidale in Walls.

Action: The Clerk to email the Roads Department requesting it be repaired.

(R Fraser joined the meeting.)

Re: 8.3 'Road Narrows' Sign on road between Vagaland and Stove Cottages

Members were informed that the Road Narrows sign which contains electrical wiring has been made safe and is awaiting re-erection when engineers are available.

Re: 8.2 of 5/22 Parking at Stove Cottages, Walls

Given that there has been no further communication on this matter from either the Roads Department or the Housing Department, Cllr Peterson will discuss it with the relevant officials.

Action: Cllr Peterson to discuss parking at Stove Cottages in Walls with the relevant officers.

Re: 8.1 of 10/22 The A971 from the West Burrafirth Junction to Walls.

During a discussion regarding the condition of the A 971 between the West Burrafirth junction and Walls the following points were made:

- The road surface is continuing to deteriorate quite quickly and will need to have major work carried out before 2027 which is the earliest date for work to commence to make it into a double track carriageway.
- Even the Murrister Flats is suffering degradation.
- Resurfacing this stretch of road has been priced at approximately £500k and were this to be done it would set back the double track project.
- Given the current state of the UK economy, funding for this project could be problematical for many years to come.
- The West Burrafirth road is also in poor condition.
- An event that could have taken place in the Walls Hall was relocated to another venue because participants did not wish to travel to Walls given the condition of the road.

Action: The Clerk to draft a letter for the approval of the members outlining the above issues and which will be sent to Mr D Coupe copied to Mr N Hutcheson and Cllr L Peterson.

Re: 8.4 of 10/22 Possible funding for Paths

Owing to the Clerk and R Fraser's holiday patterns, it had not been possible for them to discuss this matter.

Action: The Clerk to discuss funding with Roselyn Fraser.

9. Future of Health Service Provision at Walls Health Centre

The Clerk is awaiting an email from the NHS/Social Care team to propose a further meeting with the Sandness and Walls Community Council. This is in order to apprise the members of the contents of a report currently being drafted regarding the future of the health and social care for the West of Shetland.

10. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

There are no current funding requests. However, members were informed that, provided planning consent is given for an aero generator for the Walls Swimming Pool, the Swimming Pool Association will require major funding to purchase and erect an aerogenerator.

11. Financial Update

The Clerk provided an update as to the Community Council's current financial position.

12. Community Development Fund Grant Application from Sandness Primary School

An application from Sandness Primary School for £407 for 14 rucksacks was approved.

Action: The Clerk to make a payment of £407 to Sandness Primary School

12.1 CDF Grant application from the Walls Swimming Pool Association

An application for £1500 towards the costs of presenting a planning application for an aerogenerator was approved. During the discussion it was suggested that Mr Peggs (Treasurer to the Walls Swimming Pool Association) be put in contact with R Fraser with a view to exploring funding for the Aerogenerator and that it be suggested that the Association might wish to explore the possibility of also installing solar panels.

Action: The Clerk to make a payment of £1500 to the Walls Swimming Pool Association.

12.2 A Funding Request from the Waas Community Development Group for the Walls Public Toilets

(I Sandison declared an interest in this matter and muted her computer for the duration of the discussions.)

After a brief discussion, members agreed to donate £600 to the Waas Development Group towards the upkeep of the Walls Public Toilets. The Chair indicated that he had requested that the provision of public toilets throughout Shetland be placed on the agenda for the next Association of Shetland Community Councils' meeting. In addition, L Moncrieff was asked to find out if anything was required for the public toilets at Melby.

**Actions: The Clerk to make a payment of £600 to the Waas Community Development Group.
L Moncrieff to find out if anything is required for the Public Toilets at Melby.**

12.3 A Funding Request towards the cost of chairs for the Foula Church.

J Gear made a verbal request for funding for chairs for the Foula Church.

Action: The Clerk to post a grant application form to J Gear.

13. Correspondence (Including Emails)

No correspondence has been received in addition to that which had been circulated via email.

14. AOCB

Pre Planning Consultation S4GI008

Members considered a letter from WHP Telecommunications Ltd concerning providing improved mobile signal coverage using a 20-metre-high mast on Foula. The letter asked for comments. Members approved the Chair's suggestion that a response be sent expressing the view that the Community Council approved this infrastructure facility and that it was seen as a welcome addition to the communications network in Shetland.

Action: The Clerk to respond to WHP Telecommunications Ltd expressing the Community Council's approval for the project.

15. Date of Next Meeting

In closing the meeting, the Chair made the point that this was the final meeting of the current Community Council. He went on to say that the nomination process to elect a new Community Council for Sandness and Walls had proved successful and that all ten vacancies had been filled with four current members leaving and four new members being nominated. He was particularly pleased that one of the new members had recently turned 18.

He described how the past few years had proved challenging because of the constraints that COVID 19 had placed on physical meetings but that the members had risen to the challenge by meeting online. He went on to say that COVID had brought about many changes in working practices, some of which he felt were for the better.

The Chair expressed his regret that some long serving members were leaving and thanked both L Moncrieff and I Sandison (as well as JG Ridland and K Smith in their absence) for their service to their communities. He indicated he would miss the assistance he had received from I Sandison during her time as vice chair. He was also sad to see L Moncrieff stand down after at least twelve years and expressed his disappointment that, with his departure, Sandness was not being represented on the Community Council.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for the additional work that the pandemic had generated, and J Gear thanked the Chair for all his hard work.

I Sandison stated that she had very much enjoyed her time as a Community Councillor and would also miss some of the lighter moments that had occurred during her time of service.

After some discussion it was decided to set the date of the next meeting for Tuesday 29th November at 7 pm. If it is possible to access the internet for the Walls Public Hall, this could be a hybrid meeting giving members the opportunity to either join in person or via Zoom. **(The Clerk to liaise with the Hall Committee to investigate this possibility.)**

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

(Draft minutes of November 2022 S&WCC meeting subject to approval at next meeting)