

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

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Minutes of a virtual meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Sandison (Vice Chair)  
M Forrest  
J Puckey  
L Moncrieff  
J Gear

In Attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

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

**2. Apologies**

Michael Duncan, Roselyn Fraser, I Walterson (Chair), J Laing, Cllr L Peterson,

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None were made at this time.

**4. Police Report**

Members were referred to the email of 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022 from Sergeant Alexander Barry concerning police related incidents in June and July of this year. It was noted that five incidents had taken place in that time in the Sandness and Walls area.

## **5. Minutes from 2.8.22**

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by J Puckey.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### ***Re: 9 of 6/22 Papa Stour Ferry update***

J Puckey reported that the introduction of the Monday Papa Stour ferry has proved a great success and listed several forthcoming activities that will place considerable demands on the service. These included road works, lamb sales and work on the church.

### ***Re: 17.4 of 4/22 Abandoned Boat Hull***

Members were informed that the hull has not yet been removed.

**Action:** The Clerk was advised to email Mr Ian Isbister at the Environmental Health Department in a week's time when he is due to return from leave.

### ***Re: 15.2 of 6/22 School Catchment Areas on the West of Shetland***

I Sandison informed the meeting that she had received an email from Cllr L Peterson stating that the issue was ongoing and that she hoped to provide an update for the October S&WCC meeting.

### ***Re: 13 of 6/22 Walls Public Toilets***

I Sandison stated that the invoice for the work that had been carried out on the broken door has not yet been received and therefore she has not yet been able to submit a funding request to the Community Council.

### ***Re: 14.3 of 8/22 Community Council Elections***

I Sandison advised members that Cllr L Peterson's email stated that Community Council elections are under review and the matter is on the agenda for the next meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils. Mr J Riise had indicated to Cllr Peterson that he thought it unlikely that small islands would be eligible to have a dedicated representative. Members felt that if

this is going to the outcome, it will have a detrimental effect on these islands.

***Re: 14.4 of 8/22 The Foula Airstrip Extension***

In her email, Cllr L Peterson informed the Community Council that a dispensation to continue to use the airstrip in its current form had been granted. She went on to state that work will recommence on the site as soon as possible.

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

It was noted that the Housing Department has yet to respond to the offer of land to improve parking at Stove Cottages.

**Action: The Clerk to email the Housing Department to request an update on this matter.**

## **7. Housing**

Cllr Peterson stated in her email that the housing seminar she had proposed to attend had been cancelled but that she had spoken to Mr Bryan Leask, (Chief Executive, Hjaltland Housing Association) on the subject of the social housing units planned for Walls. He informed her that work is due to commence in October 2022 if not sooner and should be completed by May 2023. She went on to say that any future housing developments in the area will depend on the demand for those four units.

## **8. Roads**

### **8.1 The A971 from the West Burrafirth Junction to Walls.**

Cllr Peterson cited a conversation she had had with Mr Dave Coup, Director of the SIC Roads Department, who indicated that the earliest that work on this road can commence is 2027. Cllr Peterson will keep monitoring the situation. She is also going to request a traffic survey be carried out in January 2023 when salmon shipments are due to take place.

### **8.2 Papa Stour Roads**

Reference was made to an email of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 from Mr Grant Anderson, SIC Roads Department concerning the Papa Stour roads. He indicated that it is hoped to commence work this year. J Puckey stated that ferry bookings have been made by the roads department.

## **9. Future of Health Service Provision at Walls Health Centre**

The contents of an email from Mr Brian Chittick were noted. Mr Chittick's suggestion that members of his team should meet with representatives from the Community Council was approved.

**Action: The Clerk to arrange a suitable date with the Chair. If this date is convenient for Mr Chittick's team, the Clerk to set up this meeting.**

## **10. Air B&B/Short Term Lets New Legislation**

J Puckey provided a brief summary of the implications of recent Scottish Government legislation concerning Air B&B/Short Term Lets. She stated that all new such businesses have to be registered and cannot begin trading until the 1<sup>st</sup> October at the earliest. Existing premises can operate until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 by which time they will have to be registered. All premises operating as Air B&B/ Short Term Lets must be inspected and have appropriate fire alarm systems and have electrical appliances PAT tested. There will be an inspection fee and proprietors will have to bear the costs of electrical inspections and any other work implicated during inspections. The point was made that for the remote islands, transport costs for inspectors will present a disproportionate burden on businesses and may well deter people from operating such businesses. Members felt that remote islands should be exempt from this legislation.

**Action: I Sandison to raise the matter at the September ASCC Meeting.**

## **11. Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

An application from the Shetland Golf Club for £2500 towards the cost of a shed to create an indoor driving range was rejected because members felt they would prefer our allocation to be used by local groups and organisations.

**Action: Clerk to inform the SCBF of this decision.**

## **12. Financial Update/Funding for War Memorial Wreaths**

The Clerk provided an update as to the Community Council's current financial position. The funding poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday was approved.

Action: The Clerk to find out how many wreaths will be required and place an order for the requisite number with the Lady Haig Poppy Factory.

**13. Correspondence (Including Emails)**

The Clerk reported that the only item of mail not covered by emails was the Hjaltland Housing Annual Report.

**14. AOCB**

**Drop Kerb opposite Vagaland in Walls**

Members were informed that a need had been identified for a drop kerb opposite the entrance to Vagaland. The Roads Department have been informed and a representative has visited the site. Work should commence on this in the near future.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting via Zoom.

The Vice Chair thanked all present for their attendance.  
The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.