

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in the Skeld Hall on Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest A Johnston
J D Garrick Mrs J Fraser
M Bennett
Ex officio: Cllr Liz Peterson
In attendance: Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Since our meeting in July, Mr John Leask has resigned as a Councillor for the Westside due to a change of shifts at his work which now means that he sometimes works in a different time zone. The members were disappointed that he had had to leave. A note will be sent to him thanking him for the work he did during the short time he was in post and wishing him success in his upgraded post at work.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mr G Morrison, Mrs S Deyell, Ms D Nicolson and Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mr J D Garrick, seconded by Mrs J Fraser.

BUSINESS ARISING: Police: The June/July Policing Report was received and had been circulated to the members.

Broadband: Nothing to report.

Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse: Work progressing.

The tender for the 2nd phase of this work was due to be advertised in early September. An enquiry had been sent to Mr N Hutcheson about progress on this but no reply has yet been received.

Roads Reports: Reports received and circulated to the members.

Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction: The people living in this area feel that the speed limit signs are proving helpful.

Smiley Face signs: The Clerk had called Mr D Coupe who had agreed that the area near the Wedding Shed to the Hjarwell Junction should be added to the list of sites where the 'Smiley Face' signs will be placed but they are not in place yet.

Viking Energy Wind Farm: Some of the members had attended a tour of the Viking Energy site but the weather had not been very kind to them and visibility had been very limited.

A Viking Energy Wind Farm – Key Stakeholder Meeting – was planned for 19 September but it had been postponed as a mark of respect to the Queen and will now be held on 4 October. The Chairman will represent this Community Council.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) Advance Grant Scheme (AGS): The following AGS application was received during our recess. The Clerk had circulated it to the members who had given their comments by email.

180279 – Shetland Golf Club to build indoor golf practice shed and simulator as an extension to the current clubhouse. The members were sympathetic towards the Club but the Club is a Shetland-wide Group so the decision was to turn down their request. However, the members hope that the Club will be successful in procuring grants from other sources.

AGS Review – Updates: An email was received from Ms E Gear on behalf of Mr C Bunyan, Chair of SCBF, giving a report on the conclusions of the review which had taken place. He detailed the findings and also what changes they intend to make. The message had been circulated to the members.

2022/23 Funds - A message was received from Ms E Gear saying this Community Council will be allocated £50,000 from 1 September and unspent funds from the 2021/22 AGS year (up to 31 August 2022) will be added to the 2022/23 funding year.

Further AGS applications were received. Prior to their consideration, the members agreed that, as none of the big projects planned in this area are near to the stage of applying for grants, some Shetland-wide groups grant applications will be granted.

Cllr L Peterson declared an interest in Application 180293 and left the room.

180293 – Dogs Against Drugs to work with the Moving On Project to have Young People work placement(s) in their organisation. The members felt this is a very worthwhile project and granted their request for £2,500.

180307 – Mind Your Head for the continuation of the Wellness Programme. This was also felt to be a very worthwhile project, especially following the recent Covid pandemic and £1,000 was granted.

180325 – Shetland Islands Games Association (SIGA) to ensure cost is not a barrier to Island Games participation. Cost is very prohibitive for all young people, especially in the present financial climate. £1,200 grant approved.

180332 – Aith & Bixter Toddler Group for help to cover the cost of trips, etc. £500 granted.

2nd Applications - An email was received from Mrs E Gear saying that, during a recent SCBF Directors' meeting, the current cost of living was discussed at length. In a change to the published AGS Guidelines for Applicants, it had been agreed to allow a second application from applicants within 12 months from their last grant award where this would meet the criteria of improving poverty or welfare.

Promoting the Viking Community Fund AGS – An email was received from Ms E Gear saying she had been asked about different ways to promote the Scheme and suggests that social media is a great tool for promotion and SCBF have a Facebook page where she posts updates on the scheme and link people to their website where their supported projects are listed. Their Facebook page can be accessed on <https://www.facebook.com/SCBFShetland>. She also suggests we share posts to our own Community Council Facebook page; She attached a poster for display, if required.

Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund: The final meeting has not yet been held.

Association: The Chairman had represented this Community Council at the meeting on 20 September and gave a report. One of the main discussions was regarding the review of Community Councils. Although the Report had not been discussed at our Community Council meeting because it had been postponed, the Clerk had circulated it to the members who sent their comments to the Chairman prior to the Association meeting. Further comments are requested by 27 September for inclusion in Mr Jan Riise's Report to Council on 28 September.

The Association of Community Council Report was received on 6 September which gave limited time for Community Councils to discuss it before the Association meeting but it would have been possible had our meeting planned for 12 September not been postponed.

The Community Councils have been given 3 options to consider –

Option 1 – do nothing. This is not actually doing nothing it just means that we do not change what is immediately before us that means that we would continue with the election in November for a 4 year term and we would begin the review simultaneously.

Option 2 – extend the current term of elected members for a further 2 years and conduct and complete the review within those two years, holding an election in November 2024.

Option 3 – proceed with the election in November but limit it to a two year term so that the conclusion of that short term would coincide with the completion of the review.

After some discussion the following points were made:-

For Community Councils to be invited to discuss/give their views barely 2 months before the election appears to be rushed.

Although the timetable for the election was forwarded to us by Ms Anne Cogle on 13 January in which it states the election date as 24 November with election adverts to be published on 16 September and nominations closing on 13 October, this timetable has not been adhered to. Does this mean that the Election cannot now proceed on the planned date of 24 November? IF that is the case, it will invalidate Option 1.

In Options 2 and 3, the time for completing the Review will have a 2 year deadline which may prove hurried and mean that it is not completed in a satisfactory manner.

Our members can see merits in Options 1 and 2 but the majority favoured Option 1.

Orion Project: On going.

Turning area at inner end of Sandsound road: The permanent sign has been provided. It states 'SIC TURNING HEAD Please keep clear'. It is hoped that it will be sufficient to encourage anyone parking there to allow sufficient space for all sizes of vehicles to turn.

Speed of traffic passing Cake Fridge: Signs and road markings near the Cake Fridge not yet provided.

Brig at Burn of Lunklet: No reply yet from Mr N Hutcheson regarding the proposed repair of the brig. An enquiry has been sent but reply not yet received.

Bin at Sand beach: Message sent thanking the Environmental Dept for the bin.

Unadopted roads: 2 mortar grants have been claimed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2022/210/PPF New static caravan with service connections including connection to existing septic tank at Roadside, East Burrafirth, ZE2 9NE by Ms Lynn Johnson.

This application had arrived during our recess in August. The Clerk had received an extension for comments from the Planning Dept but with a further delay due to the Queen's passing, the Clerk had circulated the application and received comments from the members by email. The application had been approved.

The Chairman declared an interest in the following planning application.

2022/228/PPF Proposed conversion and change of use of existing steading building to provide accommodation ancillary to house at Reawick House, Reawick, ZE2 9NJ by Mr & Mrs Jamie & Fiona Gale. Considered and approved.

MARINE PLANNING: 00009826 – Blueshell Mussels Ltd – New Marine Farm – SE of Roesound Skerry, Seli Voe, Shetland This has already been approved by the SIC and the Marine Farm is in place.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The audited Financial Statement for 2021-2022 was presented and approved.

Unfortunately, due to his lack of eyesight, Mr Hector Johnson was no longer able to check the accounts. He and Mr Jim Georgeson have carried out the audit for 40 years but, as we now only require the accounts to be checked by one person, Mr J Georgeson has performed the exercise on his own this time. The Statement will now be forwarded to Mr M Duncan.

CONSULTATION ON 'ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES': Comments were requested by the Director of Infrastructure re consultation on Energy Development

Principles'. These had to be received by 19 September. The members agreed that a local tariff should be sought.

SHETLAND ACTIVE TRAVEL AUDITS: A message was received from Ms R Barton, Transport Policy & Projects Officer regarding the active travel audits that were undertaken by Systra and she attached the final Report for Aith. She is in the process of securing funding to make progress with developments in the area. It is felt that the path detailed on the map should be extended and Cllr L Peterson agreed to meet with Ms Barton to discuss this.

FOOTPATH PROJECT – TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: An email was received from Mr A Archer, Chairman to Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale Community Council, saying that they have set up a group to use the wind farm money that is allocated directly to their area to build some footpaths. There is an organisation called 'Paths for All' that offers money and advice on projects like this and they offer a one-day course that will provide an overview of the key stages involved in the planning, development and delivery of any community path project. If they can get enough people interest (at least 15) then Paths for All would come to Shetland and run the course. The course itself would be free but they might have to cover part of the accommodation and travel. There is no date planned yet but he asks if this CC would like to send anyone on the course. None of the members volunteered.

WORRYING ABOUT MONEY RESOURCE: Details of the 'Worrying about Money' leaflet was received from NHS Shetland. The digital interactive version of the leaflet can be found at <https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/shetland>. This page also contains links to a pdf version of the leaflet and A3 & A4 posters.

BY-ELECTION FOR NEW SIC WESTSIDE COUNCILLOR: The Shetland West Ward By-election will take place on Thursday 17 November. The timetable is published on the SIC website <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/elections-voting/shetland-west-ward-election-17-november-2022/1>.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the Rankin Lounge, Aith on Monday 10 October 2022 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
The meeting closed at 9.45pm