

# Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in the Rankin Lounge, Aith on Monday 10 October 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mr G Morrison, Mrs S Deyell, Ms D Nicolson, Mrs J Fraser, Mr M Duncan, Community Liaison Officer, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and PS A Barry.

**MINUTES & REPORT:** The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mr J D Garrick, seconded by Mr M Bennett.

**BUSINESS ARISING:** **Police:** The August/September Policing Report was received and had been circulated to the members.

**Broadband:** Nothing to report.

**Road Matters:** **Road past Garderhouse:** A reply was received from Mr Neil Hutcheson saying that discussions have been held with the landowners and slight amendments made to the design to suit their requirements. There is still one land owner to meet after which their Design Section will be able to advertise seeking interested contractors.

**Roads Reports:** Reports received and circulated to the members.

**Speed of traffic coming down the hill towards Sandsound junction:** The speed camera is situated at Tresta every second month.

**Smiley Face signs:** The Smiley Face signs are not yet on site in Aith.

**Viking Energy Wind Farm:** The Chairman had hoped to attend a Viking Energy Wind Farm – Key Stakeholder Meeting on 4 October but had been unable to do so.

**Shetland Community Benefit Fund:** Mr J D Garrick hopes to attend the next Shetland Community Benefit Fund meeting to be held on 12 October.

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

**Association:** A message was received from Mr M Duncan saying that the Report on Community Council elections was considered at the Shetland Islands Council meeting where they resolved that the Community Council elections will go ahead in 2022 and that it will be for a TWO YEAR term of office. The deadline for nomination forms is Thursday 20 October and, if contested, the election will be held on 24 November. He asks that we raise awareness and publicise the elections in this area.

**Orion Project:** On going.

**Speed of traffic passing Cake Fridge:** Mr Neil Hutcheson informed us that the Signs have been provided and that the road markings will be in place before winter.

**Brig at Burn of Lunklet:** Mr N Hutcheson replied saying he had discussed the possibility of retro-fitting a steel or aluminium vehicle parapet to the existing bridge with “Varley & Gulliver Ltd” who

are recognised as one of the leading manufacturers in the country. There were a couple of options similar to those already in use on the Muckle Roe brig and on the brig over the Burn of Weisdale at Bonhoga. However the bridge deck needs to be of sufficient strength to hold the post footings should there be a vehicle impact. This means a “beam” is required at the edge of the bridge deck that has minimum cross sectional dimensions of 450 x 450mm. The concrete bridge deck at the Burn of Lunklet is only 300mm deep so there would not be enough cover on the bolts or anchorage system used to fix the parapet to the bridge deck. It is also unlikely that the anchorages could be drilled without encountering the existing reinforcement in the bridge deck. Significant work would be required to improve the existing bridge deck to make it suitable. This work, including any preliminary inspection, would have to be done by a qualified contractor. No local contractors have the necessary qualification so there would be significant cost to undertake the inspection with no guarantee that the bridge deck can be improved. They would conclude that the best option is to repair the original concrete block wall that was damaged in the accident.

The members were disappointed to learn this information but hope that the brig can be repaired soon.

**Unadopted roads:** A further mortar grant has been claimed.

**Financial Statement:** The 2021/2022 Financial Statement had been forwarded to Mr M Duncan who had checked and approved it.

**Shetland Active Travel Audit:** Cllr L Peterson had met with Ms R Barton regarding the Active Travel Audit for Aith. Cllr Peterson and Ms Barton are to organise a meeting with the landowners and others in the area who are affected to discuss this further.

**By-Election for new SIC Westside Councillor:** Ms Anne Cogle sent a message giving details of the By-election. Nominations have to be delivered to the Returning Officer by 4pm on Monday 17 October. If contested, election day will be 17 November.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PLANNING UPDATE:** An email was received from Mr M Duncan giving details of the Scottish Government Planning Update.

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CONSULTATION:** A message was received from Mr M Duncan with information about the Scottish Government’s Community Safety team which leads on policy to antisocial behaviours (ASB). It says they are working with colleagues on a new ASB project ‘Is there another way to approach ASB?’ reviewing the effectiveness of current approaches to ASB and challenges faced; and what could be improved including any better ways of supporting people/victims to handle ASB.

An email was also received from the ASB Coordinator with SIC. He would like to visit all Community Councils when appropriate to us over the next 6 months or so. He asks that we inform him of what date would suit.

It is believed that Sandness & Walls Community Council intend to invite him to a meeting and it was agreed to ask them if we could join with them for the presentation. The Clerk will check with the Sandness & Walls Community Council Chairman to see if that will be suitable.

**ADVOCACY:** Cllr L Peterson had received an email from Adult Services at the SIC saying that the new service provider for Independent advocacy is The Advocacy People.

**MACULAR DEGENERATION:** Mr M Duncan circulated a message from Mrs Claire Hurst as Group Leader of the Macular Society Shetland Support Group. She says that it is estimated that there are some 600 patients in Shetland with some form of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and that it is by far the most frequent cause of visual impairment. The Group’s prime aim is to support those who already suffer from the

complaint. A close second aim is to inform as many islanders as possible of the problem itself. Mrs Hurst says that it is amazing and frightening how many people know nothing about such a prevalent problem. The Group give talks and presentations both in person and via Zoom and wonder if any of the local Councils may be interested in hearing what they have to say.

Mrs Hurst has already visited this Community Council and gave a very constructive and informative talk and the members would recommend this offer to all other Community Councils.

**VERGES CUT:** It was noted that some of the verges in this area have recently been cut. Those present wondered what benefit would be derived from this action at this time of year.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held in the Rankin Lounge, Aith on Monday 14 November 2022 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked the members for attending. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.