

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes subject to approval at next Community Council meeting

Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 7TH MARCH 2023 at 7.20 pm via Webex solely due to snow

PRESENT:	
CCLlr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair	Jane Lewis – UHI
CCLlr William Polson (WP) - Vice Chair	Andrew Anderson – UHI
CCLlr Gilbert Irvine (Gil)	Dana Jamieson - Police Scotland
Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)	Robert Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RTH)
Hazel Sutherland - Shetland Amenity (HS)	
APOLOGIES	
CCLlr Margaret Hughson (MH)	Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)
Michael Duncan - Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)	John Smith – Director Infrastructure Services, SIC (JS)
Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)	Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations SIC(AI)
	Greg Maitland - Harbour Master SIC(GM)

MINUTE TAKER: Gina Irvine – WCC Clerk (GI)

WELCOME:

JL chaired meeting and welcomed all. Apologies for delay in starting due to quorate requirement needed for meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies noted.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JL asked if all were happy with minutes. Gil approved, WP seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

Current accounts was shared with members by clerk. Clerk confirmed final accounts for last year now signed and sent. Request for gravel for Rocky Road was approved.

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Old Dock and Grieves House

Hazel Sutherland discussed both infill and repair options for Old Docks. Capital Funding was needed to carry out these works and new grants schemes due out in mid-March which would need to be researched for suitability. This was not an immediate solution as the applications would take time. Also, is exploring viable options to promote tourism and economical viabilities for the restoration.

WP – Expressed that immediate solutions was still needed in the interim as this area was becoming unsafe and dangerous and may pose risk to lives.

JL – asked for timescales

HS – Informed all that her team would be contacting the local schools in the interim to educate pupils to explain risks and safe use of this area. Also, would re-look at ensuring there was adequate safeguards in place. These actions would take between 6 to 9 months to be undertaken.

HS – discussed Grieves House and informed all option for it to remain as community asset , suggested removing the accommodation element to lower on going costs and maintain the building similar to Hanseatic Booth.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up

POLICE MATTERS

Dana Jameison informed all about the regular police updates and there was nothing of concern for Whalsay that needed to be addressed. Explained reasons for not being able to provide cover over the Festive season, this was due to lack of facilities for her team as they would need access to toilets and refreshments if they were undertaking overnight patrol on the isle and staffing. Proposed school visits as well in the future.

Gil + JL – asked for police presence during the Whalsay Regatta

ACTION: Clerk asked to follow with dates of Regatta and options for police breaks on isle.

Whalsay Learning Centre - UHI

Jane Lewis and Andrew Anderson shared results from survey and discussed current and future provisions for Whalsay Learning Centre. Engagements was made with local employers to expand on courses to be offered locally however further funding application was needed which is due for review at the end of March. Confirmed that Whalsay Learning Centre was open two days per week and any extra days/evenings would need to be viable.

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up on future offerings

Roads

Cattle Grids – Saeter, Houll, Harledale Cattle grids still outstanding .

JL suggested using a locator to pin point each location and condition and send report to SIC. Houll cattle grid was discussed and clarity on ownership Model Yachts or SIC.

ACTION: Clerk asked to follow up

FENCE AT DUMP

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

23.11.2022 RTH received email from Carl Symons to indicate that this area would be made safe when the weather is calmer. SIC sent officers to look at area last year, this was shared by clerk.

ACTION: Ongoing and clerk to follow up

ROADS , STREETLIGHTS CYCLE & WALKING PATHS

Active Travel document in place with scope of works and priorities. Construction is predicated for 2024 to commence.

JL – mentioned pot holes which urgently need to be done and asked clerk to follow up. Two were in desperate need of being done immediately.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up with timescales.

FERRIES

JL asked for community ferry hire requests and all agreed on allocations for the new budget. Four was allocated and two was agreed towards community wedding hires.

RTH discussed the possibility of getting the festive timetable mid year and had put in request to SIC.

ACTION: Clerk asked to follow up and inform wedding parties requests.

CDF PROJECT WHALSAY SIGN

All agreed that works would be undertaken by George Hutchinson once planning approval have been given.

ACTION Clerk to follow up with planning.

WHALSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (WCDG)

RTH discussed the Unst and Yell Tunnel Group which are set up for the fixed tunnel project and suggested possibility of doing similar with Whalsay. Emphasised that by having three groups with similar goals , it would give strength to the future of the project. He would reach out to the other groups for guidance. Recent support for the Fixed Tunnel project and new feasibility study being commissioned for funding seems positive. Lack of available ferries to purchase by SIC was discussed.

WP – expressed concern on another study and asked for reassurance that local communities will be involved at each stage.

DA- Indicated that the new report would bring a more viable new business case for the Fixed Tunnels in light of recent increases in costs.

ACTION Ongoing

NEWSLETTER

Rhea Kay to be tasked. Topics to include Participatory Budget, WCDG, Sign - on hold

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ACTION Ongoing

JIMMY ARTHUR ESTATE

JL discussed a member of community was looking for update and suggested that any future matters about the estate should be referred back to executor .

ACTION Clerk asked to follow up

BUS SHELTERS FOR SCHOOL BAIRNS

JL – Reiterated the need for these shelters to be re-positioned as had received complaints from parents. Confirmed that WCC was looking at re-using existing shelters but placing them nearer to dwellings.

RTH and DA asked to follow up with Elaine Parks

ACTION On going

Dentist

JL – discussed current situation

RTH – Suggested contacting Brian Chittick for clarity

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up

Bu Water Road – Build up of loose stones. Gil suggested contacting Roads and Scottish Waters.

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

Harsdale

Discussion around the number of empty properties and lack of any renovation works

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up

Meeting closed at 21.55

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 18th April 2023 7pm, at Heritage Centre for locals and Webex for others considering joining.