



**TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting held at Tingwall Community Hall on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

(N.B. There was a change to the order in which items were considered. The minutes reflect the order of the meeting)

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<b>1.0 Present:</b>	Andrew Archer (Chair)	Catherine Hughson
	Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)	Ian Scott
	Birgit Wagner	Davie Sandison
	Neil Leask	Moraig Lyall
	John Clarkson	
	Margaret Cooper	
	Paul Stevens (Clerk)	

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**2.0 Apologies:** Martin Randall, Roselyn Fraser, Charlie Hodge

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**3.0 Declarations of Interest:** Linda Tulloch declared an interest in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, Catherine Hughson in matters relating to planning, Neil Leask in matters relating to Whiteness Hall, and Andrew Archer in SCBF applications.

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**4.0 Food banks — local issues**

Gemma Graham and Sandra Summers from the SIC [Anchor for Families](#) project had been invited to talk to members. Originally funded by the Big Lottery for 4 years, the project is now an externally-funded SIC service providing a range of ongoing support: financial, emotional, and practical. For example, they distribute vouchers for fuel, offer help with benefits applications where needed and, at the St. Ringans hub on Hillhead, offer food parcels, hot water bottles, blankets, donated children's clothes, and energy efficient cooking appliances. In response to questions from members, they indicated that the biggest obstacle is a reluctance to be known as a service user, especially in regard to vouchers for smaller local shops. Encouraging people to come to the hub to see what is on offer, and how many people already use it, has been a useful strategy to reduce perceived stigma and normalise the service. An example was given of a campaign in Sandwich which encouraged all households to apply for a shop voucher, using an 'everybody is entitled' approach. This became a talking point in the local community and emphasised the point that help was available to all who were experiencing financial difficulty, whatever their circumstances. Moraig Lyall made the point that such services were not about poverty per se but instead were a key aspect of circular economy strategies (especially for high turn-over items like children's clothing). Gemma Graham confirmed that this message was emphasised, especially in schools outreach, and suggested the idea of a placing a 'helpful items' cupboard in the local community. After Gemma and Sandra had left, a discussion continued around ideas of how the CC might be able to help. The project will produce information posters, which the CC will publicize on Facebook and the website. Birgit Wagner suggested approaching local groups to encourage them to apply for Hardship Fund money given the CC is a statutory body and so cannot itself apply. John Clarkson pointed out that the existing community hall committees might be interested. Davie Sandison gave the Living Well Hub in the Scalloway Youth Centre as a successful example this approach.

→ ACTION: Birgit to coordinate relevant messaging on the Facebook page.

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→ ACTION: The Clerk to send details of the Living Well hub to CC members.

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## **5.0 Approval of Minutes**

On a motion proposed by Birgit Wagner and seconded by Neil Leask, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

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## **6.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- Vacant CC positions: no further candidates had been identified so the position remains open for now.
  - Whiteness Primary celebration for 80+
    - ACTION: Linda Tulloch will write to Whiteness and Weisdale residents over 80 using the Christmas Card list.
  - Scottish Sea Farms: the Clerk had written to them regarding local resident's concerns about increased HGV traffic.
  - SIC Emergency Planning & Resilience: there had been no reply as yet.
  - Crash barriers by Wormadale beach: there had been no reply as yet.
  - SSE Water coming off track: Andrew Archer had written back to SSE to suggest that they look again during a period of rain, and to the originator of the report to ask them to take photos should they again see excess water on the road.
  - Bus stop lighting: Ian Scott had spoken to Neil Robertson, who responded that previous government-funded projects in the South end had attempted solar lighting had not been effective and there were currently no plans, or available funding, for similar projects in the area.
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## **7.0 Decisions since last meeting**

None

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## **8.0 Police Report**

The report had been circulated to Members on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

Andrew Archer asked for ideas regarding reducing speeding past the Whiteness School (where a 20mph limit exists at school start/end times), suggesting a letter to the Police asking for an increased presence outside the school when possible, and to the SIC Roads department asking for options. Catherine Hughson said that she had talked to the Police about this in the past and, while they were willing, staff availability was limited. Davie Sandison suggested a formal letter to the Shetland Times to raise awareness. John Clarkson suggested real-time speed signs, which Catherine Hughson thought was already part of a probable future installation plan.

- ACTION: The Clerk to write to Police asking for increased outside-school presence.
  - ACTION: The Clerk to write to the Roads department asking which options to highlight and enforce existing limits would be available to them.
  - ACTION: Andrew Archer to write to the Shetland Times about the importance of observing the 20mph limit.
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## 9.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, was distributed to community council members.
  - Call for applications: Andrew Archer had posted about this on the Facebook page but no further applicants had come forward. This remained open but any applications will be needed by 8th March, to be considered in the last meeting of the financial year.
  - Tingwall SWI, meeting hall hire, £75. This application was approved in full.  
→ ACTION: The Clerk to inform the applicants.
  - Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall, WiFi installation, £2000: A decision on this was deferred to the March meeting.
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## 10.0 Correspondence

- More thank you letters had been received from Christmas voucher recipients.
  - Beatrice Wishart MSP had sent an interim reply to our letter highlighting the concerns of South Whiteness residents about their water supply, indicating that she had contacted Scottish Water and would let us know when she had received her reply. Since the last meeting, the Whiteness community page on Facebook had further posts from residents with concerns about the safety of water in area given previous work had chopped through asbestos cement pipes, visibly releasing material into the environment.  
→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to Dr Susan Laidlaw (Director of Public Health, NHS Shetland) asking for information regarding risk assessment and containment measures relating to water supply work.
  - *Who Cares? Scotland* will hold an information event for Community Councillors in Shetland on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 9:30-11:30 at the Town Hall.
  - Christine Henry contacted Andrew Archer regarding the vacant glasshouse at Gott Cattery, and her wish for it to be put to community group use. The CC agreed to publicise this.
  - Information on a scheme looking for applicants to help in creating a Community Council website was received. As the TWWCC now has a website, this was not needed.
  - Roselyn Fraser had emailed information on community drop-in sessions at Tingwall Hall. The CC agreed to publicise this.
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## 11.0 Planning

- A document on National Planning Framework 4 had been circulated to members. Davie Sandison confirmed that this was a national policy framework rather than affecting current local development plans.
  - PP 2022/300/PPF Comms mast off A971 Weisdale.  
→ ACTION: The Clerk to submit 'No comment'.
  - Moraig Lyall had talked to a surveyor working at Windy Grind, who was carrying out a survey relating to the potential burying of the small power poles as per SSE's preferred option. A final decision on this option has yet to be made by the Energy Consents Unit.
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## 12.0 Viking

- Andrew Archer reported on the Viking CLG meeting held on 24th January. There were currently no delays in the construction schedule. While detailed reinstatement plans have not yet been submitted to SIC, there was some discussion about the borrow pits: Pit 2, currently used as a peat
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store such that much of the surface is already covered in peat, will be the first to be fully covered; Pit 5 will be used as a laydown area for turbines parts; Pit 3 is to be kept open until further notice, having been mooted as a source of extra material for a farm track, although this application had been objected to by the CC and was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. Members noted that their objection was to the taking of track material from the pit and not to the track itself. Their understanding was that, when getting reinstated, borrow pits do get covered over but are not returned to their original profile. Taking extra material would thus exacerbate alterations to the landscape, as well as setting a precedent for future borrow pit use.

- Water quality and fish quality reports were published the day after the VCLG meeting, and highlighted the lack of fish in the Burn of Lunklet. Temporary measures aimed at normalising the pH levels in the burn have been ineffective.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to write to Aaron Priest to clarify their plans to identify the cause of the decline in fish and to find out what remedial measures will now be taken in light of those reports.

[Davie Sandison left at this point]

- Component convoys: no issues have been reported by residents to date, though it was noted that the lorries are currently transporting the smaller components rather than the much larger turbine blades.

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### 13.0 Footpaths

- Andrew Archer reported that Win Furt had held two drop-in launch sessions, one at the Tingwall Community Hall and one at the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall, with the latter especially well attended. The primary theme raised by residents was that local speed limits were too high. Some Whiteness landowners were present and indicated their willingness to discuss having parts of the path across their land.
- Jan Riise (SIC Executive Manager - Governance and Law) had confirmed to Andrew that, to avoid any perceived or potential conflicts of interest, CC members should not also become members of Win Furt.
- In respect to timing of funding for additional settlement audits, SYSTRA had indicated that while they could have the research completed before the funding deadline, a report would not be ready in time to meet the CLLD fund requirements. Win Furt are therefore seeking alternative sources, with an application being submitted to the Shetland Charitable Trust small grants scheme and he SCBF.

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### 14.0 SCBF

- Members were happy for Angela Sutherland to remain in the Director position if she were willing to do so.
  - ACTION: Andrew Archer to write to Angela Sutherland about continuing to provide updates in this role.

[Andrew Archer recused himself for the remainder of this item. Linda Tulloch acted as Chair]

- The following applications were considered to meet the CC's criteria for local relevance and significant legacy, and were approved:

180357 Shetland Youth Orchestra: £978

180370 Sail Training Shetland: £1400

180386 Win Furt: £1500

→ ACTION: The Clerk to inform Eleanor Gear.

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### **15.0 Councillors' Reports**

- Catherine Hughson had (along with Davie Sandison, in their respective roles as Vice Chair and Chair of the SIC Education and Families Committee) visited local schools to meet teachers and children ahead of budget decisions. Andrew Archer asked about any planned changes to CC budgets but none are expected.
  - Ian Scott stated his concerns about the SIC's retention of above-average reserve funds despite current hardships. Andrew Archer asked about the possibility of penalisation by the Scottish Government if the reserve money was spent but Ian said this was not an issue, with local council funding being agreed independently with COSLA.
  - Moraig Lyall had been involved with numerous budget meetings and did not share Ian's concerns regarding the reserve. She had also been on a well-reported visit to the Scottish Parliament to present to the [Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee](#) regarding Northlink and inter-island ferry services, and support for fixed links. John Clarkson added that the Yell community had itself raised money towards geological investigations with respect to tunnel feasibility planning. It was noted that the Scottish Government appeared to have an increased emphasis on fixed links in general, with the examples used being longer than would be necessary in Shetland.
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### **16.0 AOCB**

Neil Leask asked about an offer of a number of wooden chairs from Thea Groat at SSE. John Clarkson had contacted the Nesting Scrapstore and they would be interested in obtaining these.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to write back to Thea Groat.

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### **17.0 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, at Tingwall Community Hall (in the peerie hall).

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