

Sandness & Walls Community Council

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Minutes of a hybrid meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held at the Walls Public Hall on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
M Forrest
J Puckey
J Haswell
J Gear
M Macgregor
S Johnston
Cllr M Robinson
Cllr L Peterson

1. Chairman's Welcome

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

2. Apologies

M Duncan, F MacBeath (Vice Chair), J Laing, C Venus, E Johnston

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

3. Declarations of Interest

J Puckey declared an interest in item 13 – Update on Papa Stour Church renovations
S Johnston declared an interest in a grant request to be presented under AOCB.

4. Police Report

No report was available for this meeting

5. Minutes from 2.5.23

The first sentence on item 10, Electric Ferry Trial for Papa Stour should read, Cllr Peterson spoke on this matter and expressed her disappointment that Mr **John** Robert Smith had not yet responded to repeated emails from the Community Council.

The adoption of the amended minutes was proposed by S Johnston and seconded by M Macgregor.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 12 of 5/23 Future of Health Service Provision at Walls Health Centre

A request was made to publish the minutes of the meeting between S&WCC Members and representatives from the Shetland Health Board of 16th May on the Community Council Facebook Page. This was refused on the grounds that the Health Board representatives had requested that the contents of the meeting should not be made public. They indicated that they intend to hold a public meeting in the Walls Hall later this year.

Re: 9.3 of 5/23 Fly-tipping of Soil at Quarry at Entrance to Dale of Walls Beach Track

The Clerk stated that he had not received an update from Environmental Health on the matter and expressed the view that the officers would be concerned with finding the party responsible so they could be made to restore the site. The Clerk was asked to email the Environmental Health Department for an update.

Action: The Clerk to email the Environmental Health Department to request an update on this matter.

Re: 18.2 of 5/23 Dale of Walls Beach Track

The Clerk informed the members that he had spoken to Julie Halcrow of the Criminal Justice Department regarding a work party to fill in potholes on the track. She informed him that there is currently a shortage of people serving community payback orders and that she has the work on the track on her list. She will arrange to get the work done when she has a suitable group available.

Re: 10 of 5/23 Electric Ferry Trial for Papa Stour

In response to a question from Cllr Peterson, regarding an email from the SIC Chief Executive concerning communications with Council Officials, the Clerk stated that he had only recently received this. He asked if the members would like him to inform the Chief Executive about the lack of responses to repeated emails about the proposed electric ferry trial. Members requested he does this and includes copies of the emails that were sent to Mr Smith on this matter.

Action: The Clerk to email the Chief Executive regarding the lack of responses to emails about the proposed electric ferry trial for Papa Stour.

Re: 5 of 5/23 Visit by Hazel Sutherland CE (interim) of Shetland Amenity Trust and Alison Moncrieff, Chair of Shetland Amenity Trust

Given that the post of custodian for the Camping Bod has yet to be advertised, it was agreed that the Amenity Trust be asked if they still intend to do so.

Action: Cllr Peterson informed the meeting that she would be meeting with Ms Sutherland and Ms Moncrieff at the next Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council meeting and would raise the matter then.

7. Housing

7.1 Social Housing Units in Central Walls

Cllr Peterson informed the meeting that the purchase of the site for the social housing in Central Walls is not yet complete.

7.2 Council Owned Land Adjacent to Kirkidale, Walls

Cllr Peterson stated she would ask if the vacant site adjacent to Kirkidale in Walls could be sold to a developer for housing. The Clerk indicated that currently part of this site was being used to dump a variety of items from the Mussel Factory.

Action: The Clerk to raise the matter with Environmental Health in order to confirm that this piece of land does not belong to the Mussel Factory.

7.3 Need for Social Housing on Foula

J Gear stated that there was a need for social housing on Foula.

7.4 Vacant Council Owned Property in Kirkidale, Walls

It was pointed out that a council owned house is currently vacant at Kirkidale in Walls and there appears to be no urgency on the part of the Landlord to refurbish it.

8. Roads

8.1 The A971 from the Murrister Quarry to Da Punds.

Following a brief discussion regarding the necessity to upgrade the Cullivoe Road, members were informed by Cllr Peterson that the Council Officers were having to prioritise all outstanding capital projects and it may result in the proposed improvements to the A971 being downgraded.

Re: 8.1 of 4/23 Pedestrian Safety on the New Road in Walls

Cllr Peterson informed the members that approximately ten requests for Sustrans funding were being considered. She also described the format for a place based audit and how it would include a public meeting. The Chair stated that such an audit would need to consider all of Central Walls and not just the Pier Road. Uncertainty exists as to the deadline for the current round of Sustrans funding.

8.2 Papa Stour Roads

J Puckey updated members on the work in progress to resurface the Papa Stour Road. She stated that the necessary equipment would be shipped into the island in July when a larger ferry would be available.

8.3 Request for a Roads Grant for Papa Stour Properties.

Members discussed a request for unadopted roads grants for Papa Stour properties. It was noted that one site was ineligible and the other was too late for consideration this financial year.

Action: The Clerk to inform the applicant of the Members' decision.

9. Community Consultation – Reimagining Burials in Shetland

It was pointed out that there are only two active Mainland cemeteries in the Sandness and Walls area each with several years capacity. Cllr Peterson pointed out that the rationale for this exercise is to investigate how financial savings could be made.

(Draft minutes of the June S&WCC Meeting subject to approval at the next meeting)

After some discussion it was agreed that Members make individual responses before the 31st July deadline.

Action: The Clerk to circulate Members to invite them to respond on this matter.

10. Future of Health Service Provision at Walls Health Centre

The Chair described how the meeting that had taken place between Members of the Community Council and Health Board representatives had been both amicable and useful. He stated that the Health Board's focus is on how to extend their outreach services to as many of Shetland's communities as possible and that this would form part of the remit of the proposed new hospital. Reference was made to the intention of the Health Board to hold a public meeting in Walls before the end of the summer.

11. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Members considered a grant application from the Shetland Amateur Competitive Swimming Club for £220 towards assisting their members with their fees. It was agreed unanimously to approve the grant.

Action: The Clerk to complete the SCBF response sheet indicating the Members approval of the grant.

12. Review of Community Councils

The Chair indicated that this matter was going to be discussed at the next meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils on Tuesday 13th June. He stated that the Council is hoping to receive some more responses.

13. Update on Papa Stour Church Renovations

J Puckey provided a verbal report on the progress being made on renovations to the Papa Stour Church. She described some of the historical finds that the builders had made whilst working on the site. She then pointed out that planning permission had not been granted to install solar panels on the south facing side of the roof on the grounds the building's age and character. It was accepted that the south facing roof was only visible from Sandness, several miles away across the sea. J Puckey requested a letter from the Community Council in support of an appeal against this decision.

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After further explanation by Cllr Robinson, it was agreed to draft a letter to support the Papa Stour History and Community Group.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with J Puckey in drafting a letter of support for the Papa Stour History and Community Group's appeal against the decision to oppose solar panels for the south facing roof of the Papa Stour Church.

14. Facebook Page for S&WCC

Owing to the fact that E Johnston was unable to attend this meeting, it was not possible to get an update on the Facebook page.

15. Financial Update

The Clerk indicated that he had received confirmation that the Core Grant had been paid into the S&WCC account on the day prior to the meeting. There has been no outgoings since the May meeting. The acceptance forms for the CDF and Special Project Grants were now available for the Chair to sign.

16. Correspondence

16.1 Emergency Plan Template

Discussions took place regarding the creation of an Emergency Plan Template for the Walls and Sandness area. The importance of using the Halls in both areas as hubs was seen as being very important. With this in mind it was felt that both halls should be fitted with a suitable plug to accommodate an emergency generator with a changeover switch to be activated when power is restored. Reference was made to the fact that SSE hold a list of vulnerable people to contact in the event of a power outage. The Clerk was asked to find out if there is a timescale in which to create the template and was referred to Ingrid Gall if further information is required.

Action: The Clerk was asked to find out if there is a timescale for the creation of an emergency plan and to look into the possibility of creating one.

16.2 Email concerning the replacement of Defibrillator components.

The Clerk referred to an email he had received from defibworld indicating that a battery and pads on one of the local defibrillators

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needs to be replaced. He was advised to check the defibworld website.

Action: Clerk to check Defibworld's website to see if they are a legitimate company.

17. AOCB

17.1 Track to Littla Bousta in Sandness

S Johnston updated the meeting regarding the condition of the track to Littla Bousta and that a home owner there is currently having to transport heating oil in a bowser because the oil delivery truck is unable to use the track. He went on to say that a meeting is to take place with Mr Neil Grant, but it is proving difficult to set a date for this meeting. The Community Council has been asked to write to Mr Grant to express the need for urgency on this matter.

Action: The Clerk to write to Mr Grant outlining the issues surrounding coastal erosion concerning the track as well as other SIC owned facilities adjacent to the track.

17.2 Grant Application by the Sandness Development Group

It was agreed to circulate this for the consideration of the Members.

Action: The Clerk to circulate the grant application from the Sandness Development Group.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 1st August.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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