

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

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Minutes of a hybrid meeting of Sandness & Walls Community Council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)  
M Macgregor  
E Johnston  
M Forrest  
J Laing  
J Puckey  
C Venus  
Cllr M Robinson

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

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

**2. Apologies**

J Haswell, R Fraser, S Johnston, Cllr L Peterson, F MacBeath, J Gear

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk),

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None were made at this time.

**4. Police Report**

No report was available for this meeting.

**5. Minutes from 7.3.23**

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 was proposed by C Venus and seconded by M Forrest.

**6. Matters Arising**

***Re: 11.2 of 1/23 Petrol supply issues***

The subject of the petrol supply at the Walls Shop was debated in some detail. Members were in agreement that it would benefit the community were the petrol pump to be repaired. In seeking a way forward, it was agreed that the Chair should speak with the shop tenant and Mr Robert Sinclair, Shetland Islands Council Executive Manager, Assets, Commissioning and Procurement.

**Action: The Chair to discuss the matter with the tenant and Mr Robert Sinclair.**

(E Johnston joined the meeting)

***Re:14.1 of 8/22 Defibrillator for West Burrafirth Pier***

The Clerk informed the meeting that to date no response had been received from Cooke Aquaculture regarding the request for a defibrillator for the Walls Pier. He went on to say that he had received an acknowledgement from Mr Andrew Inkster regarding the request for a defibrillator for the Foula Ferry. Mr Inkster indicated that he would discuss the matter with the directors of B K Marine, who operate the service.

**7. Housing**

**7.1 Social Housing at Forratwatt in Walls**

The Chair informed the meeting the land for the housing development at Forratwatt in Walls has now been de-crofted and that the purchase of this land should be completed soon.

**7.2 Demand for Housing in the Sandness and Walls Area**

The Chair stated but whilst a recent extensive survey had clearly demonstrated a demand for housing in this area, it would appear that future housing development will only take place if the applications for the houses at the Forratwatt site indicate this.

## **8. Roads**

### **8.1 Pedestrian Safety on the New Road in Walls**

M Macgregor informed members that she had been contacted by New Road residents who are concerned about pedestrian safety on this narrow roadway. Members acknowledged that pedestrians have to walk on soft verges when vehicles approach. It was also recognised that this route provides the only access to the pier for heavy goods vehicles. Residents are also concerned about the speeds of vehicles on this road. After some discussion Cllr Robinson suggested a solution to this problem might be the construction of a pavement. It was agreed to look into the possibility of having a pavement constructed along this stretch of road. Possible funding sources for such a project was discussed. These included the Shetland Community Benefit Fund and Sustrans.

**Action: The Clerk to contact Ms Robina Barton to request the construction of a pavement along the New Road.**

### **8.2 Lack of Speed Limits on the Walls Pier**

The lack of speed limits on the Walls Pier was discussed. Given that other harbour facilities around Shetland all appear to have speed restrictions, members felt that similar restrictions should apply to the Walls Pier. The Clerk was asked to raise this matter with Mr Andrew Inkster, Ports and Harbours.

**Action: The Clerk to e-mail Mr Andrew Inkster to request that speed limits be imposed on the Walls Pier.**

### **8.3 Child Safety in Mid Walls**

M Macgregor raised a concern regarding vehicles speeding round sharp bends in the Mid Walls area. Given that this road divides a croft where young children live, members were asked to consider how best to reduce the speed at which traffic passes through this area. After some discussion it was suggested that sign posts be erected informing drivers that children are at play. It was agreed to make the purchase and erection of such signs the subject of a special project.

**Action: The Clerk to complete an application for a special project grant for the purchase and erection of 2 'Slow, Children at Play' signs.**

#### **8.4 Vehicles getting stuck on soft ground at the entrance to the Dale of Walls Beach Track.**

The Chair informed members he had been contacted by a resident who lives close to the entrance to the Dale of Walls Beach Track concerning vehicles being parked on soft ground in this area. The resident has been called on to tow out vehicles that have become stuck. Members discussed possible deterrents to drivers parking on this site. It was agreed to add an additional No Parking sign to the special project application.

**Action: The Clerk to include the purchase and erection of a 'No Parking' sign in the special project application.**

#### **8.5 Unadopted Roads Grants**

The Clerk stated that he had placed a poster in the Walls Shop providing information regarding unadopted roads grants. He went on to say that an advertisement about unadopted roads grants has been placed in the Shetland Times for Friday 7th of April.

### **9. Electric Ferry Trial for Papa Stour**

The Clerk stated that he had not received a reply from Mr. John Smith concerning the electric ferry trial for Papa Stour. J Puckey stated that in response to an e-mail she had sent to Cllr Moraig Lyall she was told that B K Marine are well aware of the tendering process. J Puckey informed members that regular ferry users have the following concerns:

- the proposed electric ferry will be inadequate for the service
- the crew who will be accompanying the vessel will be inexperienced in navigating the waters around Papa Stour
- the regular ferry users do not wish this service to be tendered out to a private company

**Action: The Clerk to resend the email to Mr Smith providing the date of the next Community Council Meeting and copying the e-mail to Cllrs Robinson and Peterson.**

### **10. Future of Health Service Provision at Walls Health Centre**

Members were informed that a date for a meeting with Community Council members and Mr Chittick's Health and Social Care Team has yet to be set. It is hoped that this meeting will take place soon after Easter.

### **11. Shetland Community Benefit Fund – AGS 180402**

Members discussed a grant application from the Shetland Community Benefit Fund on behalf of the Outpost. Whilst it was recognised the people from the Sandness and Walls area have visited the Outpost, it is located on Burra Isle. Members felt that funds allocated for the benefit of Sandness and Walls residents should therefore be predominantly used in this area. With that in mind, it was agreed to provide half the funding requested, £500, for the project outlined in the application form.

**Action: The Clerk to complete the grant application response section to the effect that £500 be provided from the Sandness and Walls Community Council.**

(At the request of M Macgregor, items 13 and 16 were brought forward to permit her to leave early.)

### **13. Facebook Page for S&WCC**

E Johnston provided a verbal update on the progress he was making towards the creation of a Facebook page for the Sandness and Walls Community Council. He described how he was modelling this on the Sandsting and Aithsting Facebook page.

### **16. AOCB**

#### **16.1 Da Voar Redd-up**

M Macgregor proposed two new areas that would benefit from being part of the Voar Redd-up. They are the road between the Watsness Junction and the Sandness Road and the Beach Track at the Dale of Walls.

(M Macgregor left the meeting)

### **12. Review of Community Councils**

The Chair provided a brief description of the background to this review. He referred members to the timetable for the review and indicated that six months of the two year time scale have almost passed. He asked members to study the scope of the review and invited them to make their responses by the 24th of April. He suggested that members circulate their opinions to all members of the Sandness and Walls Community Council. He highlighted such issues as review of existing boundaries and the election rules.

Action: The Clerk to e-mail all members of the Sandness and Walls Community Council asking them to respond to the review by the 24th of April.

## **14. Financial Update**

### **14.1 Financial Spreadsheet**

The Chair referred members to a spreadsheet that had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if anyone had any comments. No comments were made.

### **14.2 Community Development Fund Grant**

The Clerk was asked to submit an CDF Grant application for £3000.

Action: The Clerk to submit an application for a CDF Grant of £3000.

### **14.3 Grant requests.**

The following grant requests have been received:

#### **14.3.1**

From the Walls History Group to pay for a bus to take a party of Swedish sailors during the Tall Ships Race to a reception in Walls on the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the Swedish cargo ship Dione which sank off the Dale of Walls in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This was approved.

Action: The Clerk to inform the History Group that their grant application has been successful.

#### **14.3.2**

From Sandness Primary School for water experimentation equipment. A decision on this was deferred in order that members can study the application.

Action: The Clerk to circulate the members with the application.

#### **14.3.3**

From Aith JHS for funding towards a group of children making a trip to Orkney in May. A decision on this was deferred in order that members can study the application.

**Action: The Clerk to circulate the members with the application.**

#### **14.3.4**

From the Foula Heritage for funding to carry out repairs to the Foula Church. A decision on this was deferred in order that members can study the application.

**Action: The Clerk to circulate the members with the application.**

### **15. Correspondence (including Emails)**

Members were referred to an email from Mr Bobby Hunter that had been forwarded by Michael Duncan relating to the coronation of King Charles III. It contained suggestions as to how communities might wish to celebrate the event. The Clerk was asked to recirculate the email.

**Action: Clerk to recirculate the above email**

### **16. AOCB (Continued)**

#### **16.2 Removal of Graffiti from Bridge adjacent to Walls Shop**

M Forrest asked if it would be possible to have some graffiti removed from the bridge adjacent to the Walls Shop. J Laing stated that it was possible that the Council may have a suitable substance.

**Action: The Clerk to contact the Environmental Health Department to request that the graffiti be removed.**

### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the Walls Hall at 7 pm and will take the form of a hybrid meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Draft Minutes of the April 2023 S&WCC meeting subject to approval at the next meeting