

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2023 AT CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL AT 7.30PM

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ BY THE CLERK.

B. PRESENT Mr G Murray Mr E MacPherson Mrs M Davis
 Mrs P Christie

EX OFFICIO

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs K Geddes

CHAIRPERSON Mr P Coleman

APOLOGIES Mr R McGregor Mr M Duncan Mr A Duncan
 PC M Macleod Sgt A Barry Mr C Clark

NOT PRESENT Mrs A Arnett Mr B Peterson
 Dr A Armitage

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs M Davis declared an interest in the application from the Gulberwick Toddlers as she sometimes attends with her grandchildren. Mrs P Christie and Mrs M Davis also declared an interest in the retrospective planning application for a polytunnel 2023/002/PPF – they both donate cakes to the honesty shed on the plot.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2022

There was one mistake to be corrected – Sgt A Barry’s surname and first name were mixed up throughout the minutes. He is Sgt A Barry not Sgt B Alexander. With this correction, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 December were approved on the motion of Mr E MacPherson and seconded by Mrs M Davis.

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. Reply to Letter of Support to Cllr A Duncan

A was written to Cllr A Duncan to offer support in his efforts to stop a ban against peat cutting for personal use. Cllr Duncan sent a reply dated 11th January 2023 thanking members for their support and saying he would use the letter in his campaign if necessary.

Mr MacPherson shared an article from the Shetland Times in 1988 with photos showing the method used to cut peat and why it is a superior method to that used elsewhere, simply because it does far less damage to the peatland.

ACTION: Clerk to share article on Facebook page.

2. 2023 Meeting Dates in School

Cunningburgh Headteacher Melvyn Clark replied to the clerk’s email detailing the proposed meeting dates and confirmed there were no school events planned for any of the dates. He will get in contact in plenty of time if something does come up.

The clerk asked what he recommended would be a suitable thankyou present to staff for the use of the school building and he replied that he would have a chat with staff and get back to us.

ACTION: Clerk to get back in touch with school about thank you present if no reply arrives before the next meeting.

3. Information from Michael Duncan for New Members

Community Council Liaison Officer/Grants Officer Michael Duncan sent through some information sheets for the new members on funding. Members thanked him for the information and said it answered the questions they had. He is to get in touch when training for Community Councillors becomes available.

2. POLICE REPORT

There was no report available.

3. FINANCE

The bank statement on January 11th reads £9,809.33.

There are a few transactions in the account outwith the usual: the payment of the grants awarded at the last meeting - £100 to the Cunningsburgh Under 5s for the Christmas Party and £755 to the Cunningsburgh Village Club for general supplies. A grant to the Cunningsburgh Village Club from last year for the delivery of soft play equipment was also paid out – it was delayed until the receipts from the previous grant had been received. The backpay for the clerk agreed at the last meeting was also paid out.

Only £1,179.40 of our grant budget has been spent.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS

There was one application for the Community Council's own funding pot to consider:

- The Gulberwick Toddlers was granted the full amount requested for their Christmas Party - £100.

Although this application came in late, the email trail clearly showed it had been sent back in September to the old Community Council email address. Because of this, members agreed to award the money despite it being a retrospective application.

There is still a fair bit of grant money left so all are to share the word that grant applications are being accepted in the next two meetings.

ACTION: Clerk to inform applicants they have been successful, and transfer money to the group via online banking.

All to share the word about grant money.

5. ROAD ISSUES/CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS

Cllr Duncan reported back via email today that he had made a personal visit to Lerwick Police Station to raise members concerns about speeding through areas such as Quarff, and to ask for extra speed patrols. Although neither the Chief Inspector or Inspector was available, he provided the badge numbers of the officers who he passed the information on to.

Members asked the clerk to again follow up on what engineers thought about the possibility of work on the Radicle Road in Quarff was.

Members also asked the clerk to report that the light at the bus shelter at Wester Quarff is malfunctioning as it provides such little light.

They would also like to know if schoolchildren still receive reflective key chains or similar from school. Members reported seeing schoolchildren getting off the bus who were almost all wearing black clothing and were not visible.

There is a 'terrible' pot hole at the Voxter junction that requires filling – clerk to report it.

Mr MacPherson provided a document which SIC Roads had produce some years previously following an investigation they did of the Quarff road. The clerk is to distribute a copy to all members.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up the Radicle Road, report the malfunctioning light and the pot hole, and find out whether schoolchildren receive any reflective gear from school. She is also to send the document about the Quarff road.

6. GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATE

It was agreed again that a meeting of the group that aims to try to push forward development ideas for the Community Council area was needed. Various days and times were spoken about but nothing was agreed.

It was decided that the first aim of the group should be to try to hold a public meeting about the groups aims. It was also agreed that drawing up a simple constitution would be a sensible next step.

The importance of keeping a clear distinction between the group and between the Community Council was discussed.

The possibility of having a table at the South Mainland Family Fun Day on May 20th was also spoken about.

ACTION: Mrs Christie to find some simple template constitutions for the group to look at. A date to meet in January or early February to be decided.

7. GRIT BIN REFILLS

An email from a Quarff resident was received, asking for support with her query about why they had been asked to pay for refills for the grit bin near their house when they had not been charged the last time.

Enquiries by the clerk to the SIC Roads department discovered that the 'no charge' last time had been a mistake, and that charging for refills at bins located on unadopted and private roads had always happened.

The issue was discussed at length, especially because another email had been received following the snow last month suggesting new locations for grit bins in Gulberwick. It was thought that piles of grit were actually left at these locations anyway and that a grit bin would merely be another obstacle for vehicles to have to avoid on slippery roads.

Members reluctantly agreed that there was nothing that could be done to support the resident and asked the clerk to write back to her to let her know they were sorry but were unable to help.

ACTION: Clerk to reply to both letters about the grit bins.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were two planning applications to discuss:

[2022/316/PPF](#) – Erect dwelling house, Plot 6 (South of Westhouse), Cunningsburgh, Shetland
[2023/002/PPF](#) - Retrospective planning application for poly tunnel and shed and proposed poly tunnel and raised growing beds. Poly Tunnel And Shed, North Of Roselea, Cunningsburgh, Shetland

Members had no objections or comments to return on either application.

ACTION: Clerk to return the comments to the SIC Planning Department.

9. **AOCB**

Mess Round Glass Recycling Bins in Cunningsburgh

An email with a photo showing the mess around the recycling bins at the industrial estate near the Cunningsburgh Hall was discussed. The clerk had already made contact with the SIC and the bins had been emptied, but the broken glass was still littered around the base of them.

Brydon Gray, Waste Operative Team Leader has been helpful, sorting out the collection of the glass and making assurances that he would have staff go to clear up the broken glass as soon as possible.

In a reply email received the day after the meeting he said: "The long term solution is to have a more regular collection service but as we have to subcontract this work out then it often has to fit in with what the hauliers have on. I'm going to speak to them to see if we can arrange something though, so hopefully we can have a better service in 2023."

He also explained that the deposit return scheme is to go live in August so he anticipated that that would certainly reduce the amount of glass going to the bottle banks.

Members asked if the clerk could request a map of recycling points in the Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh area from the council.

Members also discussed the mess left from the glass recycling Enviroglass premises. The plastic wrapping from Schweppes bottles are particularly problematic and have all got wrapped into the grass and foliage in the surrounding area. A redd up of the site in the spring may be a good idea.

ACTION: Clerk to ask for a map of recycling points in the Community Council area.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is on Wednesday February 15th 2023.
Meeting Ends – 8.38 pm.

CHAIR

11. **OUTSTANDING ITEMS**

February 2021 – Radicle Road – an SIC Roads engineer is to look at the road to see if any maintenance work can be done to the verges to improve the road for all users.
September 2021 – Heathery Park Path Clearing – a third meet-up to clear the last weeds off the path was unable to be organised. Members to look again in spring 2022.
December 2022 – Roles of chair and vice chair to be reviewed at the June 2023 meeting.