

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

Chairman:

Mr John Priest
Farmhouse
Reawick
Shetland
ZE2 9NJ
Tel: 01595 860274
e-mail: priestjt@aol.com

Clerk:

Mrs L Fraser
West Burrafirth
Walls
Shetland
ZE2 9NT
Tel: Walls 01595 809203
e-mail: clerk.sandacc@gmail.com

Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in the Skeld Hall on Monday 15 May 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest	Mrs J Fraser
	Mrs S Deyell	J Abernethy
	Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser	J D Garrick
Ex-Officio:	Cllr L Peterson	Cllr M Robinson
In attendance:	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting..

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Johnson, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker, Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer and T/PS Lara McCabe.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by J Abernethy, seconded by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Police:** The Police Community Council Report for February/March was received and had been circulated.

Broadband: Nothing to report.

Mobile: Nothing further.

Road Matters: **Road past Garderhouse:** A message was received from Mr Neil Hutcheson at the Roads Dept saying that the tender documents for Garderhouse Phase 2 are ready and will be issued to interested contractors soon. The return date will be the end of June with commencement on site shortly thereafter.

Brig at Lunklet: Not received any further information. An enquiry will be sent.

Roads Reports: Reports received and circulated to the members.

Smiley Face signs: A message was received from Mr N Hutcheson saying he has asked for Aith to be prioritised for the 'Smiley Face' signs and that they should be on site soon.

Speed of traffic passing Cake Fridge: Mr Hutcheson also said that the 'Pedestrian in the road ahead' warning signs with distance plate have been in place on site for some time on either side of the Cake Fridge café. He will remind their road marking squad about the 'SLOW' markings that are to go beside them now that the equipment is out of storage after the winter.

Tresta Speed Limit: Now in operation.

Speeding at Bixter: Concern had been expressed to some of the members about the speed of traffic passing Bixter but no official approach has yet been made to the Community Council.

Surface Dressing 2023 in Sandsting & Aithsting: An email was received from Mr N Hutcheson giving details of the Surface Dressing, re-surfacing and Reconstruction

Programme 2023 for this area. He also reminds us of the traffic management procedures that will be in place. The surface dressing sites will all be covered by an enforceable 20mph speed limit. In the past they only used an advisory 20mph speed limited which had limited success. The enforceable or mandatory limit has helped to prevent incidents and the Police are able to assist where there is evidence of excessive speed through treated areas. The mandatory speed limits will remain in force until after the final sweeping of loose chips have been completed, i.e. a week after the application.

Invitation to meeting: It was agreed to invite Mr N Hutcheson to attend our July meeting to discuss road matters.

Questions for Viking Energy (VE): Questions had been received which had been forwarded to the Chairman of the Liaison Group for consideration at their next meeting. The questions were:-

Can the big yellow sign which is sited north of the west junction in Tingwall be moved as it is blocking the view for cars to see if there is any traffic approaching from the north?

Will the Liaison Group please ask the police escort not be quite so aggressive when ordering folk to pull in to the side of the road for the convoys?

Will they re-instate the road verges that have suffered damage by cars being directed off the road for the convoys?

As the Liaison Group meeting had been held soon after the enquiry was sent, a reply was received from their Chairman saying:-

The SIC had put the sign near the west junction and it was not the responsibility of VE.

A number of people have complained about the conduct of the Police escort and the matter will be discussed with the Police Inspector in charge of the policing of the wind farm convoys.

However there was no reply to the question about the re-instating of the verges. An enquiry will be sent again.

Viking Community Fund Consultation: The Chairman reminded the members about the Consultation and said that the closing date has been extended to 31st May.

Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser agreed to draft a reply from the Community Council which will be circulated to the members for comment before it is submitted.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund: Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) – Application No 180403 Although we turned down the application from The Outpost in Burra Isle, a Letter of Support will be sent to them wishing them success with their fundraising.

Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund: The final meeting has not yet been held.

Finance: Core funding: The Clerk had sent an email to Mr M Duncan asking for the drawdown of the Core funding for this financial year.

Community Development Fund scheme: An application had been submitted and an acknowledgement received.

No ideas for a project yet received.

Association: Community Council Scheme Review – A message was received from Mr M Duncan giving details of the feedback he had received on the draft scope of the scheme. He will now draft a report which is to be presented to meetings of the Council's Development Committee on 31 May and Policy & Resources Committee on 5 June in order to seek formal approval of the review scope.

Association meeting - The next Association meeting will be held on 13 June. Mr M Duncan requested agenda items by Friday 26 May.

Emergency Plan: A range of template and example emergency plans were received from Mr M Duncan. SSEN Resilient Communities Fund is due to open for its final bidding round sometime in the next month or two; funding opening date and deadline still unknown at this time. However applicants with an emergency plan will have a better chance of accessing funding from the Resilient Communities fund and Mr Duncan suggested that, if we are thinking of applying, we should prepare a local emergency plan as soon as possible.

Orion Project: On going.

Anti-social Behaviour Consultation: Still not heard what date Mr Mycock will attend the Sandness & Walls Community Council meeting.

Active Travel in Aith: It is hoped that the next round of Sustrans Places for Everyone Scheme will open in July.

Extension to Garden (Bixter) Graveyard: No further information received.

Resilient Communities Conference 2023 - On-line Workshops: Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser had attended some of the workshops.

Da Voar Redd Up: Notices had been placed in the shops and on the Community Council Facebook page.

Coronation Weekend: The members had received good reports from the celebrations which had been held in this area.

Burrastow Estate: No further information about this review.

OUTSTANDING REQUESTS FROM COMMUNITY COUNCILS TO SIC SERVICES: A message was received from Mrs Maggie Sandison, SIC Chief Executive, saying Elected Members have suggested that there are a significant number of requests for information outstanding from her services which Community Councils are not getting responses to. She asks that we send through any outstanding responses to chief.executive@shetland.gov.uk and she will follow them up.

REQUEST FOR MEETING FROM SHETLAND AMENITY TRUST CEO: Ms Hazel Sutherland, CEO of Shetland Amenity Trust asked for a meeting with this Community Council primarily to discuss Trust properties in this area. It was agreed to invite her to our June meeting.

RE-IMAGINING BURIALS IN SHETLAND: A letter, along with some slides, was received from Mr Carl Symons, Executive Manager, SIC Environment & Estate Operations. It gave details of the Community Consultation on the Reimagining of Burials in Shetland – Management of Burial Ground and Capacity and Access Roads – Options for Discussion. A members Seminar had been held. SIC currently maintain 70 separate burial grounds and have one of the lowest burial cost charges for interments across the same range of local authorities. Historically, Council policy was to extend burial grounds as they became full, therefore families have always had the opportunity to receive a full body burial within their parish burial ground. In the current economic climate a continuation of this approach is financially challenging and unsustainable. The situation is further complicated by the fact that SIC does not hold land titles for many original burial grounds, but do have deeds for some recent extensions. This presents significant challenges in maintaining fit-for-purpose access roads and tracks. Regulations and guidance is being developed by the Scottish Government on access to and within burial grounds, including the construction, repair and improvement of roads and paths. This will place further burdens and costs upon the Council in meeting its statutory obligations.

Mr Symons listed the details of the various yards and access roads. The slides provided further detail relating to the Managing Burial Ground Capacity and Access Roads draft report and a slide which covered burial grounds by Community Council ward for discussion on our preferred locations.

A further proposal is “an alternative to grass cutting which will be explored is “rewilding”, which would, in the long term, support biodiversity by increasing and re-introducing native wild flowers, making our burial grounds attractive places to visit for wildlife pollinators such as bees as well”

The members hope that the Garden graveyard can be retained and the extension provided as they know that there are strong feelings within the catchment area for this yard that this should be the case. They were not in favour of re-wilding and understand that the old yards need to close but hope that basic maintenance can be done.

These comments will be sent.

WHO STANDS FOR COUNCIL – SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL?: An email was received from Mr M Duncan enclosing a message from Mr Peter Peterson, Executive Manager – Executive Services saying that we may be aware that the Council has been

doing work over the past few years to encourage more, and a more diverse set of, candidates to stand for election. Who stands for the Council – Shetland Islands Council. As part of that, they have two high calibre speakers coming to Shetland on Monday 19 June and think it would be a great opportunity to run a session in the evening with partners, Community Council representatives, some business reps and MSYPs. Kezia Dugdale, former leader of Scottish Labour and Andy Maciver, a Director at Message Matters and political commentator. The event will be held in Lerwick Town Hall between 7pm and 8pm on Monday 19 June. The Chairman and Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser volunteered to attend.

HERITAGE GRANT FUND: Mr M Duncan forwarded a message from Ms Eileen Brooke-Freeman, Cultural Heritage Officer at Shetland Amenity Trust, giving details of a small grants scheme funded by investment from an endowment fund. They are seeking applications for 2023-2024 for good quality heritage initiatives. They will have two tranches with closing dates of 31 May and 30 November. Guidance notes and application forms are available on their website – <https://www.shetlandamenity.org/grant-fund>.

PHONES TO BLOCK NUISANCE CALLS: Some of the members had heard information in the media regarding phones available to vulnerable people which block nuisance calls. Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser agreed to enquire about this.

SSEN TRANSMISSION: Their Spring Newsletter was received from SSEN Transmission.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCE: The Community Council Insurance Certificate was received from Mr M Duncan.

BIN OUTSIDE EID SHOP: It was reported that the bin outside the Aith shop has been removed due to the number of people disposing of their dog waste in it. Consideration of this was deferred until our June meeting.

UNADOPTED ROADS: An advert for applications for unadopted roads will be placed in the Shetland Times, on Radio Shetland, in local shops and on our Facebook page. The applications will be considered at our next meeting.

WESTSIDE YOUTH CLUB: Concern was expressed about the proposed cutting of the budget for the Westside Youth Club. There is a good going Youth Club on the westside which we hope can be maintained.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the Bixter Community Hall on Monday 12 June 2023 at 7.30pm.