

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 12 June 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest Mrs J Fraser
Mrs S Deyell Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser

Ex-Officio: Cllr L Peterson Cllr M Robinson
By invitation: From Shetland Amenity Trust -
Ms Hazel Sutherland, Chief Executive (Interim) and
Ms Alison Moncrieff, Chair of the Board of Trustees

In attendance: Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the two representatives from Shetland Amenity Trust.

SHETLAND AMENITY TRUST PROPERTIES: Ms H Sutherland thanked the Community Council for inviting them to the meeting. She said they had come along to explain what the Amenity Trust are hoping to do with the properties they own. They hold 50 properties in Shetland with only £200,000 to maintain them all. Some of the properties have not yet reopened following Covid but all require maintenance. In the Sandsting & Aithsting area they own the Skeld Camping Bod and Parkhall. It is their intention to speak to each community to see if they can find a way to get the properties throughout Shetland back into community use.

With regard to the Bod in Skeld, they had checked it out and found it in better condition than they had expected. The Skeld Waterfront Trust have expressed an interest in it in order to add to the facilities they provide. The members were very pleased at this news and felt that the Waterfront Trust is best suited to take on the Bod. Ms H Sutherland agreed to explore this option further.

She was asked whether the Bod is a listed building. She said that she did not know but would find out and let us know.

Ms A Moncrieff agreed that it is not easy to make a decision to have to release properties due to not having the resources to run them as the Shetland Amenity Trust would like and, given the choice, they would have preferred to maintain and run them. However, they do not have the finance required and feel that other groups or individuals may be able to obtain funding for the purpose with the Trust's help in terms of expertise.

Ms H Sutherland added that the Skeld Bod is in reasonable condition and that the value put on the building will be for the state it is in just now.

Ms L Peterson enquired as to how long the process of selling the building would take and was informed that it could possibly take up to a year.

It was agreed that it makes sense to have the ownership of the building under the umbrella of another organisation.

Ms H Sutherland said they would keep the conversation going with the Waterfront Trust.

When asked, Mrs Sutherland said that they had received interest in Parkhall and it is now 'Under Offer'. The members were delighted to hear this.

Signs at Sand – Ms H Sutherland was asked when the Amenity Trust signs at Sand will be improved. She said that the Amenity Trust got funding to put in 67 signs in total throughout Shetland but there is no money for maintaining them. The team is working with other organisations to find out who owns the panels and how they can all be fixed and maintained.

The Chairman thanked Ms Sutherland and Ms Moncrieff for attending our meeting and they thanked the members for their time and said they would keep in touch. They then left.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Johnson, Mr J D Garrick, Ms D Nicolson, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Broadband:** Nothing to report.

Mobile: Nothing further.

Road Matters: **Road past Garderhouse:** Hopeful that the tender has been issued.

Brig at Lunklet: An enquiry was sent but no reply yet received.

Roads Reports: Reports received and circulated to the members.

Smiley Face signs: The signs are not yet in place in Aith.

Speed of traffic passing Cake Fridge: 'SLOW' markings have not yet been done.

Invitation: Mr Neil Hutcheson accepted our invitation to attend our July meeting to discuss road matters in our area.

Questions for Viking Energy (VE): Not yet received a reply regarding re-instatement of the verges.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund: **Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) – Application No 180424** – Shetland Amateur Competitive Swimming Club (Hurricanes) for financial assistance to subsidise individuals with the cost of swimming and training.

We have very limited funds remaining and it was agreed to defer consideration of this application until our July meeting.

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

Finance: **Core funding:** The Letter of Offer was received from Mr M Duncan. It was signed and will be returned to him when payment of the allocation will be made.

Community Development Fund scheme: This grant has not yet been received.

Resilient Communities Fund: Scottish & Southern Electric Networks (SSEN) have opened their Resilient Communities Fund for applications. Details were received.

Funding: Various funding details had been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members.

Association: Community Council Scheme Review – Further information about the draft scope was received from Mr M Duncan. The Chairman will represent this Council at the Association meeting on 13 June.

Orion Project: On going.

Anti-social Behaviour Consultation: A message was received from Mr Mycock apologising for not having attended some of the Community Council's meetings. We will await information from Sandness & Walls Community Council as to when he is attending their meeting.

Active Travel in Aith: Nothing further to report.

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

Da Voar Redd Up: No applications received so far.

Burrastow Estate: An error occurred in the Minutes and Report from our meeting on 10 April 2023. In the Report it read –

It was brought to the attention of the members present that the Crofters Commission are re-mapping the Burrastow Estate and that people have found that some of the details given on the maps enclosed with their correspondence is incorrect. If people receive maps, they should check them carefully to ensure that they are correct. The Land Court is to hold a public meeting in the Walls Hall in the summer time. Those present agreed that all involved should be made aware of the meeting’.

This error was brought to our attention when we received an email from Mr Bill Barron, Chief Executive, Crofting Commission saying they had received some communication from concerned crofters in Shetland. They would like to reassure us that The Crofting Commission is not conducting a reorganisation process at Burrastow Estate and have not issued any correspondence nor maps to crofters there. However, if any crofters have concerns, they are always most welcome to contact the Crofting Commission customer service team on 01463 663439.

What the report should have said is:-

‘It was brought to the attention of the members present that the Solicitors for the laird of the Burrastow Estate are conducting a rent review. The Solicitors had to submit maps of the Estate to the Land Court who then sent maps to some tenants. Any tenants who receive maps should check them for anything they think is wrong, missed or simply unclear to ensure that the information is correct. They should then raise any queries with the Solicitors or directly with the Land Court. They will also be able to get more information from the Solicitors or Land Court on what do do next’.

A letter of apology will be sent to Mr Barron at the Crofting Commission for this mistake which has caused so much confusion.

Re-imagining Burials in Shetland: A reply was received from the Burial Services Officer thanking the Community Council for the feedback which will be taken into consideration before their report is submitted to the Council.

Who stands for Council – Shetland Islands Council?: The event will be held in Lerwick Town Hall between 7pm and 8pm on Monday 19 June. The Chairman and Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser will attend.

Phones to block nuisance calls: Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser will contact Trading Standards for information regarding the phones.

Bin outside Eid shop: Consideration deferred until July meeting.

Unadopted Road applications: A number of applications were received. All applicants will receive a letter giving them details of the amounts granted to them for use before the end of November. As the amount of finance for this purpose is limited, the grants we can provide are small.

BOUNDARIES: A message was received from Mr Alistair Grant at Scottish Boundaries saying that they are undertaking the Second review of Scottish Parliament boundaries. This does not affect Shetland.

CAR PARK AT AITH GRAVEYARD: A message was received informing the members that the surface of the car park at the Aith graveyard is in a poor state. It is not only used when there are funerals and by those attending the weekly services in the Church but also by parents dropping off and picking up schoolchildren as it is the only safe place to do so, especially for those attending nursery.

A message will be sent to Mr Neil Hutcheson, Head of Roads and Mr Carl Symons, Executive Manager – Environment and Estate Operations giving them the details and requesting that this be investigated and remedied.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND – ROUND 3: Mr M Duncan sent on an email giving us the details of a new Community Ownership Fund prospectus ahead of a Round 3 which will open to main applications on 31 May 2023 and close at 11.59am on 12 July.

CROSS PARTY GROUP POVERTY INQUIRY: A press release was received from Ms Beatrice Wishart, MSP via Mr M Duncan in connection with a Cross Party Group poverty inquiry into rural poverty by the Cross Party Group (CPG) on Poverty and she is encouraging contributions from Shetland. More information about CPG Poverty can be found on the Scottish Parliament website and the Poverty Alliance website.

PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE FOR NEW FARM BILLY BAA IN NORTH SCALLOWAY: A message was received from Ms Rachel Greaves, Development Officer at Scottish Sea Farms, informing us of a new salmon farm development proposal they are considering in North Scalloway at the entrance to Sandsound Voe. This proposal is part of a wider plan to consolidate the number of consented farms in Scalloway to deliver a farming strategy of fewer larger farms. They are keen to receive initial thoughts on their proposal from the Community Council and community members before they progress further with this proposal. Neither of our members who live in the Tresta/Sandsound area were present but contact will be made with them to hear whether there are any objections.

INFORMATION: Several emails sharing information with the Community Council were received and noted.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 10 July 2023 at 7.30pm.