

**GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd JULY 2023
AT LAMBEAU, WICK, GULBERWICK AT 7.30PM**

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ.

B. PRESENT Mrs M Davis Mr E MacPherson Mr C Clark

EX OFFICIO

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs K Geddes

CHAIRPERSON Mr P Coleman

APOLOGIES Mrs P Christie Mr G Murray

NOT PRESENT

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs M Davis declared an interest in the Shetland Amateur Swimming Club SCBF application which will be referred to in the Grants section – 4. She used to be a member of the committee.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th May were approved on the motion of Mrs M Davis and seconded by Mr C Clark.

1. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

2. POLICE REPORT

A police report for April/May 2023 was available. There have been 11 incidents recorded for Gulberwick, Cunningburgh and Quarff, which can be summarised as follows:

Road Safety and Road Crime

- Dangerous Driving
- Road Traffic Collision
- Speeding

Acquisitive Crime

- Extortion
- Fraud (2)

Protecting Vulnerable People

- Concern for Person (3)

Other

- Drugs – Attempt to Possess

Members noted that the format of the report had slightly changed, with offences being grouped under headings now. This has been done in the past but it seems that the format of the report and the decision on which crimes are grouped together – or if at all – is taken by the author of the report, which can change due to staffing. It can make it difficult for members to compare and understand figures.

3. FINANCE

The bank statement on July 3rd reads £3,612.66.

There only transactions outwith the usual in the account are: the payment of the £143.88 Zoom annual subscription, the £30 payment for VAS Membership 2023/24 and two grants from 2022/23 - £1,008 to the SRT and £500 to the Air Cadets.

The clerk is waiting on final paperwork to meet the grant criteria for one remaining grant from last year.

We have been awarded our SIC grant funding but need to sign the paperwork before the money will be transferred.

ACTION: Chair to sign paperwork for SIC grant funding and clerk to send it to Michael Duncan.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS

GQC CC Applications

There were no new grant applications for the Community Council.

SCBF Applications

There were two new Shetland Community Benefit Fund Applications to consider and extra information from Ness Football Club following their request for £250 towards new kit and goals.

Members asked for more detail about how many members from GQ&C make up the football club membership club, especially as the Dunrossness CC funds have been spent for the year so no funding is coming from there. The club replied that currently they have 164 junior/senior players of which 40 reside in Gulberwick, Quarff or Cunningsburgh, which equates to just over 24%.

Members agreed to award the full £250 requested to the football club.

An application from Shetland Amateur Competitive Swimming Club for £550 towards pool Hire was discussed and members agreed to support with the full application. Members commented that it is unfortunate that not all Community Councils who will have swimmers attending the club have been approached to contribute, though it is likely to be because all of the funds have already been committed elsewhere. This means that some Community Councils are funding Shetland-wide applications whilst others are only awarding funds to projects which directly support their own community.

An application from Shetland Canoe Club asking for £336.64 towards sea kayaks and kayak cags was discussed. Members agreed to award the full amount requested, and were impressed that the club had indicated they were using their own funds to cover the costs for the members living in Lerwick and Dunrossness as these Community Councils are no longer accepting applications this year.

ACTION: Clerk to complete SCBF grant application paperwork and award the CC grants via online transfers.

5. ROAD ISSUES/CAMPAIGN FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS

There are no updates.

6. GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATE

There have been no recent meetings of the group that aims to try to push forward development ideas for the Community Council area. There are a few things happening in the background and as soon as there is anything to update it will be shared with all CC members.

There was some general discussion about the group and members agreed that it needed to be kept separate, but supported by Community Council. More members are needed and a wider-pool of expertise for the members too.

ACTION: It was agreed to hold a meeting after the summer break and use it as an opportunity to attract new members.

7. ASSOCIATION OF SHETLAND COMMUNITY COUNCILS MEETING

The ASCC met on June 13th in the Town Hall and Mr MacPherson attended so was able to give an update.

He said that more than half of the evening was taken up by the presentation about the analogue to digital switchover by BT/Openreach. An expert from south was speaking and went into a lot of detail about what would be happening, and answered some great questions from those attending. It seems like there is a timetable 'close to set in stone' for the switchover to happen just before Christmas 2025.

The main issue which came up during the presentation was that there are a couple of dozen products and applications which 'hang off' the current analogue system and which will not work when the switchover to digital happens – this includes door bells and the red buttons which people use as part of the home care system. They need to come up with solutions as to how they are going to replace it and these solutions have not yet been figured out.

Other ideas discussed were having generator back-ups for mobile tower masts and doing a resilience test before we come to rely on it.

Mr MacPherson introduced one of the topics on the night – concerns about the negative impact that a Shetland Way Hiking Path could have on wildlife, crofts and farms, bio-security, littering and already struggling accommodation and travel arrangements. He had hoped that he could discuss his concerns and if others were in agreement, the ASCC as a whole could decide on action to take. No action was decided on, mainly because VisitScotland's Steve Mathieson was also in attendance and used the visit as an opportunity to give their response on the evening. Mr Mathieson attempted to dismiss many of the concerns raised, saying that by having a designated route things could be better controlled and set-up.

He also said that it was just at feasibility study stage and that the figures they'd quoted of 600,000 would actually include only 12,000 new visitors over the course of ten years. Mr MacPherson said that if all of these 600,000 were suddenly to start heading to the hills he estimated that in summer months that would be 1,500 people through the hills every week, and that this number could cause significant issues.

He said no thought had been given to the provision of facilities for these walkers – toilets, showers etc, and that there was still no answer to the issue of lack of accommodation and travel which is already causing huge problems for islanders.

In local press Mr Mathieson was quoted as saying: "I don't think we can stop marketing Shetland as a tourism destination because we have transport issues. I think we have to look at it the other way round and solve our transport issues in the first place."

8. COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME REVIEW UPDATE

The review into the way that Shetland Community Councils are run is being put out for further consultation and the clerk will send on any paperwork or information as soon as it becomes available.

Members asked the clerk to send out the document with the initial comments gathered from all Community Councils as they were interested in seeing that again. They can also take the opportunity to clarify any of the comments they put in or to add more to them. Everyone agreed that emphasising the need for more power for Community Councils was important to attract more members, and ensuring there is a separate pot of funding for clerk's wages is important as the grant money for communities should not be eaten up by administration costs.

ACTION: Clerk to send out comment document again. Members to add or clarify comments as they see fit.

9. DISCUSSION ABOUT ROLE OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The June/July meeting was to be the meeting where the Chair and Vice Chair would be able to discuss whether they felt they wanted to carry on in the roles after they had both had a period of settling into them.

As not all Community Councillors were present it was agreed to postpone this discussion until the August meeting, or the next meeting when all members are present.

ACTION: Clerk to find out if all Community Councillors are able to attend the August meeting and move it a week or two if necessary to allow full attendance.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications to consider.

11. AOCB

1. New Members

It was suggested that inviting the local schools to put a teacher representative to the Community Council meeting may be a good idea. It was thought that this would be welcomed by members, but may be unachievable with current teacher workload.

Other options were discussed – again inviting young people, perhaps studying Modern Studies, to come on board. Also having themed meetings and using these as an opportunity to invite guest speakers, experts or relevant council officials along.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate different options – approaching both schools and Michael Duncan for his thoughts.

2. Climate Change

Adding Climate Change to the agenda was discussed but no decision was made.

ACTION: Clerk to look at whether a Climate Change theme for a meeting might be an option.

3. Active Travel

There was information in the local press warning about how some money for footpaths may need to be handed back to the government as the projects are already at risk of not being completed in time. [Will some footpath funding need to be handed back? | Shetland News \(shetnews.co.uk\)](https://www.shetnews.co.uk/news/2023/07/20/will-some-footpath-funding-need-to-be-handed-back/) Members wanted to find out what is going on.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Active Travel officers at the SIC to seek more information on the timescales of the paths and on whether they are likely to be met.

4. Path Clearing

The Heathery Park path was almost completely cleared of overgrowth last summer and members discussed whether it needed revisiting as planned.

There have been no complaints or requests from members of the public for the work to happen again and it was agreed that there may be other paths in a worse state within the Community Council area.

ACTION: Clerk to see if there is another path which needs clearing using the Facebook page.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Wednesday 23rd August 2023.
Meeting Ends – 8.30 pm.

CHAIR

11. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

None at present.