

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 10 July 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest	Mrs J Fraser
	Mrs S Deyell	Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser
Ex-Officio:	Cllr M Robinson	
By invitation:	Neil Hutcheson, Head of Roads	
In attendance:	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr Neil Hutcheson had come along to discuss the roads in our area.

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

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, seconded by Mrs J Fraser.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Road Matters:** The Chairman thanked Mr N Hutcheson for accepting our invitation to attend the meeting.

Road past Garderhouse: Mr N Hutcheson explained that the tenders for the second phase of this stretch of road are due back on 2 August and it is hoped that the contractor will be on site by mid August. The road will be closed at times, similar to what happened during Phase 1. They hope to be able to improve the passing places at the same time. When asked how long this project will take he replied that it will possibly be 7-9 months.

Brig at Burn of Lunklet: Mr N Hutcheson said that a contractor has been approved and this work is to be next on the contractor's list.

Surface Dressing: All the surface dressing for this area for 22-23 has been carried out.

Re-surfacing: Not much road surfacing is required this year in this area.

Creating passing places: When asked about creating passing places, Mr N Hutcheson said that extra passing places are not normally created except for when they are required as a safety issue. It was explained that one is required between Aithsness and Vementry and he agreed to arrange an inspection of the area.

Hole developing on the Sandsound road: A hole is developing on the road below Southill in Tresta. Mr N Hutcheson agreed to inspect this site on his way home.

Smiley Face signs: Two sets of signs are available for the whole of Shetland but only one person is in charge of them which stifles the turnaround.

Active Travel in Aith: A grant, through this scheme, has been approved for the path past the football pitch to the Leisure Centre and school. The bigger scheme will be funded by Sustrans and should be available next year.

The Scottish Government will also be providing an Active Travel Transformation Fund soon.
Aith Graveyard car park: Patching will be carried out in the near future with any re-surfacing to be on next year's list.

'SLOW' markings on road near Cake Fridge: Not yet provided but Mr Hutcheson will remind the roadmen about it.

White lining: Mr N Hutcheson was informed about the area on the Vementry Road which does not have white lines. He said that this area would be added to next year's list.

The Chairman thanked Mr N Hutcheson for attending and said we appreciate him taking the time to visit and for providing so much information. Mr Hutcheson then left.

Shetland Amenity Trust Properties: A message had been received from Ms Hazel Sutherland saying that the Camping Bod at Skeld is not a listed building.

Police Report: The April/May Police Report had been received and circulated to the members.

Broadband: Nothing to report.

Mobile: Nothing further.

Questions for Viking Energy (VE): The next Liaison meeting will be held on 18 July. A message will be sent asking when the next site visit will be held.

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.

This was again discussed and it was decided that, as we have very little funds remaining and the group is Shetland-wide, we will have to turn down their request.

A further application was received:- Application No 180428 – Shetland Canoe Club to purchase boats and tops. Unfortunately, the above comment also applies to this application and it will be refused.

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

Finance: Core funding: The Core Funding grant has been received.

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

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

Association: The Chairman had attended the Association meeting and gave a report.

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

Re-imagining Burials in Shetland: A Shetland-wide review is taking place.

Who stands for Council – Shetland Islands Council?: The Chairman and Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser had attended the meeting and gave a report.

Phones to block nuisance calls: Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser had contacted Trading Standards. She had been informed that call blockers are available from their Dept and that details had been posted on their Facebook page on 27 April. Mrs S Deyell agreed to look for the details and add it to the Community Council Facebook page.

Bin outside Eid shop: Consideration deferred until next meeting.

Unadopted Road applications: Applicants have received the details of their allocations which must be used by 30 November and the grant claimed by 31st December 2023.

Pre-application advice for new farm Billy Baa in North Scalloway: The Clerk had received a phone call from Mr Mark Steward, Development Manager, Scottish Sea Farms, who said that he is willing to speak to anyone or a group of folk to discuss the proposal. It is hoped that some of the public who are most affected by the proposal will be in contact with him.

PLANNING APPLICATION: The following planning application was considered and no objections were raised:-

2023/011/MAR To extend the existing Slyde mussel farm (Planning Permission Refs: SFA/ZET/096 & 2019/009/MAR) by siting a new group of 5 x 330m twin-headline longlines at the southern end of the existing farm and to relinquish the adjacent East Burrafirth mussel farm (Planning Ref: SFA/ZET/087) at Slyde/East Burrafirth, Aith Voe by Richard Tait.

SHETLAND AMENITY TRUST (SAT) TRUSTEE: A message was received from Mr M Duncan saying that SAT are on the lookout for new trustees. This information had been circulated to the members.

LACK OF EVENTS ORGANISED FOR OVER 60s: Correspondence was received asking why there is nothing organised for the over 60s in this area. The Sandsting & Aithsting Over 65s Committee has not functioned since the Covid pandemic started. An enquiry will be sent to the Chairman of the Committee at that time to find out whether the committee is still operational.

VISITOR LEVY: A message was received from Ms Kate Smith, Community Participation Specialist at the Scottish Parliament saying that the Scottish Government has proposed a new law which would allow authorities to introduce an additional charge when someone pays for overnight accommodation – Visitor Levy Bill. They are organising community engagement and support on this to ensure that people have the chance to share their views.

The members discussed the proposed levy but felt that it would need to apply to all visitors, including cruise ship passengers, to help to provide infrastructure for everyone, e.g public toilets, throughout Shetland.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES: It was agreed that this Community Council will start a winter campaign to suggest what facilities are required should there be bad weather again in the winter. It was suggested that leaflets should be distributed to all households giving details of what they may require. This will be discussed at our September meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 11 September 2023 at 7.30pm.