

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Minutes of hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7 pm based at the Walls Hall

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)
F MacBeath (Vice Chair)
J Laing
E Johnston

1. Chairman's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present and noted that, regrettably, owing to problems being encountered with the Hall's internet it was not possible for Members to join remotely. He went on to state that with four elected Members being present, the meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies

J Haswell, R Fraser, M Forrest, C Venus, J Puckey, M Macgregor, S Johnston, Cllr L Peterson

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

3. Declarations of Interest

None were made at this time.

4. Police Report

No new report was available for this meeting.

5. Minutes from 7.11.23

The adoption of the Minutes of 7th November 2023 was proposed by F MacBeath and seconded by E Johnston.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 18.1 of 8/23 Feeder Bus Service to Sandness

The Clerk informed the Members that he had sent a follow-up email to the Transport and Operations Manager on the 9th November but that he had not yet received a response. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive's office regarding the failure of an official to respond to a Community Council email.

Action: The Clerk to email the Chief Executive's office to state that a Community Council email had yet to receive a response.

Re:14.1 of 8/22 Defibrillator for West Burrafirth Pier

A discussion regarding how to fund replacement parts for defibrillators took place. It was agreed to make further enquiries into this matter. It was also agreed to check to find out if the defibrillator has been installed at the West Burrafirth Ferry waiting room.

Re: 16.3 of 11/23 Proposed Communications Mast at the Black Wart in Walls

It was noted that work on this project is progressing well and that the communications tower has now been erected. It is hoped that it will be functional early next year.

Re: 16.1 of 11/23 Request for a Crane to be installed on the Walls Pier to be used by the Foula Ferry operators

The Clerk stated that he had not yet received a response on this matter.

7. Housing

7.1 Social Housing in Central Walls

J Laing provided a verbal update on the progress being made on the Forratwatt site. He indicated that some deep drainage trenches had been dug.

Re: 7.2 of 6/23 Council Owned Land Adjacent to Kirkidale, Walls

The Chair stated that Cllr Peterson had been told that the best way forward for the development of the land adjacent to Kirkidale would be for the local community to form a development group and for them to organise the construction of houses on the site. Members were unanimous in their opposition to this proposal especially in view of the fact that it appears that other housing developments in other areas of Shetland are not going to have similar demands made of them. It was decided to write to the most appropriate Local Authority Department expressing the Members' views and to find out if any other housing developments in Shetland are built and run by development groups or is it the Hjaltland Housing Association who manage this. The Clerk was asked to find out which department he should contact.

Action: The Clerk to email Cllr Peterson to find out to whom a letter should be addressed.

7.2 Car Parking at Stove Cottages in Walls

The Chair referred to an email from Grant Gilfillan, Team Leader, Housing Asset Service, in which he stated that the Housing Department would be unable to provide additional car parking bays for the residents of Stove Cottages in Walls. He referred the Members to the Roads Department given that road safety is a matter for them. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Gilfillan to ask about the Law and Parking. He was also asked to email Neil Hutcheson regarding cars being parked on pavements outside Stove Cottages and on the brow of a hill.

**Actions: 1 – The Clerk to email Grant Gilfillan to ask about the law and parking at Stove Cottages.
2. The Clerk to email Mr Neil Hutcheson expressing the Members' concerns over vehicles being parked on the brow of a hill and on the pavement. Cllrs Peterson and Robinson to receive copies.**

8. Roads

In an email to the Members, J Puckey expressed the following roads related concerns:

- That the railings on the bridge (locally known as the White Brig) at the head of the Voe by the Fogrigarth Junction in West Burrafirth should be painted white to

improve their visibility when it is dark. It was also suggested that reflectors at either end of the railings would improve road safety.

- Three cattle grids on Papa Stour were identified in a roads survey as being in need of a clean out and a fourth one needs to be replaced

The Clerk was asked to notify the Roads Department of these issues.

Actions: The Clerk to email the roads department to request the improvements to the White Brig and the Papa Stour cattle grids as listed above.

9. West Mainland Digital Community Project

The contents of an email from M Macgregor regarding the progress being made on a bid to extend fibre optic cabling to properties on the West Mainland was read and discussed. The optimistic tone of the email was noted. M Macgregor stated she will provide a further update at the January meeting.

10. Future of Health Service Provision at the Walls Health Centre.

The forthcoming meeting with Community Council Members and a team from the Health Board was discussed. Given that the proposed date clashes with the Lerwick Up-Helly-Aa, the Clerk was asked to see if the meeting could be rescheduled for Thursday 1st February instead.

Action: The Clerk to email Jo Robinson to see if the date of the meeting can be changed from Tuesday 30th January 2024 to Thursday 1st February 2024.

11. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

The contents of an email from the Admin Officer for the SCBF were noted regarding the fact that drawing down of funds from future years is no longer possible.

12. Review of Community Councils

After a brief discussion regarding Community Council Boundaries, the Chair felt it would be useful to have an indication as to which of the options the people of Foula most favoured. The Clerk offered to make some enquiries.

Action: The Clerk to discuss the matter with Foula residents.

13. December 2023 Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting

The Chair indicated that much of this meeting was to be dedicated to discussions concerning the options for boundaries for Community Council wards.

14. Facebook Page for S&WCC

E Johnston stated that considerable interest was being shown in the page and that positive feedback had been received. Members expressed their thanks to him for the work he is doing with the page.

15. Financial Update

The Clerk stated that until all end of year unadopted roads receipts had been received, it would not be possible to make any more grant payments for the current financial year.

16. Correspondence (including emails)

A request from the Walls and District Agricultural Society for a letter of support towards the construction of an additional shed on the Walls Show field was approved unanimously.

Action: The Clerk to draft a letter of support in favour of the construction of an additional shed on the Walls Show field.

17. AOCB

17.1 Electric Ferry Trials for Papa Stour

J Puckey alerted the meeting via email that the Shetland Times had carried a press release stating that it is intended to carry out trials of an electric ferry on the Papa Stour run. J Puckey has advised both Westside Councillors of the press release.

17.2 Locality Profiles

The Chair provided feedback regarding a public meeting that had been held in the Aith Hall regarding the Community Council Review and Locality Profiles. He shared the documentation on Locality Profiles with the Members. These

profiles were regarded by the Members as being of limited value.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Given the first Tuesday in January is a public holiday and that the Clerk will be on holiday on the second Tuesday the date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 16th January at the Walls Public Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.