



TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Tingwall Community Hall on Wednesday 20th September 2023

1.0 Present:

Andrew Archer (Chair)	Moraig Lyall
Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)	Ian Scott
Margaret Cooper	Davie Sandison
Neil Leask	
Birgit Wagner	
John Clarkson	
Paul Stevens (Clerk)	

2.0 Apologies:

Martin Randall, Catherine Hughson, Angela Sutherland, Rosalyn Fraser, Michael Duncan.

3.0 Declarations of Interest:

Linda Tulloch declared an interest in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, Andrew Archer in decisions for the SCBF, John Clarkson in matters relating to Viking, and Davie Sandison for planning.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Neil Leask and seconded by Margaret Cooper, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th August 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Wormadale crash barriers: There had been no response for the email to Neil Hutcheson on 22/08. The CC's understanding was that the work was to have been included in the 2022 SIC budget.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to email Neil Hutcheson again.
 - Fallen passing poles: A reply from Grant Anderson stated that the work had been carried out, with repairs made to "approx. 20 signs" in the area.
→ ACTION: Members to email the Clerk if they spot any more that need attention.
 - Planned or possible policy changes regarding speeding on Laxfirth Road: no reply from Roads had yet been received. Moraig Lyall reported that the SIC Environment and Transport Committee had, in its meeting last Monday, requested a report to council re. a Shetland-wide plan for speeding policy.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to email Roads again.
 - Defibrillator pads: Andrew Archer had emailed Lynette Smith, informing her that spare pads were available if needed for the Strom Park defibrillator.
 - Update on Local Development Plan: Robert Portman had replied saying that a new timetable was being worked out. Once finalised, they will compile a Development Plan Scheme and associated
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Participation Statement, and will be in touch with all CCs as part of that process.

- Dale track: the CC comments had been submitted. Martin Randall had contacted Andrew Archer with the information that the track is the second oldest road in Shetland, after which Andrew contacted Thea Groat, who confirmed that there is an archaeological clerk of works assigned to the project. Subsequently, a letter was received from John Holden saying that SSE had withdrawn the proposal and was considering alternatives. Andrew then contacted Thea again, who said that SSE are revising their construction plans in light of the objections but that no details were available yet.
- Whiteness 50mph signs: There had been no response to the CC's email sent on 22/08. Moraig Lyall suggested that the signs might have been delayed due to the need for a power connection.
→ ACTION: the Clerk to contact Roads for a progress update.
- SAT car removal scheme: The Shetland Amenity Trust had kindly responded with the relevant information. The car removal process is [via a request form](#) which can only be filled out by the registered keeper of the vehicle. The typical timescale for action is approximately 4-6 weeks and there is no consideration of variance due to scrap value of the car. In cases where the registered keeper is unknown or unwilling to take action, abandoned vehicles can be reported to [SIC Environmental Health](#) to investigate and arrange for disposal.

6.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

7.0 Police Report

There was no report this month.

8.0 Finance

- The Financial Report, updated to 13th August 2023, was distributed to members.
- A request from the Whiteness and Weisdale Welfare Committee for the CC to pay for the local poppy wreaths (£68.40) was approved.
→ ACTION: The Clerk to inform the WWWC and arrange payment.

9.0 Correspondence

- Drew Anderson had phoned Andrew Archer to say that, while driving up the A970, he had noted that the new track construction for the power cable works was close to a Leper's grave (south of Girlsta, simply marked by 2 stones). He stopped to inform the workers. Andrew had contacted SSE to ask them to make sure that all necessary personnel were informed. SSE replied, thanking Drew and saying that everybody on site was being informed about the grave's location and that it would be temporarily fenced off while construction takes place.
- Eileen Brooke-Freeman at the Shetland Amenity Trust had contacted Andrew Archer re. Nesbister Böd. Due to a lack of water supply and sewerage issues, this can no longer be used as a self-catering venue. As the Böd is leased from a private individual, SAT will contact the owner to discuss potential future use (e.g., as an interpretive centre). Moraig Lyall suggested that the Mountain Bothies Association might be interested in the building as bothies are simple shelters which do not typically have water or electricity.
→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to contact Eileen about the Mountain Bothy Association idea.

10.0 Planning

There were three new planning applications to be considered:

- 2023/183/PPP East of Rocklea, South Whiteness
 - 2022/299/DCON1 Hatchery Bookshop Brig Weisdale
 - 2021/277/DCON1 Track Between Setter and Muckle Scord (FOR INFO ONLY)
 - ACTION: Clerk to respond "No comment" to 2023/183/PPP and 2022/299/DCON1.
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11.0 Viking

- CC site visit: poor weather conditions did not allow much of the site to be seen, especially as SSE arrangements only allowed viewing from a bus. Neil Leask thought that the reseeding efforts that they saw at the North Nesting site were very limited, being restricted to the road side and not any further back. Andrew Archer highlighted that a specific request had been made to view the West side of the site, but that this did not happen as that part was not accessible to the provided bus. SSE had now offered another visit for a smaller group to visit the west side of the site in 4x4s. Several people were interested and Andrew agreed to contact SSE to try to arrange a date.
 - Moraig Lyall had been contacted by a local resident who was concerned on observing generators being placed in the wind turbines. Inquiries found that these are temporary, used to provide light, heat, etc. for the site workers, and for maintenance until the turbines are in action.
 - Birgit Wagner highlighted the very apparent lights on sixteen of the turbine blade tips which had not been mentioned in the planning application, and was concerned about a visual 'flicker' effect once the blades are rotating.
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12.0 Footpaths

- The Win Furt AGM will be held on Monday 25th September at 7:30pm, at the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
 - Landowner discussions are now coming to an end. Issues highlighted included: worries about dogs being let off leashes near stock; a dislike of fenced paths that would bisect fields; concerns about accessibility issues (e.g., level paths) being hard to accommodate on the available land; delays due to probate. The possible options for paths will be put to CC area residents to vote on their preferred choices.
 - John Clarkson suggested purchasing and donating more all-terrain wheelchairs to Ability Shetland might be one way of improving accessibility where hard paths are not possible.
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13.0 SCBF

- Angela Sutherland had sent in an update, which had been circulated to members.
 - Reply re. Mossy Hill. Ian Scott reported that Scalloway CC had discussed this at their meeting last Monday, and would like to talk with TWWCC about this.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer to contact the Scalloway CC Clerk saying Members are happy for any benefits to be administered via the SCBF but would want better terms than the Viking wind farm deal.
 - 180445 Shetland Ladies' Netball Association £400: While similar requests have been declined in the past, it was recognised that current circumstances had changed (cost of living issues and widespread funding cuts). Two people from the CC are would benefit, and it was understood that
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Individual sponsorship is also being undertaken from local businesses. Members therefore approved the full amount.

→ ACTION: The Clerk to inform Eleanor Gear.

14.0 Roads

- Cott Road resurfacing: a meeting had been held between SSE and the residents of the Cott Road. It was agreed that SIC will resurface most of Cott Road next year, with the majority of costs to be covered by SSE.
- Incident between runner and truck on the Stromfirth Road 07/09/23: Andrew Archer had been contacted by a friend who, while out running, had heard a fast-moving Tulloch's truck approaching and needed to leap off the road to avoid it. She had phoned Tullochs and it is understood that their drivers are now instructed to not use this road.
- Hole in road at top of Wormadale Hill: a local resident contacted Andrew about a pot hole at the top of the hill, coming from the Weisdale direction. Andrew mentioned it to Colin Gair at the Cott Road meeting and it is now fixed.
- Moraig Lyall reported an additional pothole on the road that turns up towards Laxfirth. She will send Andrew the *What3Words* coordinates. Linda Tulloch reported that, on the Dale Road (coming from Tingwall towards the Brig of fetch), the surface has worn away to form water-filled ruts, possibly a sign of wear from windfarm traffic.

→ ACTION: Andrew will enquire about section 96 arrangements for the A970 at next month's VCLG.

15.0 Councillors' Reports

- Davie Sandison wished to highlight that the SIC Education and Families Committee now had the report on Tingwall School, which was a mix of 'satisfactory' and 'good' ratings. Davie was happy to see the positive changes and noted that this related to the first six months of the new headteacher being in post. The report also noted that there were capacity issues, especially in light of plans for future new housing in the area. Moraig Lyall said that there were plans for extra space for ASN students, which Davie welcomed as he and Catherine Hughson had noted the lack of accessibility of the back room used for ASN on a previous visit. Other council business had been mostly around budget issues.

[Davie left at this point]

- Moraig Lyall and Ian Scott reported that new SIC finance chief was now in place but it was not yet clear what the budgetary position would be for future capital projects, such as the Haggersta to Cova road improvements.
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16.0 AOCB

None.

17.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 18th October 2023, at Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
