

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 28 August 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest Mrs L Johnson
Mrs S Deyell J Abernethy
J D Garrick
In attendance: Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Jim Nicolson from Aith who had recently passed away. He moved to Aith in 1969 to become a teacher at Aith School and became Head Teacher in 2002.

Jim was Chairman of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council for 25 years from 1977 to 2002 and was also a prominent member of the community and involved in many groups. He will be sadly missed and condolences are extended to his wife, Rosabel, and all their family.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J Fraser, Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, 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 10 July 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mr J Priest.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Road Matters:** **Road past Garderhouse:** A message was received from Mr N Hutcheson saying that the contract for Garderhouse Phase 2 has been awarded to Tulloch Developments Ltd and that the start date on site has been set for 2 September. The members were pleased at this information.

Brig at Burn of Lunklet: Work not yet started but hope it will be soon.

Creating passing places: No further information about extra passing places.

Hole developing on the Sandsound road: It is hoped that this problem is now on the list to be remedied.

Smiley Face signs: The signs have not yet been erected in Aith.

Active Travel in Aith: Work on the path past the football pitch should be started soon.

Aith Graveyard car park: Members to check whether patching has been done.

'SLOW' markings on road near Cake Fridge: Not yet provided.

Signs indicating passing places: It was reported that some of the passing place signs on the single track roads in this area are not in place. This makes driving more difficult, especially for anyone not familiar with the roads and for tourists. A message will be sent to Mr N Hutcheson, Head of Roads, asking him to check this and remedy the problem.

Police: Report: The June/July Police Report had been received and circulated to the members.

Sextortion: Information about Sextortion was received from Police Scotland.

Broadband: Nothing to report.

Mobile: Nothing further.

Viking Energy (VE) Visit: A site meeting has been organised for 4 September and a number of members will attend.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): Advance Grant Scheme (AGS): A message was received from Mrs E Gear, Administration Officer giving details of what this scheme has been used for in this area. She says that since the AGS fund began in February 2021, this Community Council has supported 20 projects and awarded a total of £149,112.26 in funding. The final year of the AGS begins on 1 September 2023 where this Community Council will receive £50,000. It was interesting to see the list of what some of the funds has been used for.

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

Finance: Community Development Fund scheme: This grant will be received soon.

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

Association: The next Association meeting is to be held on 12 September.

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

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

Bin outside Eid shop: The problem with the bin has been resolved.

Unadopted Road applications: Some grants have been claimed.

Pre-application advice for new farm Billy Baa in North Scalloway: Mr J D Garrick has forwarded the views of some of the residents to the Scottish Sea Farms Development Manager. A drop-in engagement session is being organised.

Lack of events organised for over 60s: Not yet received information about Over 60s Committee.

Visitor Levy: The call for views on this subject has been extended to 15 September. The members agreed that the levy should apply to all visitors, including cruise ship passengers, to help to provide infrastructure for everyone, e.g. public toilets throughout Shetland. These comments will be forwarded.

Community Facilities: To be discussed at our next meeting.

CYCLING TOURISM FACILITIES FUND: Details of the Cycling Tourism Facilities Fund were received.

CONNECTIONS: A message was received from Mr Sean Harnett, Support Worker, Anchor for Families, saying he has recently started work at Anchor for Families and covers the Westside of Shetland. They are a support service looking to engage with families that are struggling with the cost of living for example. Sometimes it's as simple as signposting them to taking a more hands on if needed. They are a low level support service and want to bring a positive change for families that they work with. He has the use of a portacabin at Aith school and is there every Friday from 930 to 1130 for face to face meetings with families. He offers to attend one of our meetings.

It was agreed to invite him to our next meeting.

RNID: Ms Natasha Hamilton works for the charity organisation RNID who are setting up a new voluntary service on the Shetland Isles funded by the Scottish government to support those who are deaf, have hearing, or tinnitus, and to provide aftercare on their NHS hearing aids. They are looking to recruit a team of volunteers to support with this service within the community. They have a number of opportunities that are available, more details can be found on their website – rnid.org.uk.

CAB: An invitation to the AGM of Shetland Citizens Advice Bureau on 20 September was received.

EID COMM COMMUNITY CO-OP: An enquiry was received from the Eid Community Co-op regarding financial assistance towards a number of items which are required for the Co-op. A reply had been sent explaining that we have limited funds and, in recent years, have only considered financial applications in the latter quarter of the financial year. A suggestion was made that they contact our Community Involvement & Development Worker to check whether they would qualify for any other funds.

NEW VOLUNTEERING AWARDS: A message was received from Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) giving details of two new awards for volunteering – Willin Haands Award for Adults 26 and over and Peerie Trows Award for children aged 11 and under. The nominations for this year closes on 15 September.

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON CROFTING APPLICATIONS PROCESS: Mr M Duncan forwarded a Community Update saying that the Crofting Commission has identified several ways that they can improve efficiencies and process for applications and notifications that are sent to the Crofting Commission. These will come into effect from 1 September onwards. The first efficiency is the way in which they process incomplete applications. From 1 September they will be allowing applicants and their agents one opportunity to provide them with the missing information they have requested or to resolve mapping issues, within 28 days. While it is acceptable to ask for a reasonable extension period or request additional guidance, if no response is received, the case will be closed as incomplete.

If the case is closed, it will be necessary for applicants to resubmit the application and a new case number will be allocated. It may also be necessary for the resubmitted application to be re-advertised, but parties will be contacted if this is necessary.

It is therefore in the interests of all applicants and their agents to familiarise themselves with the requirements of each application type before applying, to avoid case closure and preventable delays.

Where possible, they encourage applicants and their agents to submit applications via their Digital Online Portal which minimises the submission of an incomplete application.

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