

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 9 October 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest Mrs S Deyell Mrs J Fraser	Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser J Abernethy
Ex-Officio	Cllr L Peterson Cllr M Robinson	
In attendance:	Sgt David Carmichael Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Johnson, Ms D Nicolson and Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mr J Priest.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Police Matters:** Sgt D Carmichael introduced himself and then gave details of the July/August Police Report. He informed the members that the Number Plate Recognition vehicle is to be in Shetland soon for more than 2 weeks and added that they are presently having a recruitment drive locally. The members were pleased to learn that the desk at the Police Station is now manned more often and that a doorbell has been installed to alert those within the Station that someone is at the door instead of people having to call a number on the mainland. Concern has been expressed about scams and also the fact that personal information is being collected by scammers and sold on line. The members informed Sgt Carmichael that the residents in the Bixter area are concerned about the speed of some traffic passing Bixter and have organised a petition. Also that the Smiley Face signs are presently on site in the Bixter area.

Road Matters: **Road past Garderhouse:** Tulloch Developments have started Phase 2 of the Garderhouse roadworks and are making good progress. They hope to have it completed by Christmas.

Brig at Burn of Lunklet: Information was received from Cllr Peterson that the contractors who have taken on this repair have been delayed at their previous job but should start work on this project by the end of October.

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

Hole developing on the Sandsound road: Have not yet confirmed whether this problem has been remedied.

Smiley Face signs: The signs have not yet been erected in Aith but, as stated above, they are presently located at Bixter.

Active Travel in Aith: Work on the path past the football pitch in Aith has been completed.

Aith Graveyard car park: Patching here has been done.

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

Signs in Aith indicating passing places: A reply was received from Mr N Hutcheson, Executive Manager – Roads saying that he has asked their Streetlighting engineer, Mervyn Smith, to arrange for the missing signs to be replaced. He is also responsible for the traffic sign maintenance so will arrange an inspection and place the required works order with their contractor.

Broadband: Nothing to report.

Mobile: Nothing further.

Viking Energy (VE) Visit: Some of our members attended a site visit on 4 September and found it interesting. However, the weather was not very good with poor visibility.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): Advance Grant Scheme (AGS): The following applications were considered and granted:-

180458 – Tresta Boating and Fishing Club to upgrade some of its facilities.

180464- Eid Community Co-op for heating, lighting and refrigeration.

A further application was received – 180460 – Westside Sharks Swimming Club. Deferred until next month as further information is required.

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

Finance: Community Development Fund scheme: Grant has now been received.

Funding: Various funding details have been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members.

Association: The Association meeting due to be held on 12 September was postponed till later in the year to fit in with the timing of the Community Council Scheme Review.

Extension to Garden (Bixter) Graveyard: Cllr L Peterson has sent a message requesting an update on this proposal.

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

Unadopted Road applications: Further grant claims received and will be paid.

Pre-application advice for new farm Billy Baa in North Scalloway: A Drop-in event had been held.

Lack of events organised for over 60s: Enquiries have been made but there appears to be no consolidated group at present in this area. However, the members would be pleased to hear from anyone who is willing to take it on.

Visitor Levy: An acknowledgement of our comments was received from Mr Alistair Stoddart, Senior Participation Specialist, Participation and Communities Team at the Scottish Parliament.

Connections: No reply from Mr Sean Harnett from Anchor for Families regarding attending our Community Council meeting.

Community Facilities: It was agreed that a check list of items should be made which would be required by all households to allow them to survive for 72 hours should there be problems with power cuts, etc this year. The list would be on the Community Council's Facebook page to allow residents to make sure that they have the essentials, e.g. analogue phone, etc. It will also include the details for the SEN website. Mrs S Deyell and Mrs J Fraser agreed to work on this.

COOKE AQUACULTURE PRE-APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT: A representative from Cooke Aquaculture had agreed to attend but did not turn up.

CC MEETING REPORT TO WAST OWRE NEWS, SHETLAND TIMES: The timing of when the Report is sent to Ms D Nicolson for inclusion in the West Owre News was discussed. It was agreed to keep the status quo.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME REVIEW: A message was received from Mr M Duncan giving a link to the Special Council meeting where the Review was discussed. Following that, Mr Duncan wrote to confirm that the Council has agreed to extend the current 2-year

Community Council term by up to 12 months and to commence the first phase of consultation. Phase one will focus on Community Council boundaries and composition and is due to commence later this month. He will be in touch again in due course with a further update regarding arrangements for the consultation process.

FINANCIAL HARM – SCAMS: Cllr L Peterson had forwarded a message regarding scams which she had received from Ms D Smith at SIC's Adult & Child Protection and it had been circulated to the members. Ms D Smith said that, as part of their work at Shetland Public Protection, they look at these sorts of issues. Part of this work is going out to community groups to deliver Scambusters Sessions. They are also in contact with local banks about any issues that they are aware of. Any group who would like them to visit to hold a Scambusters Session is asked to contact either Ms Dawn Smith or their Lead Officer, Ms Audrey Edwards.

FINANCIAL APPLICATION: A message was received from Ms Hannah Unwin saying she has set up Aith Rainbows and Brownies over the summer. She asks if we have any funds available towards the programme of activities for the term. Applications for grants from our funds will not be considered until after the New Year. A reply will be sent suggesting that she try Shetland Community Benefit Fund.

PLANNING APPLICATION: The following planning application was considered and approved:- 2020/242/PPF - Retrospective application for the construction of an access road to the telecommunication mast, The Dudd, North Gardie, Aith by EE Ltd.

WE SHINE BRIGHTER TOGETHER: Correspondence was received from Ms Emma Perring, Team Leader – Community Planning, saying that they are refreshing their 2022 cost-of-living campaign, We Shine Brighter Together, in anticipation of another difficult winter for many this year. She asks that we share the information on our Facebook page.

BIXTER HALL ACCOUNT: An account for £100 for the use of the Bixter Hall for meetings from April to August was received. It will be settled.

SHETLAND AMENITY TRUST REVIEW: A copy of the Shetland Amenity Trust's Annual Review for 2022/23 was received and noted.

SCOTTISH FORUM OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS: Correspondence was received from West Lothian Joint Forum of Community Councils saying they are planning to hold another online Scottish Conference. They urge that all Community Councils formally join the Scottish Forum.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 13 November 2023 at 7.30pm.