

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL ON TUESDAY, 12th December 2023 AT 7.45PM (WITH A TEAMS OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

James Rendall, Chair
Lucy Cummings
James Smythe

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Robert Thomson, SIC Elected Member
Dana Jamieson Police Scotland

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Carl Symons SIC

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th of November were circulated agreed. Proposed - Lucy Cummings, Seconded – James Smythe

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. Community Councils Review

4.1 Report from Association of Community Councils

Lucy reported from a meeting of the Association of Community Councils that she attended. Members didn't wish to comment on the areas that they didn't represent but were unanimous in recommending that the status quo remained.

They commented that:

- They had communication with each other when needed.
- There were no recruitment issues.

SIC had received on-line responses from 60 people. This was thought by the Fetlar members to be a small response.

4.2 Fetlar Community Council Response

Frances suggested a pros and cons approach to feedback.

1. Option 1 No Change

This is the preferred option as it is felt to be working.

2. Option 2 Create a single new Community Council for the small islands and no change to remaining 16 Community Councils.

All the small islands are different and distinct communities. Issues are different in each island. If this option was introduced there would be one representative from each island and the issues would be muddled and muddled.

3. **Option 3 Create a single new Community Council for the small islands and five new Community Councils matching mainland multi-member wards, retaining the Community Councils in Bressay, Whalsay, Unst and Yell. 10 Community Councils.**

Comments similar to the above applying to distinct mainland communities and sometimes there are conflicts between communities.

4. **Option 4 Create new Community Councils that match multi-member wards. 7 Community Councils.**

This would create a very small voice for all the islands and small mainland communities.

5. **Option 5 Create new Fair Isle and Foula Community Councils no change to existing other than changes to boundaries of Dunrossness and Sandness & Walls Community Councils. 20 Community Councils.**

It was felt that Fetlar Community Council did not have the right to comment on the Community Councils other than to say that they were aware that Fair Isle didn't want to change.

Lucy also reported from the Association of Community Councils that there was concern about losing parking availability as a consequence of the Lerwick Lanes Master Plan.

Chris clarified that consultants had been appointed and there was now an early consultation.

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/news/article/2580/early-consultation-opens-on-lerwick-lanes-masterplan>

5 Accounts 2022/23

The Inspected accounts were approved and signed by the Chair. Proposed by Lucy Seconded by James Smyth.

6 Ongoing Business

6.1 Community Maintenance Post

Chris has received a response from Carl Symonds as set out below.

- The fly tipping will be removed by Waste and Roads in due course but it likely won't be until next year.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the expansion of the Community Maintenance Handyperson role being PVG'd, including a wider (Yell) remit for grass cutting. This would make it economically viable for us to provide a better machine which can do more, reducing the need to send others to the North Isles.

The maintenance man has now spoken to their manager expressing concerns about role but with no clarity on extended role.

His Job Description is for 25 hrs but he is only doing 5 hrs.

With respect to the response as above the committee were strongly opposed to the idea that the post should become a 'Northern Isles' post when there is so much that could be done on Fetlar. For example, the role could include maintenance at the school and the Surgery,

It was agreed that:

- Carl Symonds should be invited to the next meeting.
- Robert will raise the concerns politically.
- Frances will include in the plan for Islands with Small Populations.
- Lucy and Juliet will talk to Roy about examples.

6.2 Nursing

Tim O'Dell has been offered the new role subject to references.
At present the Community Nurse is attending on Mondays.
There is no information about when the G.P is visiting Fetlar.

6.3 Fetlar Contingency Plan

Lucy has had discussions about emergency communication in the event of a power cut.
And the potential acquisition of VHF radios that work in line of sight.
The emergency committee hasn't met yet.
Frances has provided links to SIC to assist committees.
Lucy expects to bring an updated plan top the next meeting.

6.4 Fly Tipping

The fly tipping will be picked up in the New Year.
The Committee thought that this was example of something the maintenance man could have undertaken.

6.5 Tunnel Vision Fixed Links

Juliet attended a meeting on the 17th of November of the new Stakeholder Group. This will now meet at least every 6 months.
It is likely that any tunnels would be funded by the private sector with the support of low interest UK Government loans.
Juliet raised the issue of the ageing ferries and was assured that this concern is acknowledged and shared.
Robert informed that Ryan would now take on the link role.

6.6 Brough Lodge

It was noted that Chris had received an email from Remo Letrari of the European Heritage Project.

6.7 Network Resilience

The issues of network resilience are still being discussed including in Parliament by Alistair Carmichael. The problem is that the communication operators only must provide an hour of communication when there is a power failure.

7 Co-Options

Chris has advertised the Co-options vacancies by email and Facebook and so far has had no response.

8 Finance and Administration

Chris has contacted the bank to become a signatory and this is awaiting approval.
Chris was surprised that the only Committee Signatory was the Chair.
James Rendall informed that this had always been the case the Chair and the Clerk.

8.1 Invoices and Statement

It was agreed that all invoices should be presented to the committee for approval.
The invoices from VAS and the Clerk were approved and paid.

9 AOCB

9.1 Housing Policy

It was noted that there are vacant properties at Stakafletts and that two potential new residents had been declined for not meeting the criteria.
It was agreed to communicate diplomatically with an officer of the SIC housing department Anita Jamieson.
And to assert the need for a local housing policy.

9.2 Maintenance issues

It was agreed that:

- Chris would contact Fetlar residents to identify any maintenance issues on the islands especially those that could be undertaken by the Island Maintenance role.
- Chris would contact Bridgette to get the key for the Display Board at Tresta Beach so that it could be brought up to date.
- Chris would contact NHS Estates with respect to the clinic which is now looking shabby.

9.3 Helicopter Landing Sites

It was noted that the airstrip helicopter landing site is not reasonably accessible in the event of inclement weather.

The coastguard will evaluate alternative sites including.

- The car park at Funzie Loch.
- The open space behind the Ferry Terminal.

9.4 Hedgehogs

It was noted that the new cattle grid was not safe for Hedgehogs as no escape routes had been provided for.

9.5 Community Hall Turbine

It was noted that the new roof planned for the Community Hall would allow for Solar Panel and the intention is that funding would be sought for these and to re-establish the Community Hall Turbine using existing pay in tariffs.

10. Date of Next Meeting

All the dates for 2024 were agreed. The third Tuesday of each month at 7.45 pm
The next being Tuesday January 16th 2024.