

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes subject to approval at next Community Council meeting

Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:	
CCLr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair	Robert Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RTH)
CCLr William Polson (WP) - Vice Chair	Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)
CCLr Gilbert Irvine (Gil)	Peter Henry (Whalsay Tunnel Group) PH
Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)	Edwin Irvine (Whalsay Tunnel Group)EI
	Neil Hutchinson – SIC via TEAMS
APOLOGIES	
CCLr Margaret Hughson (MH)	Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations SIC(AI)
Michael Duncan - Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)	Dana Jamieson - Police Scotland
Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT)	

MINUTE TAKER: Gina Irvine – WCC Clerk (GI)

WELCOME:

JL chaired meeting and welcomed all.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies noted

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JL asked if all were happy with minutes. WP approved, Gil seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

Current account was shared with members by clerk

RF asked for the accounts for Apr 2022- Mar 2023 to be officially approved and noted. This was approved by WP and seconded by Gil

ACTION: None

1. Whalsay Tunnel Action Group

JL welcomed Peter and Edwin to the meeting.

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PH informed all the group set up which entails Peter Irvine as chairperson with two vice chairs Edwin Irvine and Laura Meier and Chris Maddison as company secretary was undertaken on 23rd October 2023 and currently there were 28 members. WTAG would be working closely with other similar groups such as Unst & Yell to keep up the momentum on the tunnel project as well as SIC and similar groups so that they are invited to all meetings concerning the forthcoming tunnel project. They would be looking at using previous studies, posting updates on social media and keeping WCC updated by sharing minutes. They would be releasing press releases along with other tunnel groups.

RF – suggested posting minutes and any meetings at the local shops as well. Also, mentioned the forthcoming meeting at the Town Hall on 17th Nov and suggested contacting Louise Shearer to ensure that WTAG on their mailing list and get invited to meetings pertaining to the Tunnel Project.

RTH – discussed the Faroe trip and a forthcoming report from this trip to look out for. Forthcoming events being also organised by Zet Trans, MPs etc to look out for. Set up of a sounding board to make suggestions as well as express concerns so that project is not jeopardise and working closely with SIC and other groups to push forward the tunnel project. Past geological reports could potentially be used as in theory, there would not be any changes to them for business plan submissions.

WP- expressed concerns from the past when studies and consultations were conducted but the ferries was pushed forward rather than the tunnel project.

RTH – informed all that they were many changes within since last time and by working together with other groups, it would be more cost effective for the tunnel project to be considered as one rolling project rather than separate tunnel projects. As the tunnel project is being pushed forward by Westminster a thorough business case was needed to be put forward.

PH – discussed fundraising for the group to undertake studies etc was well received by the community therefore showing support within the community for the tunnel project to go ahead.

ACTIONS: WTAG and RTH to send regular updates

2. ROADS , FENCE AT DUMP , STREETLIGHTS CYCLE & WALKING PATHS

NH - discussed the following agreed works had been designated to George to commence works as soon as possible:

- Re-positioning of bus shelters
- Wild Garden – new walking path

Asked for any feedback about the recent surface dressing work that was undertaken.

GI – asked about timescales for removal of signs from surface dressing

WP – asked about North Voe and the pot holes beyond the ferry terminal

NH – informed all that North Voe was scheduled for 2024 with paths joining up put forward. Excess signage would be removed. Port and Harbours would be contacted for the pot holes

ACTION – Clerk to follow up

3. POLICE MATTERS

No police reports to share

JL – asked clerk to follow up on 4th night police cover

ACTION: Clerk asked to follow up

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

4. DENTIST

JL – asked clerk to find out why there was no dentist as promised.

RF – confirmed that due to shortage there was currently only two dentists in the whole of the Shetland Isle

ACTION: Clerk to follow up

5. FUNDING

Clerk informed all that donation for Whalsay Primary School was pending.

JL -suggested to contact Pauline for details. Reminded all that Participatory Budget Event needed to be organised before March 2024. Timescales proposed would be forms to be submitted by end of January 2024 with the event in February 2024- dates to be confirmed

WP – suggested each group receive £500

RF – recommended making the event not virtual but in person and using this event to meet and greet residents for WCC as well.

ACTION: Clerk asked to follow up

6. The Old Dock and Grieves House

Ongoing. Clerk confirmed no update for funding and progress from Hazel Sutherland

WP Reiterated that the area was in a worse condition and needed to be addressed again with SIC

ACTION: Clerk to follow up

7. FERRIES

JL thanked RTH and DA for their support for the new Festive Timetable for Whalsay

ACTION: Clerk to follow up with SIC.

8. NEWSLETTER

Rhea Kay to be tasked. Topics to include Participatory Budget, WCDG, Sign, Tunnel Group - on hold once new funds received.

ACTION Ongoing

9. Burial Grounds

WP – asked if SIC was looking at extending current burial grounds on Whalsay

DA – informed all that currently Whalsay was to remain as it is however others on Mainland there was not any clarity.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

10. Skips

Last skip to be organised in 2024 before March

11. BT Openreach

There was a discussion around homelinks and WCC asked if there was any clarity on how this would work?

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

RTH and DA – informed all that the new system is powered at both ends putting rural communities at risk and concerns have been raised to MP

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up with DA and RTH

RF – Informed all about the Community Council meeting on 14th November 2023

Meeting closed at 8.56pm

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 9th January 7pm, at Heritage Centre for locals and Teams for others considering joining.