

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 13 November 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest	Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser
	Mrs S Deyell	J D Garrick
	Mrs J Fraser	Mrs L Johnson
Ex-Officio	Cllr L Peterson	
	Cllr M Robinson	
In attendance:	Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker	
	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Abernethy, Mr M Duncan – Community Council Liaison Officer and PS Alan Patrick.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, seconded by Mrs J Fraser.

BUSINESS ARISING: Police Matters: Sgt A Patrick tendered his apologies but attached the August/September Police Report.

Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse: Members are very pleased to see that good progress continues to be made on this roadworks.

Brig at Burn of Lunklet: The contractor has not yet made a start on this repair. A note will be sent to Mr N Hutcheson, Head of Roads, enquiring as to what is the cause of the delay.

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.

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

Signs in Aith indicating passing places: Signs on roads in Aith not yet provided.

Broadband: Mr Alistair Carmichael MP and Ms Beatrice Wishart MSP are again hosting an in-person Northern Isles Digital Forum in Shetland on 17 November to discuss the critical issues and current status of connectivity in the isles. The Chairman hopes to attend.

Mobile: Nothing further.

Viking Energy (VE) Visit: Another VE visit will be held in future.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): Advance Grant Scheme (AGS): 180460 – Westside Sharks Swimming Club. Further information was received saying that, of the 50 Westside Sharks members, only 20 are resident in the Sandsting & Aithsting area. It was agreed to grant roughly 50% of the amount requested, i.e. £2,500 and trust that they will be able to raise the balance from some other source.

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 next Association meeting will be held on 7 December and Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser agreed to represent this Community Council.

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

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

Lack of events organised for over 60s: Not heard of anyone willing to take on the running of a Committee to organise events.

Community Facilities: Mrs J Fraser had received a list from SSE detailing essential requirements should there be power cuts. She had also prepared a list which the members felt appropriate. Mrs S Deyell and Mrs J Fraser will work on this and Mrs S Deyell will share it on the Community Council's Facebook Page. It was also felt that people should be aware of where their local Community Hub will be should the need arise.

Cook Aquaculture Pre-application engagement: Cooke Aquaculture organised a Pre-application engagement in the Aith Hall to give details of the off-shore salmon farm site they intend to apply for at Vementry. The members had been invited but only some of them had been available to attend. They found it very interesting and agreed that it is a good idea to have a pre-application engagement to allow the local people to hear what is planned and be able to make their comments if they wish. Some members of the public had attended.

Community Council Scheme Review: Phase One of the review is now open. A consultation pack containing the details was received and information about the review and a questionnaire and pre-paid envelopes was included. The members agreed that the Clerk should have the consultation pack. Details will be placed on Facebook informing the public that the items are available from the Clerk. The questionnaire contains 5 Options on the boundaries of the Wards, ranking the options, etc. The options are:-

Option 1- No change i.e. to retain status quo. (18 Community Councils).

Option 2 – create a single new Community Council for Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula, Papa Stour and Skerries. No change to remaining 16 Community Councils other than adjustments made to boundaries of Dunrossness and Sandness & Walls Community Councils.

Option 3 – create a single new Community Council for Fair Isle, Fetlar, Foula, Papa Stour and Skerries; create five new Community Councils matching the Shetland mainland multi-member wards; retain Community Councils in Bressay, Whalsay, Unst and Yell (10 Community Councils)

Option 4 – create new Community Councils that match multi-member wards (7 Community Councils).

Option 5 – create new Fair Isle and Foula Community Councils, no change to existing 18 Community Councils, other than adjustments to boundaries of Dunrossness and Sandness & Walls Community Councils (20 Community Councils).

Question 6 asks that the options be ranked from most favoured to least favoured.

The members felt that it is very unfair to ask this area to comment on what the other areas of Shetland require.

Question 7 Provide further feedback on the five options.

Question 8 Further boundary options requested.

Question 9 Any other suggestions or representations or if you feel there needs to be changes.

The survey will close at 5pm on Friday 12 January 2024. Our members support Option 1 – the status quo.

A drop-in event giving details of the review is to be held in Aith Public Hall on Wednesday 15 November from 5pm to 8pm.

To co-incide with this event, a representation of the Management and Leadership Team of the Shetland Partnership and staff from the Council's Community Planning and Development Team will be holding a meeting on the same date and location, for one hour, 6.30-7.30pm. All members are invited. The purpose of this meeting will be to share the

draft Locality Profile for Shetland West. Locality Profiles provide useful information about the local community and they are keen to discuss the draft, including data, before publication at the end of November. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss how these can be used in the future, to improve outcomes for the local communities. The members agreed to meet at Aith at 6pm and attend the drop-in event before attending the meeting at 6.30pm.

Financial application: Mrs J Fraser had contacted Ms Hannah Unwin advising her to contact Shetland Community Benefit Scheme for assistance in setting up the Aith Rainbows and Brownies.

Shetland Licensing Board: The period for consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy has been extended to 15 November 2023.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022/2023: The draft Community Council Financial Statement 2022/2023 was presented to the meeting. As the auditor still holds the papers, the Statement was approved, providing that no errors are found by him. Proposed by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

ISLANDS IMPACT BILL - LAND REFORM: In connection with the Islands Impact Bill, it was reported that there is a tender out for an Orkney Islands Council lead study into the impacts of land reform and support payment access for Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles. It was agreed that it will be a good opportunity to highlight the very different needs, opportunities and challenges faced by different Island groups as everyone is fed up with the Islands being lumped together in a way that is not helpful.

TURNING POINT AT TUMBLIN: It was reported that the turning point at the inner end of the Tumblin road is in poor condition. A note will be sent to Mr N Hutcheson, Head of Roads, asking him to arrange an inspection of this area and organise remedial action.

EMPTYING OF PUBLIC BIN AT EAST BURRAFIRTH: The bin at the parking area for the Burn of Lunklet is not being emptied regularly. Mrs J Fraser agreed to pass on this information to Ms Paula Nicolson, a Waste Operations Officer at the Infrastructure Dept of SIC

INFORMATION: Several emails sharing information with the Community Council were received and noted.

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