

# Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 11 December 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest	Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser
	Mrs S Deyell	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 D Garrick, Mrs J Fraser. Ms D Nicolson and Mr M Duncan – Community Council Liaison Officer.

**MINUTES & REPORT:** The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

**BUSINESS ARISING: Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse:** Members are very pleased that the Contractors, Tulloch Developments, have almost completed this section of road. A letter will be sent to them thanking them for the speed at which they have carried out this work and for the tidiness which has meant that there was a minimum of disruption to traffic. It has cut down on the length of time when the residents have had to use the diversion as it adds a number of miles to their journey for some of them.

**Brig at Burn of Lunklet:** Mr N Hutcheson replied to our enquiry saying that the Contractor has made a start by making the blocks ready but is waiting for better weather before starting on site.

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

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

**Smiley Face signs:** The signs have not yet been erected in Aith. A message will be sent asking when we can expect the signs to be placed in this area.

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

**Signs in Aith indicating passing places:** No further information on this.

**Turning area at Tumblin:** A reply was received from Mr N Hutcheson, Head of Roads, saying that he will remind the Area Foreman to get the turning head patched when weather permits.

**Broadband:** The Chairman had attended the in-person Northern Isles Digital Forum on 17 November where this subject had been discussed.

**Mobile:** Nothing further.

**Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF):** Advance Grant Scheme (AGS): Two applications were received and considered:-

180472 – 1st Aith Rainbows and 180473 – 1<sup>st</sup> Aith Brownies towards badges £500 granted to each group. Granted.

Drawing-down funds: A message was received from SCBF saying that the Advanced Grant Scheme is now in its final year and, whilst Community Councils could previously opt to draw down funds from future years, this will not be possible during the final year. Until the MoA-2 is signed between SCBF and SSE they cannot guarantee what the future funding will look like.

**Update on grants:** Investing in Communities Fund: The meeting of the 'Invest in the West' group to complete the project will be held in the New Year.

**Funding:** Funding details have been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members, including details of the Corra Foundation grant.

**Association:** Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser had represented this Community Council at the Association meeting on 7 December and gave a report.

CC Scheme Review – Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser said that there had been a good turnout and that all the Community Councils represented wish to retain the status quo. It was agreed that this information will be sent to SIC. They also agreed that they do not wish to make comment on what other areas should do. The off-shore islands wish to be represented by the area where their ferry terminal is situated.

Mr J Riise asked that Community Councils tell the reasons why the other options have been turned down.

**Community Facilities:** Mrs J Fraser and Mrs S Deyell had added some information to Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council's Facebook page regarding this.

**Community Council Scheme Review:** This item was discussed at length and all members agreed that the status quo is the best option. Should Option 4 be adopted where new Community Councils match multi-member wards (7 Community Councils), it would mean that the whole westside would be covered by one Community Council. We would lose the detailed information that is provided by members at present and the length of meetings could be extended.

With regard to the other options, our members do not feel that they should comment on what would be best for other areas.

The questionnaire will be completed and returned by the closing date on 12 January 2024.

**Locality Profile for Shetland West:** The meeting to share the draft Locality Plan for Shetland West was attended by some of this Community Council members who had found the information very interesting. It will be updated regularly and will be helpful for anyone who needs statistics for the area at any time.

**Financial Statement 2022/2023:** The auditor had approved the Financial Statement. It had then been forwarded to Mr M Duncan who had confirmed that it was all in order.

**Emptying of public bin at East Burrafirth:** Mrs J Fraser had contacted the Waste Operations Officer who said the bin should be emptied every fortnight in line with their collection policy and they will speak to the lorry crew to ensure that this happens.

**CC MEETING DATES 2024 & CO-OPTION REQUIREMENTS:** A message was received from Mr M Duncan requesting the meeting dates for this Community Council for 2024. This was drawn up similar to previous years and will be forwarded to him.

Details of how to proceed when a new member has been co-opted was received from Mr M Duncan.

**REAWICK BEACH BREAKWATER:** Mrs J Fraser had received a message from a member of the public regarding the poor state of the breakwater at the Reawick beach. As Mrs Fraser was unable to attend this meeting, consideration of this item was deferred until our January meeting.

**INFO REQUIRED FOR DEFIBRILLATORS:** Mr M Duncan had forwarded a message he had received from Mr D Forrest, Clerk to Sandness & Walls Community Council, asking

what is provided in our area by the Community Council with regards to defibrillators. Specifically Who owns/has responsibility for defibrillators; Do we provide assistance with new pads/batteries; Any other funding sources used? Cooke Aquaculture have offered to place a defibrillator at the West Burrafirth Pier and Sandness & Walls Community Council were interested to learn the manner in which the defibrillators in any other areas are covered.

In this area the defibrillators are sited at :-

Skeld Pier – maintained by Skeld Sail Laft or Pier Trust??? (Will contact Sharon)

Aith Lifeboat Pier

Westgate junction, Tresta

This Community Council has not been involved in the provision or upkeep of any of the machines.

This information will be passed on to Mr M Duncan.

**CYCJ'S ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER SURVEY:** A message was received from the Children & Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). This group works to improve things for children and young people who get into conflict with the law in Scotland. They have just launched their 2023 Stakeholder Survey and are really keen to hear from Community Councils on what they think in relation to children, young people and crime in their local area. The deadline for the survey is 21 December 2023.

**AITH & BRAEWICK WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT:** An email was received from Ms Rachel Mair at Scottish Water attaching a letter which had been sent to customers in Aith and Braewick by their delivery partner ahead of their work to replace approx 6.4km of water mains in the area. The work will not begin until January and the site compound will be set up in the weeks before hand.

**CHILDCARE FUNDING INFO:** A message was received from Ms Mairi Keith, Project Officer in Childcare within the SIC with Chloe Kerr and Samantha Flaws acting as her line managers. They offer to attend our January meeting as they have been granted funding from the Scottish Government to become an 'early adopter community'. She added some information regarding their scheme.

A reply will be sent inviting them to our next meeting on 8 January.

**BIXTER HALL:** The members were very pleased to learn from Mrs S Deyell that a Committee has been formed to run the Bixter Hall. This hall is central to our area and is often used by this Community Council for our meetings. It is a good size to accommodate both small and larger groups. The Community Council members wish them success for the future.

**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 8 January 2024 at 7.30pm.

