

**GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2024
AT CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL AT 7.30PM**

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ.

B. PRESENT	Mrs M Davis	Mr E MacPherson	Mr C Clark
EX OFFICIO	Cllr R McGregor	Cllr A Duncan	
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes	PC Cameron Jamieson	
CHAIRPERSON	Mr G Murray		
APOLOGIES	Mr P Coleman Cllr B Peterson	Mrs P Christie Mrs A Arnett	Miss E Copland Mr M Duncan
NOT PRESENT	Cllr A Armitage		

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R McGregor declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 – Planning, as he is Chair of the SIC Planning Committee. He also declared an interest in the discussion about Dogs Against Drugs in Agenda Item 2 – Police Report. He is a director of the charity.

Mrs M Davis declared an interest in the Shetland Swimming Association grant in Agenda Item 4 – she has family who swim.

Mrs K Geddes declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 – Grant Applications. She has a family member who is employed by SRT in whose buildings the swim equipment would be located. She also has an interest in the clerk’s pay item and will leave the room when it is on.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st November were approved with one amendment on the motion of Mr G Murray and seconded by Mr C Clark. The date in the title had not been updated from October to November.

3. POLICE REPORT*

This item was moved up the agenda to allow PC Jamieson to leave and return to his other duties as soon as possible.

PC Jamieson confirmed with everyone attending that they had already seen the Police Report for October and November. There have been four incidents in the Community Council area over the period of the report:

- Road Safety and Road Crime - Road Traffic Collision
- Acquisitive Crime - Fraud (2)
- Other - Fail to Comply with Firearms Licence Conditions

Members asked for more detail on the incidents and PC Jamieson explained that the RTC was an incident where a trailer blew over in high wind, and that the fraud incidents in the area are logged because the victims of the crimes live in the community. The perpetrators could be anywhere in the world considering the phone and digital frauds common these days.

There were questions from members concerning what they felt was both an increased number of incidents and an increase in the seriousness of incidents being reported, especially for Lerwick. As he was new to the job and to Shetland, PC Jamieson explained he did not have the prior knowledge to speak about trends and statistics but could say that the higher number of motoring incidents may be down to the weekend the Road Policing Unit visited the islands.

There was discussion regarding Dogs Against Drugs and the funding problems reported in the press recently. Cllr Duncan explained that as Chair of the Safety and Resilience Board he had been involved in discussions to try to solve the problem of the funding shortfall, both as an interim measure and for a longer-term, more sustainable solution. He was hopeful that there would be some positive news to report soon and indicated he would keep members updated.

----- PC Jamieson left 19.45 -----

1. ACTIVE TRAVEL SETTLEMENT UPDATE

Alistair Hunter, SIC Transport Planning/ZetTrans Transport Policy and Projects Assistant, had asked to attend the meeting with an update and the clerk had added him to the agenda but had mistakenly missed him off the invitation email with agenda papers so he was unable to attend at what would have been short notice for him. Members are keen to hear an update and it is hoped he will be available at the February meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING

1. Dental Letter

The letter to NHS Shetland complaining about what members feel is the current poor state of the dental services in Shetland is still to be drafted and sent.

ACTION: Clerk to draft a letter and send it to Mrs Davis to edit and send.

2. Remembrance Wreaths

It is likely that the Community Council can pay for the Remembrance Day Wreaths this year but the clerk wants to check that the procedure and paperwork required is all correct before she pays any money out.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Community Council Liaison Officer Michael Duncan for further clarification.

4. FINANCE

The bank balance on January 3rd 2024 reads £10,848.48. The only transactions outwith the usual in the account since the last meeting is the £80 payment to VAS for the independent examination of the accounts and the payment of the grants awarded at the November meeting.

Out of the original budget of £12,923 (£3,000 of which is Community Development Fund and the remaining £9,923 is Core Budget) £6,363.05 has been spent and £5,078.11 remains.

Of this, a projected spend of £2,292.84 has been budgeted for administration, leaving approximately £4,370 for grants –

Grants to Groups has £3,690 left (£810 has already been spent)
£200 has been budgeted for Da Voar Redd up – clerk is still awaiting details of group eligible
£223 has been budgeted for Roads

£2,190 NEEDS to be spent on Grants to Groups as it is the CDF fund but the remaining funds can be distributed at the members discretion. Approximately £500 was being kept in surplus but if the Clerk's wage increase and backpay is approved this would go down to £155. Up to £1,000 can be carried over to next year.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS

GQC CC Applications

Members are encouraged to spread the word that more grant applications are welcomed at the February meeting and that grant forms can be downloaded from here:
<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/downloads/download/174/community-council-documents>

SCBF Applications

A grant for £100 was agreed for the Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary.

Shetland Swimming Association were seeking £2,512 and members agreed to award a token £200 to show support for the project but felt that it was not an appropriate grant for the fund. Grants which more clearly show benefit to the Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh communities are still preferred by members.

ACTION: Clerk to fill out SCBF paperwork and return it. Everyone to share that grant applications are welcomed and the deadline is February 1st.

6. ROADS

1. Langton Footpath

A Gulberwick resident had contacted Cllr McGregor regarding concerns about the wooden pathway at Langton, behind a house near the Gulberwick Hall. Wooden boards have been replaced when they have deteriorated but the resident said more boards are rotting and the fixings are very rusty.

Councillor McGregor passed the information on to SIC Team Leader - Road Asset and Network Management, Neil Hutcheson. He responded quickly, emailing to say:

"The footpath has been inspected and a works order has been placed for the replacement of a number of rotten handrails. There are also a number of deteriorated boards but none are at the stage where they would be a trip hazard. We will continue to monitor the path and will replace boards as and when required.

2. Broken Sign at Black Gaet

The wind has blown off part of the road sign at the Gulberwick end of the Black Gaet.

ACTION: Cllr McGregor to check to see when it will be replaced.

There are no other updates at present but Cllr McGregor will let members know as soon as he hears anything.

7. GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATE

The North Yell Development Group has agreed to host some GQC Development Group members in order to share what they have been doing and see what can be replicated.

ACTION: There will be an update next month after the visit to Yell. Group members to continue to look at progressing projects and keep everyone updated.

8. UPDATES FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

Both Cllr Duncan and Cllr McGregor have given updates on several issues in other agenda items and had nothing further to update.

There was some discussion around the current finance of the SIC and both members spoke through the possible next steps now they are waiting on a response from the external auditors.

There were no updates available from other SIC Councillors.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

1. PTSN (Public Switched Telephone Network) Switchover Update

A letter from Maggie Sandison, SIC Chief Executive, was read and noted. She explained that Telecoms providers have now signed a Charter committing to concrete measures to protect vulnerable households – especially those using personal alarms for support. All providers have agreed to not forcibly move customers onto the new network unless they are fully confident they will be protected.

Members felt that as long as providers stuck to the Charter, their concerns about the effect of the switchover should be alleviated. They agreed to keep an eye on the issue but feel that it has had a good outcome.

2. SSE Bench Offer

Julie Graham, Stakeholder Engagement Manager at SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy) has been in touch to say they are working with people undertaking community service to build benches and would like to construct one for each Community Council area.

Members were keen to take up the offer and instructed the clerk to reply in the affirmative.

ACTION: Clerk to reply to SSE, asking for likely timescales. There may need to be permission sought from landowners dependent on the location chosen for the bench.

3. Open University Webinar

A free webinar explaining the ways which the Open University can support Community Councils is happening on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 6pm. It will take attendees through the free courses which they offer for skills development within CCs, share information about more general work the OU does to support communities, as well as share details of possible funding sources.

Anyone who wants to sign up can do so at: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/BMDzXYQr31>

4. Shetland Tariff Letters

Vice chair Colin Clark had written to SIC Chief Executive Maggie Sandison in December setting out the case for pursuing a Shetland Tariff. She replied in a positive way, explaining that while she is not entirely confident that it is achievable, she does believe that progress is being made. She explained some of the actions the SIC are taking to move the issue forward and said she hoped that the correspondence assured him that tackling fuel poverty through developing a Shetland Tariff is a priority for the Council.

Members were pleased that they had taken the opportunity to add their voices to the calls for a Shetland Tariff and grateful for the reply.

ACTION: Members agreed to look again for a further update on progress in a few months.

10. ASCC UPDATE AND NEXT MEETING

The update from the last Association for Shetland Community Council Meeting had previously been circulated and was discussed.

The clerk was asked to fill out the Lerwick Lanes Masterplan Consultation on behalf of the Community Council expressing the worry that parking spaces may be lost.

There were no agenda items suggested for the next ASCC meeting.

Mr MacPherson agreed to attend the next meeting on behalf of GQC CC.

ACTION: Clerk to let Michael Duncan that there are no agenda items from GQC CC for the next ASCC meeting and that Mr MacPherson will attend. She will also fill out the Lerwick Lanes Masterplan Consultation.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr McGregor left the room during the discussion on this agenda item.

There was only one planning application to consider and return comments on, but several other applications from the Community Council area on the planning website.

There were no comments or objections on:

[2023/271/PPF](#) Erect glamping pod, Klingrahoull, Gulberwick, ZE3 9TX

The other planning applications in the GQC CC area on the planning website this month were:

[2023/297/PPF](#) Extension to existing cottage, Pukanui Cottage, Upper Setter, Gulberwick, Shetland, ZE2 9JX

[2023/224/PPF](#) Application Required by Planning Condition 11 (Biodiversity Scheme) Plot 8, Aisterlea, Cunningsburgh

ACTION: Clerk to reply to planning with comments.

12. CLERKS PAY

The clerk left the room during this discussion.

Members agreed to stick to the new Scottish Joint Council salary scales for the clerk and also to award the backpay.

ACTION: Clerk to transfer the backpay and adjust the monthly standing order for pay.

13. AOCB

The next ASCC meeting is due to clash with a GQC Community Council one – Tuesday 11th June. Mr McPherson suggested moving the CC meeting a week earlier. It was agreed to see whether this would work for most members.

ACTION: Clerk to email members about rescheduling the June meeting.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 13th February 2024.

Meeting Ends – 9.00 pm.

CHAIR

14. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

August 2023 – Review of roles of vice-chair and chair to be discussed at March 2024 meeting.