

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

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Minutes of Zoom meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7 pm

Present:

I Walterson (Chair)  
F MacBeath (Vice Chair)  
E Johnston  
M Forrest  
C Venus  
M Macgregor  
S Johnston  
J Haswell  
Cllr L Peterson  
Cllr M Robinson

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

## **1. Chairman's Welcome**

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present. He stated that it had been decided to conduct the meeting again via Zoom given the wintry conditions.

## **2. Tribute to the Late James Gear**

The Chair paid tribute to the late James Gear who passed away on the 19<sup>th</sup> January. In his address, the Chair made mention of Jim's many years of dedicated service as Councillor, Community Councillor and as Chair of the Association of Shetland Community Councils. He made particular reference to the tireless work Jim had devoted to the interests of the Westside of Shetland and to Foula in particular. He stated that Jim had been both astute and knowledgeable and would be hugely missed by all who knew him.

**3. Apologies**

M Duncan, J Laing, J Puckey

**4. Declarations of Interest**

E Johnston declared an interest regarding item 13 – Planning Consultation Ref: 2024/001/PPF.

**5. Visit by Mairi Keith and Chloe Kerr (SIC Childcare Officers)**

This visit has been deferred to a future date by the Ms Keith.

**6. Police Report**

No new report has been received to date.

**7. Minutes from 16.1.24**

The adoption of the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was proposed by F MacBeath and seconded by C Venus.

**8. Matters Arising**

***Re: 7.2 of 12/23 Car Parking at Stove Cottages in Walls***

Members discussed the continuing concerns being raised about the lack of parking at this location and the impact it appears to be having on residents. It was agreed that correspondence should be passed to relevant authorities on this matter for investigation and furtherance which would hopefully lead towards a permanent resolution of the issue.

**Actions: The Clerk was asked to carry out a course of actions that should hopefully resolve the problems.**

(M Forrest left the meeting)

**9. Housing**

It was noted that two properties in Kirkdale have now been vacated. The Chair expressed his hope that they will soon be occupied again.

## **10. Roads**

### **10.1 SIC Winter Gritting Policy**

The Chair informed Members that he and the Sandsting and Aithsting Community Council Chair have received emails relating to the SIC Winter Gritting Policy and that a review of the current policy is to be carried out soon. Cllr Peterson verified the Chair's statement that the SIC Winter Gritting Policy is currently under review in light of a recent incident. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk send an email offering to engage with the review process if this was deemed appropriate.

**Action: The Clerk to email the Roads Department indicating the Members willingness to participate in the SIC Winter Gritting Policy review and copy to local councillors and the Chief Executive.**

### **10.2 Cattle Grid in Mid-Walls Area**

Members were informed that a cattle grind in the Mid-Walls area had sustained damage recently. However, it was indicated that the Roads Department was aware of the issue and that it would probably be repaired soon.

## **11. West Mainland Digital Community Project**

M Macgregor stated that no updates were available on this matter at present.

## **12. Marine Planning Consultation Ref: 2023/021/MAR**

A discussion took place concerning the quantity of rubbish that has been generated by previous aqua-farming installations in the area designated for the mussel farm proposed in this application. It was agreed to recommend approval and to request that, if it is not already included in the terms of the planning consent, that a clause be added requiring the developers to ensure a high standard of site husbandry.

**Action: The Clerk to email the Marine Planning Department recommending approval for the application and to request that a clause requiring a high standard of site husbandry be included in the terms of approval.**

## **13. Planning Consultation 2024/001/PPF**

(E Johnston declared an interest because he is a member of the Walls and District Agricultural Society Committee.)

After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application and to state that the Sandness and Walls Community Council welcomed the construction of an additional shed on the show field.

**Action: The Clerk to inform the Planning Department of the S&WCC Members' decision to recommend approval of the planning application and to state that the Members welcome the construction of an additional shed on the show field.**

#### **14. Future of Health Service Provision at the Walls Health Centre.**

The Chair reminded Members that a meeting with Heath Board personnel has been scheduled for the evening of Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm in the Walls Regatta Clubhouse. He expressed his hope that the meeting will provide a clearer picture as to what is intended for the provision of health care on the Westside of Shetland. He reiterated the point that residents using the local Health Centres are frustrated by the lack of continuity in terms of consultations with GPs in particular. The Clerk indicated that he had received an email from J Puckey, who will not be available to attend the meeting, listing the concerns of the Papa Stour residents. The Chair invited the Councillors to attend the meeting.

#### **15. Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

##### **15.1 Nomination for a Director**

(F Macbeath declared an interest in this matter because he is related to Mr J MacBeath)

The Chair indicated that Mr Jamie MacBeath's term in office had expired but that he was eligible for re-election if the Members wished it. After a brief discussion it was agreed to re-elect Mr MacBeath if he is willing to accept the nomination.

**Action: The Clerk to invite Mr MacBeath to continue as the SCBF Director for the Sandness and Walls area.**

#### **180482 - AGS Application for Consideration**

An application for £2598.41 was made by the Shetland Swimming Association for new timing equipment. After a brief discussion, Members approved the grant application.

**Action: The Clerk to complete the response form indicating approval.**

## **16. Review of Community Councils**

Cllr Robinson stated that the data amassed from Phase 1 of the public consultation on the Review of Community Councils was being evaluated and should be presented to Councillors in March. He went on to say that the consultation on Phase 2, local election rules, should commence in April.

## **17. ASCC Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

F MacBeath agreed to attend the March meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils.

## **18. Facebook Page for S&WCC**

E Johnston stated that he was continuing to add appropriate local information. A request from a science student for assistance with a rain forest project has also been added.

## **19. Financial Update**

### **19.1 Spreadsheet**

The Chair referred to the most recent spreadsheet and invited comments.

### **19.2 Funding Request from Westside Sharks Swimming Club**

(F MacBeath and M Forrest declared interests in this because they have family members who are club members.)

The Clerk informed Members that he has received an application for funding towards a trip to Inverness to enable swimmers to attend a swimming event. The sum requested is £2150. The Clerk stated that in order to carry forward some funding the maximum amount available to the Westside Sharks would be £500. It was agreed to offer this sum.

**Action: The Clerk to email the Westside Sharks Swimming Club offering the sum of £500.**

## **20. Correspondence (including emails)**

No correspondence has been received other than by email.

## **21. AOCB**

### **21.1 Current Process by whereby a Community Council Vacancy can be filled**

The Chair stated that whilst the review of Community Councils is being carried out no by elections would take place. However, it was permissible to Co-opt someone to fill a vacancy. Possible options to fill the vacancy following the death of Mr J Gear include asking if any Foula resident would like to be co-opted, or to advertise the vacancy locally.

**Action: The Clerk to contact Foula Residents to find out if anyone wishes to represent the Island on the Community Council as a co-opted member.**

### **21.2 SSE Grant Update**

In response to a question from M Macgregor, the Clerk stated that a local electrical contractor was in the process of acquiring the necessary parts in order to fit changeover switches in the Sandness and Walls Halls.

## **22. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, which, weather permitting will take the form of a hybrid meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

(Draft Minutes of the S&WCC February 2024 meeting subject to approval at next meeting)