

Fetlar Community Council

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL
ON TUESDAY, 23rd January 2024 AT 7.45PM
(WITH A TEAMS OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)**

PRESENT

James Rendall, Chair
Lucy Cummings
James Smythe
Julie

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Robert Thomson, SIC Elected Member
Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

Members of the Public

Mike Holroyd
Ryan Shoemake
Roy Buckland

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Carl Symons SIC, Michael Duncan, Mike Fogarty, Dana Jamieson

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th December were circulated and agreed. Proposed - Lucy Cummings, Seconded – James Smythe

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. Ongoing Business

4.1 Community Maintenance Post

Roy has spoken to his line manager and been told that there are ideas to increase the range of activities for his role.

Apparently, his contract is now on its way.

He has still not received his job description.

It was noted that this situation was unlawful.

He assisted in the removal of some bulk waste.

His toolkit for the role is very limited.

Robert will lobby on behalf of the Community Council.

Frances will raise on Island with Small Populations.

James Rendall believes that Carl Symons should attend a meeting in person to discuss the continuing issues.

4.2 Health Care Support Worker

Tim O'Dell is now in post and receiving his induction off island when weather allows.

There has been no official communication.

His role could be seen as seen as the 'eyes and ears' of the GP.

He cannot prescribe medication and can only distribute and administer with the authority of a GP.

Prescriptions are still being sent and distributed from the shop.

It was suggested that some medication could be stored at the surgery for urgent prescriptions.

Information about GP visits has been received. Chris will distribute via email.

4.3 Fetlar Contingency Plan

The emergency committee has held its first meeting.

Amendments have been made to the plan.

Meetings are being held with representatives from Yell to assist communication.

It was agreed that people listed in the plan should give consent for their contact details to be circulated.

Lucy will organise via Chris.

Lucy will contact Emma Perring for contact numbers at SIC.

4.4 Fly Tipping

Nothing has happened.

Apparently, a lorry was on its way before the snow.

Chris to contact SIC.

4.5 Tunnel Vision Fixed Links

No updates.

4.6 Brough Lodge

No updates.

4.7 Network Resilience

Chris had circulated a paper describing a new Charter to maintain connectivity for 'vulnerable' customers. The committee felt that this wasn't sufficient and not comprehensive enough.

There are ongoing discussions with local politicians.

Chris to contact other Community Councils.

4.8 Housing Policy

Frances has contacted Anita James Housing Director, and she has suggested involving Vaila Simpson Community Planning and Development Director who was on leave so no meeting involvement arranged. Chris will provide list of meeting dates and Frances will send.

Lucy informed the committee of the concerns raised by Mike and Ryan and their associated problems with securing a tenancy at Stackafletts. They are applying for a property that has been vacant for 6 years.

Frances suggested that the Community Council could write supporting their application and this was agreed.

Mike clarified that they had been in contact with two different housing officers with contradictory responses.

Juliet suggested that Fetlar should have its own lettings policy.

Robert recommended asking the council about this and he would ask questions.

Another Fetlar resident at Stackafletts had applied several times.

Mike expressed concern about the equality's issues raised by the process and decision.

Robert suggested making a complaint to the council.

4.9 Maintenance Issues

4.9.1 Moss on Pavements

Julie informed that a Stackafletts resident had asked about cleaning the pavements. They should be informed to refer to the housing department.

4.9.2 Inaccessible gates by Cattle Grids

Mike informed that some of the gates by the cattle grids are not accessible preventing them being used as a through route with guide dogs. It was agreed that Roy will check them, and Chris will report to the Roads Department at SIC.

5. Co-options

It was agreed that Roy Buckland should be co-opted on to the Committee.

Chris will request the official form.

6. Finance and Administration

Chris still doesn't have access to the bank account although James has approved his application.

6.1 Invoice

The invoice was approved for payment.

7. AOCB

7.1 Bench

It was noted that Chris had secured the donation of a bench that will be placed by the Polycrubs to commemorate the life of Paul.

7.2 Snow Clearing

There had been problems with snow clearing including.

- No information about the cause of the problems.
- The gritting tractor broke down and isn't powerful enough when working to clear deep drifts.
- The contractor then employed by the council then made things worse by blocking entrances to houses and field gates and possibly damaging areas of the road.
- Parts of Fetlar were neither gritted or ploughed preventing access to and from Stackafletts and to and from the shop.
- A local crofter offered to clear the snow for the price of the fuel, but the offer was declined.

It was agreed that the Community Council should write to SIC with these concerns and suggesting more comprehensive gritting and local contracts for snow clearing.

7.3 Ditches

Lucy suggested that there was a need for SIC to undertake more ditching work.

It was noted that the Council made things worse by digging deeper and wider ditches that narrowed the roads.

It was agreed that in some places the vegetation had got out of hand.

It was also agreed that in some parts the ditches needed clearing with a shovel. Perhaps a job for the maintenance man.

7.4 Rats

The council noted an email from the RSPB expressing concern about the possibility of Rats on Fetlar around Hamars Ness

Members of the Council were surprised as they had not seen any.

It was agreed to support the RSPB's professional, safe and measured approach to reducing the risks of Rats becoming established on the island.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next will be Tuesday February 20th 2024.