

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)

ON TUESDAY, 20th February 2024 AT 7.45PM
(WITH A TEAMS OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

James Rendall, Chair
Lucy Cummings
James Smythe
Mike Fogarty

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis, IWSP Strategic Delivery Group
Frances Browne, SIC Community Development
Carl Symons SIC
Hazel Sutherland Shetland Amenity Trust
Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

Members of the Public

Mike Holroyd

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Michael Duncan, Robert Thomson, SIC Elected Member, Julie Maguire.

2. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd January were circulated and agreed. Proposed - Lucy Cummings, Seconded – James Rendall

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. Future Use of AithBank Camping Bod

James Rendall welcomed Hazel Sutherland to the meeting.

Hazel outlined that the Community Trust is moving away from tourism activities and subsidising things that the private or voluntary sector could do well. They would also like to see community involvement in the Aithbank Camping Bod and is opening the discussion with the Fetlar Community.

Lucy asked what the occupancy had been in the previous year? And what was the income and expenditure?

Hazel replied that she didn't have the figures on the occupancy.

The income was around £3,000.

The expenditure was about the same and was made up of the costs of the local custodian and visits from the maintenance crew.

James R informed that the fire alarm had been going off for some time.

Mike F asked if the Amenity Trust would still be responsible for the building?

Hazel replied that there were different models being used in other places.

James R suggested that the best organisation to get involved would be the Community Association with the link to the existing Camper Site at the hall.

Mike F thought that an option to buy the building would be very expensive.

Frances informed that there are some support options for buying buildings and these could be available to the Community Association when it has adopted its new constitution.

Mike F supported the approach to the Community Association.

Juliet will put it on the Community Association agenda at its next meeting.

James R suggested that it could be an asset to the community.

Hazel suggested that 2024 could be a trial year for community involvement. She would now liaise with the Community Association.

James R agreed and thanked Hazel for her attendance.

5. Summer Ferry Timetable

James R outlined that there was a major issue with the proposed summer ferry timetable. Namely that on Tuesday to Friday.

1. The 10.55 boat from Hamars Ness arrives at Gutcher before the 11.20 boat to Belmont leaves. This has two consequences.
 - The boat from Hamars Ness must wait outside the breakwater for five minutes.
 - The boat from Hamars Ness arrives too late for traffic to drive safely across Yell to catch the 11.45 from Ulsta. In effect adding 30 mins to the journey to Lerwick for Fetlar folk.
2. If the 11.20 Belmont Boat was brought forward to 11.15 both consequences would be avoided at no detriment to Unst folk.

It was agreed that this should be shared with SIC Ferries as a health and safety issue.

There were no other issues with the proposed timetable.

5.1 Emergency/Breakdown Ferry Timetable

Mike F expressed concern that when there are problems with the ferries such as single vessel or storm delays Unst gets a better service than Fetlar.

There was also discussion about emergency or priority needs such as health appointments or the need for onward travel on Northlink or flights from Sumburgh.

It was agreed that it would be useful to have a meeting with SIC Ferries to discuss these issues.

6. Ongoing Business

6.1 Small Islands Locality Plan

Juliet reported that that the plan is now available and is online. At the SIC website.

6.2 Community Maintenance Post

The Community Maintenance man has resigned and will be leaving by the end of the month.

Lucy enquired how and when the post will be advertised given the previous concerns raised?

Carl clarified that the postholders line manager didn't have the authority to make the post work so he would now directly manage the post.

Carl believes that there are not enough hours in the current post to achieve a living wage and that it makes sense to increase the hours and include the other Northern Isles.

There is also a problem with the existing job description that requires a trade qualification.

If the range of tasks were increased, then more efficient tools could be provided. For example, a larger mower for grass verges on Yell and Unst.

Carl asked the committee for a bullet point list of Fetlar's expectations.

It was proposed that these could be:

- Waste collection.
- Check Hamars Ness water storage tanks checked and topped up during the summer.
- Grass Cutting.
- Stackafletts grounds maintenance especially pavements.
-

Carl will re-advertise and keep up to date. This will be for 35 hrs per week and cover the Northern Isles.

Frances informed that the post is included in the Islands with small populations planning and should ideally be based in Fetlar.

Mike F asked what would happen before the person is appointed.

Carl replied that staff from Yell would cover.

Carl also informed that he would chase up the incomplete removal of the Flytipping.

6.3 Healthcare Support Worker

Chris informed that he had not received any information on the Healthcare Support Worker role.

It was agreed that Chris should ask for further meeting with the NHS in Fetlar to clarify the role.

6.4 Fetlar Contingency Plan

There has been no change.

6.5 Fly Tipping

Carl to follow up as above.

6.6 Tunnel Vision Fixed Links

Lucy is concerned that Fetlar seems to have dropped off the list of possible locations for a fixed link.

Frances suggested that Fetlar should still be involved in discussions. And suggested that Unst folk be invited to talk about their visit to the Pharaoh Islands. And will pass on contact details to Lucy.

6.7 Housing Policy

Frances has contacted Anita James Housing Director, and Vaila Simpson Community Planning and Development Director. They are happy to come up to have a face-to-face meeting but would prefer if the meeting started at 6.15 pm because of their return travel.

The Council supported this proposal. Frances will try to arrange.

6.7.1 Mike H and Ryan S Complaint

Mike and Ryan have been informed that the main substance of their complaint has not been upheld.

The council asserted that they have adhered to their allocation policy.

They apologised for giving different and confusing advice.

6.8 Maintenance Issues

6.81 Inaccessible gates by Cattle Grids

Chris has sent a copy of Roy's Cattle Grid report to the SIC Roads department and not yet received a reply.

6.82 Snow Clearing

Chris has also sent the comments on Snow Clearing to the SIC Roads department and not yet received a reply.

7. Co-options

Roy Buckland is now leaving the island.

8. Finance and Administration

Chris still doesn't have access to the bank account. He has received a text message saying the application process is complete.

8.1 Invoice

The invoice was approved for payment.

8.1 Hall Hire

Juliet will chase up invoicing for the hall hire with the Treasurer of the Community Association.

9. AOCB

There was no further business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next will be Tuesday March 19th 2024.