

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest	Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser
	Mrs S Deyell	Mrs J Fraser
	Mrs L Johnson	
Ex-Officio:	Cllr M Robinson	
In attendance:	Sgt Alan Patrick	
	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Ms D Nicolson, Mr J D Garrick, Cllr L Peterson, Mrs R Fraser, Community Involvement & Development Worker and Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer.

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, seconded by Mrs L Johnson.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Police:** Sgt A Patrick attended. He gave the details of the most recent Police Report for this area. He explained that his Dept are concerned about the amount of fraud presently circulating and advised that anyone who receives a phone call from someone saying they are from their bank should not give any details but should terminate the call. The SIC's Scambusters group are visiting voluntary groups throughout Shetland to give helpful information.

Sgt Patrick also said that the Police are having problems recruiting officers.

When asked about the cover on the desk at the Police Station, Sgt Patrick said that the desk should be manned from 8am – 6pm daily and that there is also a door bell which rings throughout the Station. This means that it may take longer for the door to be answered but he hoped that people would be patient as there is always someone inside the building.

He reminded everyone that if they need help they can call 101 but if immediate help is required they should dial 999.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Patrick for attending. Sgt Patrick then left.

Road Matters: **Road past Garderhouse:** This road is now completed but the barriers need to be erected. Garriock Bros is the contractor used by the SIC to erect all barriers and it is believed that the workmen are presently in Yell. It is hoped that this area will be next on their list.

Brig at Burn of Lunklet: Contractor not yet on site.

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

Hole developing on the Sandsound road: No reply yet.

'SLOW' markings on road near Cake Fridge: To be done when weather permits.

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

Gritting of the road network: No decision yet taken.

Mobile: Nothing further.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF): Mr J D Garrick will be a Director of SCBF following their AGM.

AGS Application – 18506 Auld Skule (Recycling Unit) towards re-roofing the building. £13,000 was requested but as we only have approximately that amount remaining in the Fund for the year to September, it was agreed to check whether this amount will complete their funding to allow them to go ahead during the summer months and, if so, it was agreed to give them the total amount.

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

Funding: Funding details have been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members.

Association: Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser had represented this Community Council and Mrs J Fraser had attended in the course of her work. They gave a report.

The next Association meeting is scheduled for 11 June 2024.

Community Council Scheme Review: Still ongoing.

Active Travel: No results yet available regarding this funding.

Bench: Details of the size of the bench available from SSE Renewables has now been received and a notice will be placed on the Community Council Facebook page asking for suggestions as to where the bench could be sited and what group will take care of it. In the meantime, the Chairman will accept the bench and arrange storage of it until the site is agreed.

PSTN: The Public Switched Telephone Network switch off was again discussed at the Association meeting.

Finance: Some of the grants agreed at last month's meeting have been claimed. A message will be sent to the others reminding them of the need to claim by 31 March.

Da Voar Redd Up: Details of this year's Voar Redd Up were received from Shetland Amenity Trust. It will take place from 20 – 26 April and the poster will be placed on the Community Council Facebook page.

Shetland Funeral Research: On going.

Online Shetland Community Directory: Instructions for claiming the site, which has to be carried out by the Community Council, was received from Ms Evie Tait, Projects Officer. This has to be done by the end of March.

ARVEN OFFSHORE WIND FARM: Arven Offshore Wind Farm team held their first public consultation event on 21 February. The Chairman had attended.

FINANCIAL REQUEST: A financial request was received from the Shetland Gymnastics Club. They hope to be able to replace some equipment. Unfortunately all our finance for grants for the present financial year has been agreed.

INSURANCE CERTIFICATE: The Insurance Certificate for this Community Council was received from Mr M Duncan.

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE: A survey for completion was received from the Scottish Government regarding the NHS improvement service.

SKELD SCHOOL: It is being proposed by the SIC Education Dept that the Skeld School should be mothballed but a public meeting has been held and there is strong feeling within the community that it should be retained. Members feel that the school is the heart of the community and it's closure would have a detrimental effect on the local area. An Impact Assessment has been requested and a query will be sent asking what that involves and what it will tell us.

It was agreed to contact Mrs M Sandison, Chief Executive, to voice the following concerns about the consultation:-

The consultation has been poorly handled.

The Community Council only learned through the media of the proposal to mothball the school.

Consultations with the parents have not been very well dealt with.

There is no mothballing procedure.

Aith Junior High School is bursting at the seams with children already being taught in the corridor and in a hut meaning that the school may be unable to accommodate more pupils.

We believe that a school cannot close for financial reasons.

The Scottish Education minister will be copied into this message.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 8 April 2024 at 7.30pm.