

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 8 April 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:	J Priest	Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser
	Mrs S Deyell	Mr J D Garrick
	Mrs L Johnson	
Ex-Officio:	Cllr L Peterson	
	Cllr M Robinson	
In attendance:	Mrs L Fraser, Clerk	

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser, seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

BUSINESS ARISING: **Road Matters:** **Road past Garderhouse:** Work on the barriers has now started.

Hole developing on Sandsound Road: A reply was received from Mr N Hutcheson saying that the sunk sections on the Sandsound road would need to be overlay patched. This is generally done with a small paving machine which is used to resurface the wheel tracks. However, the Sandsound Road from it's junction with the A971 to the grid at the Old Schoolhouse is on the resurfacing programme with the work likely to be done in 2025 or 2026. Therefore, only the worst sections of the road, including the hole referred to, will be patched this year.

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

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

'SLOW' markings on road near Cake Fridge: Still to be done.

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

Gritting of the road network: No decision yet taken.

Mobile: Mrs S Deyell reported that a representative from WHP Telecom, the Company that erected the mast, is to visit the Reawick mast soon and that Mr R Lockhead, Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade will also be in the area.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) and Viking Community Fund: A message was received from Mr C Bunyan, Chair of SCBF, giving details of the proposed Viking Community Fund. It will be an annual amount of £2,215,000 which will be index-linked for future years. While the bulk of this funding will be used for larger strategic projects, 10% per year will be allocated to a Community Grant Scheme which will be very similar to the

current Advance Grant Scheme (AGS). 10% will be £221,500 and this will be split between Community Councils on the same basis as the AGS – the four areas hosting a VEFW turbine will have a budget of £32,575 while the remaining 14 areas will have £6,515. These funds will be available for Tier 1 and Tier 2 applications – but applicants for Tier 2 funding will only be allowed to apply to a maximum of three Community Council areas. While this funding is less than currently available under the AGS, there will be a new Tier 3 for so-called ‘Shetland-wide’ applications, or those applying to more than three areas. In 2023-24 a total of £135,000 will be allocated for Tier 3 and decisions on applications will be made by SCBF.

The current AGS has a total annual allocation of £340,000. SCBF has decided to maintain the 10% of the fund going to the Community Council scheme for T1 and T1 and to apply additional fundings for Tier 3, giving a total of £356,500 in 23-24.

Draft proposed new guidelines were attached and are very similar to the AGS guidelines and, for data protection, will require a new agreement to be signed by SCBF and each Community Council. They are keeping the T1 and T2 application process as simple as possible, but for T3 applications they will be looking for greater emphasis on projects that are directed towards their main priorities which will be laid-out in the Business plan.

The biggest change is taking ‘Shetland-wide’ applications into a separate fund. SCBF are to organise several Zoom sessions where they can deal with any questions Community Councillors or Clerks may have.

The AGS has been remarkably successful – funding 201 applications so far and paying out grants totalling £823,849. These funds have helped projects worth a total cost of £2,855,480. They hope that the Community Grant Scheme will be as successful.

Mr J D Garrick will be our representative and a Director of SCBF.

AGS Application – 18506 Auld Skule (Recycling Unit) – agreed to give them the £13,000 requested, providing they can raise the remainder of the funding they require.

A message was received from Ms Eleanor Gear at SCBF suggesting two options for a date for a Zoom call regarding the Community Grant Scheme.

Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund: The Chairman suggested that a Webex meeting be held soon to complete this Fund.

Community Council Scheme Review: A Briefing Note for Phase 2 of the CC Scheme Review was received from Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer. The consultation period will be from April to June 2024. Mr M Duncan or one of his colleagues from the Community Planning & Development Dept will attend Community Council meetings to discuss the proposals.

Active Travel: An email was received from Mr A Hunter, Transport Policy and Projects Assistant at Transport Planning/ZetTrans inviting CC members to a meeting regarding the active travel settlement audit undertaken in Skeld recently by Systra on behalf of ZetTrans. The meeting is to be held on 25th April. Interested members will communicate with Ms Robina Barton.

Bench: Following a notice on our Facebook page, it was agreed that the bench provided by SSE Renewables will be placed at the Reawick beach.

Da Voar Redd Up: Took place from 20 – 26 April.

Shetland Funeral Research: No further information.

Online Shetland Community Directory: With Ms Evie Tait’s help, the Clerk claimed the site.

Skeld School: We wrote to Mrs M Sandison, Chief Executive to Shetland Islands Council, regarding the proposed mothballing of Skeld School. Mrs M Sandison had passed the letter to the Director of Children’s Services who had passed it on to Ms S Flaws, Executive Manager for Education and Learning to reply to us. She sent a lengthy reply. However, the members did not feel that they had received a satisfactory reply as their primary issue was with the lack of engagement with the Community Council. The main role of the Community Council is to act as an organisation representing our communities. The schools in the area are at the heart of our communities and to exclude the Community Council from any meaningful consultation and only inform them after the decision has been made completely undermines their role as a Community Council. The members fully support the parents of

Skeld school with their fight to prevent mothballing of the school but the Community Council's complaint is with the SIC and their de-valuing of the Community Council. It was not felt that it was appropriate for members of the Children's Services Dept to deal with the complaint and a request will be sent asking that it be dealt with by a third party.

LETTER OF SUPPORT: A message was received from Ms C Robertson, Secretary to the Walls & District Agricultural Society, saying that they hope to erect a new shed for the Show. The members agreed to send a letter.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME: An email was received from the Association of Shetland Community Councils attaching an update from the Council's Development Plans Team.

DIGITAL SUPPORT HELPLINE: A message was received from People Know How who run the Connecting Scotland Digital Support Helpline in partnership with the Scottish Government and SCVO. The helpline offers free digital support and advice to anyone who lives in Scotland on topics such as:-

Using devices like smartphones, tablets, laptops or desktop computers

Connecting to the internet

Navigating the web and social media

Completing everyday tasks online

Connecting with the community, family and friends

Managing finances, paying bills and saving money online.

They want to increase awareness of this free helpline and ask that we spread the word in the community. Their free Connecting Scotland digital support helpline is 08000590690.

BUILDING STANDARDS CHANGES, BUILDING WARRANT FEES INCREASE: Details of the Building Standards changes and Building Warrant Fees from 1st April 2024 were received from the SIC Building Standards Dept.

CHANGES TO FEES FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS: A message was received from Mr I McDiarmid, Executive Manager, Planning, giving details of changes to Planning Fees.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND – 2024/25: An email was received from Mr M Duncan saying the budget for the Community Development Fund has been set with bidding rounds on 26 April, 31 May and 28 June. As before there will be a Distribution Fund and a Project Fund.

It was agreed to apply for the Distribution Fund and suggestions were made which would be suitable as a Project grant.

INFORMATION: Several emails sharing information with the Community Council were received and noted.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the Skeld Hall on Monday 20 May 2024 at 7.30pm.