

Sandness & Walls Community Council

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Draft minutes for hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 7 pm

Present: I Walterson (Chair)
F Macbeath (Vice Chair)
C Venus
M Forrest
J Laing
E Johnston
J Puckey
Cllr L Peterson

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk), L Rendall (Community Involvement and Development Officer)

1. Chair's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies:

J Haswell, M Macgregor, S Johnston, R Smith, M Duncan, R Fraser

3. Declarations of Interest

F Macbeath declared an interest in item 15, (Grant application by Sandness School) because he has family members attending the school.

4. Police Report

No report was available for this meeting.

5. Minutes from 7.5.24

The adoption of the minutes of 7th May 2024 was proposed by J Puckey and seconded by M Forrest.

6. Matters Arising

Re: 7 of 5/24 Visit by Andrew Mayhew – Area Service Manager – Shetland & Orkney – North Region – Scottish Ambulance Service re: Defibrillators

The following points were raised following the visit by Andrew Mayhew:

- It may be possible to obtain replacement defibrillator batteries and pads through the British Heart Foundation but they will not be able to provide this information until September. The Clerk was asked to make a note in his diary to email the BHF during September.
- The situation regarding the defibrillator donated by Cooke Aquaculture for the West Burrafirth Harbour was discussed. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Andrew Inkster (SIC Ports and Harbours Department) to say that the Community Council is currently working towards gaining funding for the future maintenance of this defibrillator so that no cost should fall on Ports and Harbours.
- The Clerk was asked to print a first responder poster for display in the Walls Shop and the Sandness Notice Board.

Actions: 1. The Clerk to note in his diary to contact the British Heart Foundation in September regarding replacement defibrillator batteries and pads.

2. The Clerk to email the Ports and Harbours Department to inform them that work is ongoing to ensure that the cost of the future maintenance of the defibrillator donated by Cooke Aquaculture for the West Burrafirth Harbour does not fall on Ports and Harbours.

3. The Clerk to print and organise the display of a First Responder posters.

Re: 17.1 of 5/24 No Parking Sign at Dale of Walls Beach Track

F Macbeath reported that the sign had been reversed into by a vehicle which had damaged its rear lights in the process. He stated that the actual sign had not been damaged.

Action: The Clerk was asked to request that H Wishart re-erect the sign in the same location.

7. Community Council Scheme Review - Phase 2 Consultation

The Chair opened this discussion by indicating that it would be necessary for a form of words in response to each of the survey questions be agreed and minuted at this meeting. This was necessary in order to meet the Shetland Islands Council's deadline of the 28th June.

Each draft response was considered in turn and the following amendments were proposed:

Re: Q1 – A means whereby county wide administrative costs can be amalgamated should be explored to ensure that some Community Council's grant funding is not swallowed up by administrative costs.

Re: Q7 – We do not like this proposal.

We do not believe that children between the ages of 12 and 16 should be co-opted onto Community Councils for the following reasons:

- In the case of rural areas, they will require a member of their family to transport them to and from meetings.
- The inclusion of children will require all Community Council members to undergo safeguarding training.
- Community Council Members will have to undergo disclosure checks which will add to admin costs.
- Community Councils will require to have appropriate policies to cover the inclusion of children and young people.
- Given the amount of preliminary work described above, experience has shown that it is unlikely to attract anyone in this age group to be co-opted.

Re: Q8 – It is desirable that Elected Members of Shetland Islands Council should attend the Community Council meetings in the wards they represent.

With the inclusion of the above amendments, the proposal was made that these answers be presented to the SIC for their consideration. It was proposed by C Venus and seconded by F Macbeath.

8. Housing

Members were informed that the new Forralea houses and the renovations of the two properties at Kirkidale are progressing well. The Kirkidale properties will have high quality insulation.

9. Roads (Including Beach Tracks and Future Funding)

9.1 Resurfacing of Local Roads

It was noted that the resurfacing work on the New Road in Walls has been completed but that work on other roads is at a standstill because of broken down plant at the Scord Quarry.

9.2 Beach Tracks at The Dale of Walls and Norby in Sandness.

The Clerk informed the Members that He had received a call from Mr Davie Johnston to say he was now in a position to deliver materials for track repairs to both sites. It was pointed out that Mr Garrick's tractor may be out of commission currently. The Clerk has been asked to find out if he will be able to fill in the potholes at Norby. The Clerk has been in contact with Ms Julie Halcrow to arrange for a works party of people carrying out community payback orders to repair the Dale of Walls beach track.

Action: The Clerk to find out if Mr Garrick is able to fill in the potholes at present.

9.3 The Future Maintenance of the Dale of Walls Beach Track

Members debated this matter at some lengths during which the following points were made:

- A great deal of planning would be required to create a suitable upgraded road with the requisite passing places.
- Uncertainty was expressed regarding the Community Council's eligibility to apply for a National Lottery grant to cover work on land not owned by the Community Council and Community Councils cannot own any land or property.
- Members were concerned that if the Community Council took responsibility for the upgrade of the track, it could make them liable for its maintenance in perpetuity.
- A National Lottery Awards for All grant would be insufficient to cover the total cost the planning and improvements which would have to include an improved turning area at the shore end.
- A wider cattle grid would also be required.
- Concerns were raised regarding the future maintenance of the track since it would cost considerably more to carry out repairs to an upgraded road than to a gravel track.

- The conclusion reached was for the Community Council to continue to support the cost of materials to fill potholes on the track.

9.4 Active Travel Audit Settlement Meeting

The Clerk indicated that whilst the provisional date of Monday 24th June had been set for an active travel audit settlement meeting in the Walls Hall, he had not yet had confirmation that this was a suitable date from Mr Alistair Hunter, Transport Policy and Projects Assistant. Cllr Peterson explained how this meeting was intended to give the residents of Walls an opportunity to examine potential active travel improvements in the Walls area and to make suggestions. She pointed out that current funding would cover this meeting and that when more funding become available, the design phase could proceed. Only when a third tranche of money became available would any improvements be made.

Action: The Clerk to email Mr Hunter to find out if the meeting is to go ahead on the 24th June. He is to copy Cllr Peterson and L Rendall.

10. Future of Health Service Provision at Walls Health Centre

It was noted that information regarding primary health care in the Walls and Bixter Health Centres has been provided via Facebook. It was also noted that a description of the role and status of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner has been provided. The point was made that the current provision is being described as a trial but that the duration of this trial has not been given.

11. Shetland Community Benefit Fund – A Lasting Legacy for Shetland – SCBF Business Plan (Email of 20/5/24)

The Chair provided a brief overview of the business plan and the proposed budgets for each element. Given the ambitiousness of the plan, Members agreed that the level of funding available for each element was wholly inadequate.

12. Local Place Plan

The Chair stated that he had been unable to attend a Teams meeting on the subject of the Local Place Plan but that a video link to the 2 hour meeting was to be made available. The general consensus was that, at present, Members are not well enough informed on this matter but it is hoped that more information will become available in the near future. Cllr

Peterson stated that it would be in the interests of the Community as a whole to draw up a Local Place Plan but acknowledged that it would entail a considerable amount of work. It is hoped to be able to revisit this matter at the August meeting. One of the concerns expressed was that the process is open to any constituted group in a given area and if more than one group draws up a plan the two plans could suggest alternative uses for specific plots of land. It was noted that the Sandness Community Development Ltd may generate a Local Place Plan for Sandness which could be referenced by the Community Council, should they draft one.

13. Facebook Page for S&WCC

E Johnston stated that he has now provided a link to the Council's webpage where Community Council minutes are displayed.

14. Financial Update (See Spreadsheet)

The Clerk stated that there has been no activity on the account since the previous meeting save that the Core Grant has now been paid into it. He explained that the reason for this is because the chequebook is currently with the Independent Examiner and has been for over a month. He went on to say that a Community Development Grant of £3000 and the Special Project Grant have been awarded and that the documentation to release these funds was about to be signed by the Chair. The Chair informed the Members that the sum of £450 which was the Sandness and Walls share of what was left over from Invest in the West will shortly be paid into the Sandness and Walls Community Council's account.

15. S&WCC Grant Application from Sandness Primary School

(F Macbeath declared an interest in this item because he has family members who attend the Sandness School.)

The Chair briefly outlined the nature of the application and how it was a joint bid by both Happyhansel Primary School and Sandness Primary School towards the cost of taking the senior pupils on a trip to the Voxter Outdoor Centre. The remaining Members were unanimous in their approval of this application.

Action: The Clerk to arrange payment of a grant of £300 to Sandness Primary School.

16. Correspondence (Including Emails)

The Clerk stated that no additional correspondence had been received other than by email.

17. AOCB

Members were informed that the school roll at Happyhansel Primary School is falling. The view was expressed that a lack of suitable family housing in the area is a contributing factor. An ongoing HR matter may also have a potential effect on the roll.

Action: The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs H Budge, Director of Children's Services expressing the Members' concerns.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 6th August 2024 and will be a hybrid meeting. It was proposed to hold this meeting at the Sandness Hall if it is available.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

(Draft Minutes of the S\$WCC June 2024 Meeting subject to approval at the next meeting)