



**TINGWALL, WHITENESS & WEISDALE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 19th June 2024

1.0 Present: Andrew Archer (Chair) Catherine Hughson
Linda Tulloch (Vice Chair)
Charlie Hodge
Birgit Wagner
Neil Leask
Martin Randall
Margaret Cooper
Paul Stevens (Clerk)

2.0 Apologies: Moraig Lyall, Ian Scott, John Clarkson, Roselyn Fraser, Michael Duncan

3.0 Declarations of Interest: Andrew Archer declared an interest in grant decisions for the SCBF, Linda Tulloch in matters relating to Tulloch Developments, Catherine Hughson in matters relating to planning, Linda Tulloch for planning application 2024/133/PPF, and Birgit Wagner for planning application 2024/111/PPF.

4.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion proposed by Linda Tulloch and seconded by Birgit Wagner, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2024 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Flooded junction at Strand Loch: this will now be considered as part of future footpath plans.
 - Upgrades to Wornadale viewpoint: the Shetland Amenity Trust indicated that they would supply the original information board artwork in digital format. However, obtaining and maintaining a bench would require an external funding source.
 - People parking in Tingwall passing places: this is an ongoing problem. A post highlighting the issues has been posted on the TWWCC Facebook page.
 - CAB Outreach: this has been provisionally scheduled for the July CC meeting.
 - Copper line switch-off: this was discussed under item 11.
 - The CC review discussion was continued from the May meeting, with members discussing the following components:
 - Funding: An enquiry was made about what deprivation measures (median income, cost of living, etc.) might be available for each CC area. Suitable measures were available, so members felt that these could potentially form part of any CC funding formula. Members
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thought that one benefit of the Scottish CC system was having a paid clerk. However, clerk salaries had been increasing while CC funding remained static, which disproportionately affects smaller CC areas where the amount of work a Clerk undertook would be broadly similar to larger areas but with fewer funds available. Members felt all CCs should have a clerk — selected by the CC — funded as standard, with the remainder of the funding award adjusted by a formula based on that area's population, weighted by deprivation measures.

- Standing orders: members felt that the suggested exclusion from discussions and decisions of any member declaring an interest should be modified to allow them to answer questions relevant to the discussion at the Chair's discretion.
- Youth mentorship: members thought that the proposed new 12-16 (non-voting) category was too young, with CCs being unlikely to find volunteers and there being potential issues with maintaining confidentiality at that age.
- Being both a council & CC member: given the difficulty in recruitment in many CC areas, members felt that this should continue to be allowed.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to submit all the review responses on behalf of the TWWCC.

6.0 Decisions since last meeting

None.

7.0 Police Report

There was no report this month.

8.0 Finance

The Financial Report, updated to 12th June 2024, was distributed to members. The SIC CDF grant has now been received.

9.0 Correspondence

- Safety of lithium-ion batteries: members noted the letter from parliamentary researcher Ron Bailey regarding a proposed bill on *The Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility Vehicles and Lithium Batteries*.
 - Members noted the local resident's letter regarding planning application 2024/133/PPF.
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10.0 Planning

There were several planning applications to be considered this month:

- 2024/111/PPF Seventeen new self-storage containers with parking (part retrospective), Hatal's Self-storage Ltd, Gott. Birgit Wagner declared an interest. Members noted that Roads had indicated that the site's internal access would be blocked and that there would be a need to demonstrate access agreement on adjacent land.
 - 2024/137/VCON To vary condition 1 of planning consent 2018/271/PPF — to remove first floor level and lower the height of the building. Baillister Gott.
 - 2024/133/PPF Change of use from agricultural to agricultural and equestrian land; erect stable building; create hard standing around stable building. To be used for private use. South Of Wild Airs, Veensgarth. Linda Tulloch declared an interest.
 - 2024/158/PPF To erect two remote radio repeaters on a concrete platform, Turbine 24 Viking Wind
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Farm. An enquiry to SSE confirmed that there would be no skyline visibility for local residents or road users.

- 2024/156/PPF Extension to existing Nissen hut to increase floor area at Ballister, Gott.
 - ACTION: The Clerk to respond “No comment” to all of the above applications.
- 2024/051/DCON1 Discharge of condition 4 — SUDs pre-commencement, Site at North Ustanes South Whiteness. For information only — no action needed.
- 2024/051/DCON2 Discharge of condition 5 — Landscaping Scheme, Site at North Ustanes, South Whiteness. For information only — no action needed.
- SCOP-0048 Arven offshore wind farm scoping consultation. Members noted the incongruity that CCs are consulted about offshore planning but bodies such as the Fishing Association are not. Concern had been expressed at the recent ASCC meeting, resulting in the deadline being extended for CC consultation, so members will consider the proposal and revisit this at the next meeting. Members felt that the associated onshore infrastructure would be more of an issue for the area and that the onshore scoping document (still to be published) would probably be of greater relevance.

11.0 ASCC

At the most recent meeting, the key items discussed were:

- Digital Switchover: the focus was on telecare, etc. systems, and potential backup power. It was unclear whether fibre optic systems would even be in place in Shetland by the time of the proposed copper line cut-off. There were also questions as to who counts as vulnerable in a rural community. For example, someone who was snowed-in and then injured themselves with no way of calling for help would be in a vulnerable state yet would not presumably be covered by existing guidelines.
- The results of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service consultation suggested five days of backup power would be needed for local fire services. It was noted that many local fire stations are in a poor state of repair, with Shetland urgently needed improved resources and strategies.
- CC members noted that an Ofcom representative will be on the strategy team for Shetland.
 - ACTION: Andrew Archer will draft a letter to OFCOM, copied to the SIC Community Safety and Resilience Board, highlighting CC concerns.

12.0 Viking / Statkraft

- A reply had been received from SSEN to say that their proposed building on the Mossy Hill site was the standard size for the T-connection that is needed to link to the transmission network between Kergord and Gremista.
- It was reported at the last VCLG meeting that:
 - the Sandwater road was now being re-tarred after recent delays, and that 50MW testing has now been carried out but higher winds were hoped for to test the cable with more power.
 - The existing mitigation measures for the water leaching issues will continue until a more permanent solution is found.
 - After the recent land slide at Upper Kergord, increased risk assessments have been put in place
 - Construction of the interconnector is on schedule, ready for the National Grid handover.

- A question was submitted about verge reinstatement but there was no reply as yet.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to write to Neil Hutchinson asking when road repairs (under section 96) will be carried out.

13.0 Win Furt

- A meeting with Michael Craigie (SIC Executive Manager of Transport Operations) confirmed that there were no Sustrans funds currently available to Win Furt, but that the Gott/Tingwall path would be relevant to the SIC Active Travel plan.
 - Drafts of the invitation to tender are being looked at by the trustees.
 - Win Furt members have been sent an email outlining possible future funding sources, with the Benefact Trust one possibility under consideration.
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14.0 SCBF

- The new Memorandum of Understanding from SCBF was circulated to CC members. Members felt that, while they agreed with the principle outlined in clause 1.7 — that unspent allocated funds amounting to two Community Grant Scheme years could instead be administered by the SCBF directly if they felt a CC's plans were unrealistic or under developed — the assertion in clause 6.2 that any such decisions were at the sole discretion of the SCBF was problematic. Members felt there needed to be an independent body to approve (or not) of disputed SCBF decisions.

→ ACTION: Andrew Archer to write to SCBF to indicate that members feel clause 6.2 needs to be revised to include the role of an independent arbiter.

- A potential candidate for the TWWCC's nomination as director is currently considering the role, with the approval of members.
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15.0 Roads

There were no issues to consider.

16.0 Councillors' Reports

Catherine Hughson said that there was little to report on this month due to the restrictions of the pre-General Election period, but that she had been dealing with issues of parking at Kalliness and education matters.

17.0 AOCB

Scottish Water has been surveying the mains water system in Whiteness with a view to replacing pipes later this year,

18.0 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on the 17th July, in the Whiteness and Weisdale Public Hall.
