

to be approved by SCC Members via Zoom meeting on 16/09/24

SCALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Scalloway Community Council Meeting held on Monday 19th August 2024 at 7pm over at the Scalloway Hall.

1. PRESENT:

Andrew Blackadder
Lindsay Laurenson
Barbara Anderson

In attendance:

Joy Ramsay – Clerk
Lawson Bisset
Cllr Catherine Hughson
Cllr Ian Scott
Neil Hutcheson – Executive Manager of SIC Roads
Michael Cragie – Lead Officer of ZetTrans

2. APOLOGIES:

Mark Burgess
Cllr Davie Sandison
Cllr Moraig Lyall
Michael Duncan
Marie Williamson

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Lindsay was proposed at the chair for this meeting by Andrew, and seconded by Barbara.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2024 could not be approved, due to the members that were in attendance not being present; the following amendments were suggested:

Section 6 – Scalloway Community Development Company: the first section should read ‘A meeting has been held with Shetland Islands Council to discuss the next steps for the Waterfront project.. The need for an environmental impact assessment was raised and will have to be investigated. Ryan Thomson from Community Energy Scotland has also spoken to SCDC to consider participation in a community transport project.

Section 10 – Finance: Mark declared an interest in the SYCC grant; this was seconded by Andrew

5. GUEST SPEAKER – MICHAEL CRAGIE, ZETTRANS

Michael Craigie attended the SCC meeting on behalf of ZetTrans, to discuss the Shetland Public and School Bus Business Case, which has currently entered its community consultation phase. ZetTrans is developing a business case for the future delivery of passenger transport in Shetland. Part of the consultation phase includes an online survey which is open for the public to use, which will be used to identify issues with the current bus service and advice on what people would prefer. The survey is for those who currently use the bus services, as well as those who do not, in order to identify what is preventing people from using public transport. There will also be a number of drop in sessions with the Area Transport Forum, with one being held at the Scalloway Hall on 10th September. Whilst part of the consultation would be to look at the current routes, part of this ongoing discussion would be to identify whether subsidies could be in place for those travelling for education or health related matters. It was acknowledged that funding for public transport has been reduced, and that factors such as wages, fuel and vehicle upkeep will be taken into account when routes and frequency of buses going through areas is discussed.

Lawson questioned whether there could be a potential for bus services in some areas could get worse as a result of the survey, and Michael informed the SCC that earlier drafts of the consultation included the phrase 'improved service', which has since been removed.

There were also concerns raised with regards to the increased demand with bus services through Scalloway as a result of the Shetland College UHI being merged with the Scalloway College, and the increase in tourism and cruise ships coming to Shetland potentially resulting in locals being unable to utilise services as they currently stand.

There were suggestions for parts of the service which could benefit the community, such as bus runs designed to cater to Hame fae Hame users.

The contract for the buses is five years, and the hope for the consultation would be to cut back on routes that are underutilised and not functional, and provide services that do. It was also noted that there is currently funding for public transport available through the Scottish Government, which is useful, though not enough to be solely relied on. The possibility of independent buses in place of those on the current routes was also discussed, but this would be unlikely to work with the contracts that would be in place.

Other features of the current bus service would also be discussed, with Lindsay noting that the current app would be more beneficial if it could provide live updates of buses, and alert passengers to delays.

It was requested for the SCC to submit comments and feedback after the next meeting.

Michael was thanked, and left the meeting at this point.

6. GUEST SPEAKER – NEIL HUTCHESON, SIC ROADS

Neil Hutcheson attended the SCC meeting on behalf of SIC's Roads department, to discuss the potential for 20mph speed limits for the majority of built up areas within Scalloway. It was noted that a similar proposal was made about ten years ago, but that there wasn't support for this proposal. It is thought that there may be more people in favour currently, due how built up Scalloway is currently. The Scottish Government has planned to work with local authorities to reduce the speed limit in populated areas to 20 mph where appropriate by the end of 2025, and it was acknowledged that Wales has already implemented these speed limits in 2023. Specific areas in Scalloway would be the focus of reduced speed limits, such as areas with high foot traffic and close to the school. In line with this becoming a commitment of the Scottish Government, if the 20mph speed limit is introduced, then the previous speed limits would not be able to be reinstated, which is why a public consultation is currently being arranged. Whilst there was some general discussion concerning the West Shore and the Valley leading to Scalloway, there was general agreement on the proposed areas that had been proposed by Roads. It was also agreed that the proposed 20mph limits would be beneficial for the Active Travel plans that have previously discussed, especially the proposed footpath for the head of East Voe. It was also understood that the SCDC would be interested in the impact this would have on the Water Front project. The next stage will be a public proposal for 20mph speed limits.

Neil was thanked, and left the meeting at this point.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING NOT ON THE AGENDA

Scalloway Castle: Ian had been advised by Historic Scotland that there were hoped for the work to be done in July; there has yet to be verification of whether the works have been carried out. Before further action is taken, Davie is to be spoken to, to see if he has taken any action.

Action: Clerk

Helen Robertson: the plaque that had previously been discussed in another meeting arrived at the clerks, and the displaying of it was discussed. It was agreed that the Scalloway Museum would be contacted, to see if they would be content to hold the plaque.

Action: Clerk

8. SCALLOWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The SCDC are planning to work alongside the Scalloway Museum to further enhance the heritage trail, with the physical boards being updated and digital components, such as QR codes being added. It was agreed that a representative from SCC should be put forward as a representative, and Lawson was nominated. Another aspect will be the funding for this project, which the SCC would be happy to discuss further.

Water Front: the Water Front project is currently at a standstill, as the SCDC are still waiting to speak with Planning.

Kirk Business Centre: It was noted that the application made to the Community Land Fund (CLF) has been rejected, and steps are to be taken to find alternative funding.

Caravan Park: it has been acknowledged that the caravan park has had a successful second year, though there was a fall in July compared to 2023. This may be due to a number of factors, such as the weather and availability of space on Northlink. The shed, barriers and playground have now been set up, and have been put to good use. There are hopes for a third wigwam to be added to the park, but efforts are being made to locate a local contractor and product. It was noted with concern that antisocial behaviour has been reported in the caravan park, which was partially captured on CCTV.

9. ASCC UPDATE

The next meeting of the ASCC will have yet to be confirmed; the members are to be alerted to when this will occur, and a representative nominated if possible.

Action: Clerk

10. ROADS

Winter Planning: whilst Neil was in attendance, he noted that the roads department were drafting their winter plan, with steps such as gritting roads and pavements on Sundays being proposed.

Yellow Lines: The clerk wrote to Roads with regard to the double yellow lines that had been painted, and had received a response. It is understood that the lines were painted at the request of the Scalloway Hotel, who were experiencing difficulties with deliveries due to issues with parking in front of the Closs. It was noted that the lines are currently not backed up with the relevant Traffic Order to allow legal enforcement, being intended to act as a visual deterrent for motorists. The SCC were disappointed with this decision, as it sets a poor precedent for future works.

11. POLICE REPORT

The police report for June/July was not shared with the community council; the papers are to be requested, and the area sergeant is to be reminded that the community council would appreciate their attendance if possible.

Action: Clerk

12. FINANCE

Core Funding/ CDF: the core funding and CDF have now been delivered.

Annual Accounts: the annual accounts are due to be delivered, which will be passed onto Voluntary Action Shetland for approval.

Action: Clerk

Community Benefit Fund: no further applications.

Special Project Grants: through an email sent to the committee members before the meeting, Mark informed the members that the memorial had recently been used in a film dramatization of the local witch trials and executions. The interpretive panel for the site previously circulated were passed onto Artmachine, there was an issue with the formatting, resulting in the design being readapted and sent back for printing and mounting. Additional funds from the project were used to buy a bench at the regular walking route from Port Arthur to Maa Ness, following enquiries from community members about this possibility as previously discussed. Mark will ensure that the delivery process is monitored.

Action: Mark

Jamieson Trust: Mark has spoken with Nordri regarding the installation of the clock, and they are reluctant to proceed without willing support from the manufacturer of the clock. Mark will contact Nordri to explain this.

Action: Mark

13. CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant email correspondence circulated to all members.

Local Place Plan: Mark was contacted by a planning officer after an ASCC meeting to discuss Scalloway's Local Place Plan. He was advised that the SCC should update the LPP, to reflect the aims that had been achieved and new ideas raised as a result. It was suggested that SCDC may be able to be of assistance in some areas. It was noted that Scalloway has gone through two official consultations for the area, whereas some other areas are only beginning their LPPs. Mark is to send back a relevant response to Planning.

Action: Mark

Mossy Hill: Statkraft are hosting two public consultations, including one at the Scalloway Hall. They have invited the members of SCC to attend if possible.

14. PLANNING

2024/211/PPF: Change of use of student residences and associated accommodation on the first floor of Port Arthur House to office use; removal and over cladding of an existing window at Port Arthur House, Port Arthur, Scalloway, Shetland ZE1 0UN. It was noted that this would be a big loss for students attending the college in Scalloway, especially as the campus is being combined with the Shetland UHI in Lerwick. Planning is to be contacted, and asked what other accommodation is available for students, and whether there is enough parking available.

Action: Clerk

2024/182/PPF: Change of use of former Meeting Hall to a private dwellinghouse; demolish existing porch; install air source heat pump; upgrading of parking/services arrangements at Old Meeting Hall, Hillside Road , Scalloway, Shetland ZE1 0XB. No comments are to be submitted.

15. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

No further action taken

16. STORAGE BOXES

No further action taken.

17.AOCB

New Member: Lawson Bisset declared an interest in joining the SCC, and his membership was proposed by Andrew and seconded by Lindsay.

East Voe: It was noted that there hadn't been a response to the request for more bins in the East Voe area. It has been suggested that sanitation should be contacted to chase this request, and an additional request for dog waste bins should be placed at the same time.

Action: Clerk

18. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next full meeting of the Scalloway Community Council will be held on Monday 16th September 2024 at the Scalloway Public Hall.

Meeting ended at 22:20.