

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

Mr I F Walterson
Modesty
West Burrafirth
Bridge of Walls
Shetland
Tel: Walls 01595 809428
E-mail: hnplerwick@outlook.com

Clerk:

Mr D Forrest
1 Kirkidale
Walls
Shetland
Tel: Walls 01595 809746
E-mail: s.wcc.clerk@btinternet.com

Draft minutes for hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council on Tuesday 6th August 2024 at 7 pm held at the Sandness Hall

Present: I Walterson (Chair)

M Forrest
E Johnston
S Johnston
J Puckey
M Macgregor
R Smith
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:

F Macbeath (Vice Chair), C Venus, J Laing

3. Declarations of Interest

S Johnston declared an interest in relation to an item to be raised under matters arising.

4. Police Report

Members acknowledged receipt of the Police Community Council Report for April and May received by email on 26th June 2014.

5. Minutes from 4.6.24

The adoption of the minutes of 4th June 2024 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by E Johnston.

6. Matters Arising

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

M Macgregor reported that the sign has been relocated by Mr H Wishart. Its current position is deemed more suitable by a local crofter.

7. Timetable for visits by M Craigie and H Budge at September meeting

7.1 Background to visits

The fact that both Mr M Craigie and Mrs H Budge are scheduled to attend the September meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council was discussed. It is anticipated that issues concerning the stakeholder and community engagement exercise to inform the business case being developed for the next generation of public bus contracts will take approximately one hour as will discussions with Mrs Budge regarding the falling roll at Happyhansel Primary School.

7.2 Current issues relating to Bus Travel in the Sandness and Walls area

The Chair requested that Members consult with their local communities regarding issues of concern relating to bus travel, prior to the scheduled discussions with Mr M Craigie at the September meeting.

Members raised the following issues:

- In order to get a bus from Walls to Sandness to connect with the early evening service, one has to prebook by the evening prior to travel. This has proved unsatisfactory on several occasions.
- The late morning service scheduled to link with the Foula Ferry only goes as far as the Ferry Terminal on Tuesdays and Thursdays in winter months. Given that it is often not possible due to adverse weather conditions for the ferry to keep to this schedule it was suggested that the bus go to the terminal on request.

- There is no bus service for people living in the Sandness and Walls area who wish to use the Leisure Centre at Aith.

7.3 Meeting Times for Tuesday 3rd September

In order to accommodate both sets of visitors it was agreed to commence the September Meeting at 6.30pm with a view to meeting with Mr Craigie at 6.30pm and Mrs Budge at 7.30pm. It was also agreed to restrict the agenda to just those two items.

7.4 Issues to discuss with Mrs Budge

Concerns were raised about the SIC's Mothballing of Schools policy. However, it was acknowledged that the reason for Mrs Budge's visit is to discuss the falling roll at Happyhansel Primary School, it was agreed this should be the main focus for discussion with the mothballing policy also entering into the dialogue.

8. Community Council Scheme Review - Phase 2 Consultation

Emailed correspondence from a concerned member of the public concerning permitting 12-15-year-olds to become Associate Members of Community Councils was briefly discussed. It was acknowledged that this Community Council submitted its responses to the review within the requisite timescale. Furthermore, it is anticipated that a summary of the responses to Phase 2 of the Review should be provided soon and that the final Phase of the Review should commence in October.

9. Housing

Members were informed that the Forralea houses currently under construction should be available to let in October and that one of the two Council owned properties in Kirkdale in Walls which have recently been renovated is in the process of being occupied.

10. Roads

Re: 9.2 of 11/23 Re: 9.2 Lack of Signage for Passing Places on Road from Dale of Walls to the Sandness Junction and 8.2 of 10/23 Misinformation on Brown Road Sign in Sandness

The Clerk stated that reminders have been emailed to the Roads Department and that a response had been received from Mr N Hutcheson to the effect that the relevant personnel have been asked to address these matters.

Re: 9.1 of 6/24 Resurfacing of Local Roads

Members are of the opinion that all local resurfacing work has now been completed for the current year.

10.1 Thistles in Dale of Walls Quarry

The Clerk informed the members that following an email from M Macgregor regarding the presence of thistles in the Dale of Walls Quarry, he has passed this information to the Environmental Department and received a response to say the thistles would be sprayed.

9.2 Cattle Grid on Beach Track at The Dale of Walls

M Macgregor provided a potted history of the cattle grid on the Dale of Walls Beach track and stated that it is currently in need of some repairs to the concrete. Given the fact that it can be neither the SIC's nor the Community Council's responsibility to carry out the repairs, the matter was left in abeyance. M Macgregor is to seek a volunteer to carry out the work.

9.3 Community Service Personnel to fill potholes on the Dale of Walls Beach Track

The Clerk was asked to find out if a timescale was available for the Community Service Personnel to fill in potholes on the Dale of Walls Beach Track.

Action: The Clerk to email Ms J Halcrow to find out if she can provide a possible timescale for the above work.

11. Future of Health Service Provision at Walls Health Centre

Anecdotal reports indicate that the current system of locums and Advanced Nurse Practitioners is proving very successful.

12. Shetland Community Benefit Fund

Whilst there are currently no SCBF applications to consider, the Clerk stated that he had received a phone call from a member of the Gruting Community Centre Management Committee regarding a possible application for funding to carry out repairs to the building. The Clerk also stated that an expression of interest had been made on behalf of the Walls Regatta Club who are seeking funding towards the cost of a new guard boat.

13. Local Place Plan

The Chair reiterated that owing to the unsuitability of times when public meetings were being held on the subject of LPPs, he had not been able to attend. Forthcoming meetings in Yell, Scalloway and Sandwick would present similar problems. After some discussion regarding what can be included in a local place plan, it was suggested that Mr Mogridge organise an evening meeting on the Westside in one of the Public Halls. The Clerk was asked to apply for a Local Place Plan template.

Actions: 1. Cllr Peterson to liaise with Mr Mogridge regarding holding a meeting on the Westside to provide information on LPPs.

2. The Clerk to request an LPP template.

14. Facebook Page for S&WCC

E Johnston stated that he is providing information regarding health care provision at Walls. He went on to say that there are currently 125 followers to the Facebook page.

15. Financial Update (See Spreadsheet)

The Clerk stated that all activity on the account since the previous meeting has been recorded on the spreadsheet. The sum of £450 which was the Sandness and Walls share of what was left over from Invest in the West has been paid into the Sandness and Walls Community Council's account.

16. Correspondence (Including Emails)

16.1 The Tree of Life – Interrupted

The Clerk displayed a plaque created by Shetland crafts people and artists bearing the title, The Tree of Life – Interrupted that the Community Council has received. It was indicated that it could not be displayed until a sticker was appended stating that it had been funded by the Scottish Government.

16.2 Thank You Card from Sandness Primary School Children

The pupils from Sandness PS who had attended the end of term trip along with pupils from Happyhansel PS to Voxter sent a thank you card to the Community Council in appreciation of the funding they had received from the Community Council.

16.3 Invitation to attend the Hjaltland Housing Association AGM

The Clerk circulated a letter inviting Members to attend Hjaltland Housing Association's AGM.

17. AOCB

17.1 Funding request by Sandness Community Development

Members were informed about a funding request that had arrived too late to be included on the August agenda. It is to support a film club in Sandness. The request was made for it to be included on the September agenda.

Action: The Clerk to include the funding request by Sandness Community Development on the September agenda

17.2 Skip for Foula to remove old white goods

The request was made for a skip for Foula to enable the removal of old white goods. This was approved and the Clerk is to liaise with R Smith regarding skip hire and transport to the Foula Ferry Terminal in Walls.

Action: Clerk to liaise with R Smith to organise a skip for old white goods to be removed from Foula.

17.3 Ham Footbridge on Foula

Members were informed that the footbridge across the burn at Ham is in need of major repairs. This bridge forms part of the Coastal Path. The Clerk was asked to inform the SIC Outdoor Access Forum to request remedial action.

Action: The Clerk to email SIC Access Forum to request that they organise repairs to the Ham Footbridge.

17.4 Access Road to Nurse's Cottage on Foula

It was pointed out that the access road to the Nurse's Cottage on Foula is in need of repair. It was pointed out that a local contractor currently has suitable machinery on Foula. It was suggested that the NHS Shetland liaise with the contractor to have the work carried out.

Action: The Clerk to email NHS Shetland to request that repairs be carried out on the road to the Nurse's Cottage on Foula while the necessary plant is on the island.

17.5 Coastal Erosion in area at Ham Beach, Foula

The Problem of coastal erosion on a slipway at Ham Beach on Foula was raised. Given that there is currently no funding available via the SIC to cover the cost of remedial work caused by coastal erosion it was felt that this was not an issue that the Community Council could address. It was suggested that Foula Heritage could investigate the possibility of accessing the Nature Restructuring Fund.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 3rd September 2024 and will be a hybrid meeting which is scheduled to commence at 6.30pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

(Draft Minutes of the August 2024 S&WCC Meeting subject to approval at next meeting)