

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

Chairman:

Mr John Priest
Farmhouse
Reawick
Shetland
ZE2 9NJ
Tel: 01595 860274
e-mail: priestjt@btconnect.com

Clerk:

Mrs L Fraser
West Burrafirth
Walls
Shetland
ZE2 9NT
Tel: Walls 01595 809203
e-mail: clerk.sandacc@gmail.com

Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Skeld Hall on Monday 20 May 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest Mrs J Fraser
Mrs S Deyell J Abernethy
Mrs L Johnson
Ex-Officio: Cllr L Peterson
In attendance: Ms Lynsey Rendall, Community Involvement & Development Worker
Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs L Johnson, seconded by Mrs S Deyell.

BUSINESS ARISING: Community Council Scheme Review: Ms Lynsey Rendall and Mrs J Fraser explained the questions on the Phase 2 Consultation paper. They stressed that no decisions have yet been made about any of the items and that all comments are welcome. The consultation on this phase closes on 28 June 2024.

The questions on the survey are:-

1. SIC proposes to simplify funding to Community Councils by merging existing core funding and the Community Development Fund into one new grant scheme.
2. SIC proposes the new funding scheme formula will be based on a fixed allocation for core costs per Community Council, with the remainder of funding linked to population levels.
3. SIC proposes that any member of a Community Council that fails to attend any Community Council meeting throughout a period of 6 months may have their membership terminated by the Community Council. At the discretion of Community Councils, a period of leave of absence for Community Council members may be granted at any meeting of the Community Council.
4. At present, Community Council membership numbers have little correlation to current population levels. Shetland Islands Council proposes to introduce population bands that will guide the minimum and maximum number of Community Councillors each Community Council will have.
5. The current Scheme does not have a set of Standing Orders, or similar document, that details how Community Council business is to be arranged and conducted. To provide a guide for meetings and support the Chair in running meetings, Shetland Islands Council proposes to introduce Community Council Standing Orders.

6. The existing Code of Conduct lacks detail in certain aspects and is in need of updating. Shetland Islands Council proposes to update the Community Council Code of Conduct.
7. Shetland Islands Council proposes to introduce a new Youth Membership category for young people aged between 12-16 years of age. Community Councils may appoint two youth members, on the basis that they will reside within the Community Council area. Youth members would not have voting rights.
8. At present it is possible for elected individuals to join their local Community Council as a full member with voting rights. However this can lead to those elected individuals regularly experiencing conflicts of interest during Community Council meetings. Shetland Islands Council proposes that any individual who is elected to serve on the Shetland Islands Council, or the Scottish or UK or Youth Parliaments shall be ineligible to stand for election or to be co-opted as a voting member of a Community Council, but will be an ex-officio member. Ex-officio members are those members of a Community Council by virtue of holding another public office. This means they will still be able to attend and participate in Community Council meetings but do not have voting rights.
9. It is good practise to periodically change the Chair of an organisation. Shetland Islands Council proposes that a Community Council Chair can serve a maximum of four consecutive years. On serving as Chair for the maximum period, the individual in post must step down and cannot return to the same office for a minimum period of two years. In exceptional circumstances, to be determined by the Community Council, the Chair may be considered to serve beyond the maximum period of four years. Such exceptional circumstances would require a unanimous decision being passed by the Community Council voting members.

Completed surveys must be returned to Community Council Survey at Solarhus by 5pm on Friday 28 June 2024. Community Council members can complete an individual survey as well as taking part in the one being submitted by the Community Council.

The survey will be discussed at our June meeting.

Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse: Work on the barriers is progressing well.

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.

30mph Speed Limit in Aith: Details of the SIC (B9071 and Various Roads, Aith) (30mph Speed Limit) Traffic Regulation Order 2024 was received from Mr N Hutcheson, Executive Manager, Roads. The Order retains the existing speed limits in Aith with an extension of the 30mph limit along the B9071 to the south-east to include the junction to Michaelswood. The length of the Vementry road nearest the junction with the B9071 would also be included due to the number of houses in the area. The members welcomed the extension to the speed limit.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) and Viking Community Fund: Viking Community Fund has now been approved

Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund: The Final meeting of this Group will be held on Teams on 21 May.

CDF Grant: Aith Public Toilets – The Secretary to Aith Community Association had kindly sent photos of the signage erected at the Aith Public Toilets using the CDF Grant they had received. The signs look very attractive. She added that the Association members are very thankful for the support they have received.

Active Travel: Sustrans Places for Everyone Fund - A message was received from Ms Robina Barton saying that, as a result of the fast changing active travel landscape, Sustrans currently have no funds available for stage 0-2 projects so the application is in a kind of limbo. She is hopeful that it will change.

Active travel settlement audit meeting in Skeld - Mr A Hunter, Transport Policy and Projects Assistant at Transport Planning/ZetTrans sent a message saying that, due to illnesses and

staffing changes, he had been unable to follow up on the date for a meeting that he had previously suggested. Mrs S Deyell agreed to contact him suggesting that he sets up a stall at the Skeld Flower Show where he can explain what he has in mind to the many Skeld residents who attend.

Bench: The Bench is now in place and a message will be sent to SSE Renewables thanking them for providing it.

Da Voar Redd Up: A notice will be placed on the Sandsting & Aithsting Facebook page asking for applications for a grant from those groups who took part in Da Redd Up by 7 June.

Skeld School: Disappointment was expressed by the members that the Skeld School has been mothballed.

Our primary issue with how this has been handled is the lack of engagement with the Community Council. Our main role is to act as an organisation representing our communities. The schools in our area are at the heart of our communities and to exclude the Community Council from any meaningful consultation and only inform us after the decision is made completely undermines our role as a Community Council.

It was agreed to contact Mr M Duncan to ask whether a suggestion that Community Councils should be consulted before a mothballing process starts can be added to the agenda of the Association meeting.

Letter of Support: A Letter of Support had been sent to the Walls & District Agricultural Society Secretary.

Community Development Fund – 2024/25: An application for Distribution Fund will be lodged by 31 May.

PTSN: Mr M Duncan forwarded an update he had recently received in relation to the Public Switched Telephone Network. In it the BT Group announced that the reset of the date for switch off is 31 January 2027.

Remembering Together Project: A message was received from Ms Helen Robertson, one of the artists chosen to fulfil the 'Collective acts of reflection, remembrance, hope and healing with communities across Scotland' following Covid 19. She gives details of the plaques she is producing for each Community Council area.

CC CORE FUNDING: A Grant Offer Letter was received from Mr M Duncan. It was signed and a copy will be returned to Mr Duncan when payment of the CC Core grant will be made.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: The following planning applications were considered and welcomed:-

2024/076/PPF Siting of a mobile home for residential purposes including creation of base slab, utilities and drainage at Grindins, Wester Skeld, ZE2 9NL by Mr Ivan Hackett.

2024/118/PPF Change of use from derelict building to form 3 no. flats with associated landscaping, parking and drainage at Park Hall, Bixter ZE2 9LY by Mrs B Powis.

ASSOCIATION: The next meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils will be held on Tuesday 11 June. The meeting papers were received. Names of attendees are requested by 5 June.

SFRS: The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is holding a public pre-consultation exercise titled 'Shaping Our Future Service: Your Say'. The Consultation ends on 30th June 2024. This information will be added to our Facebook page.

LOCAL PLACE PLANS: Mr M Duncan forwarded a message regarding the Council's launch of Local Place Plans which had been discussed at the March Association of Shetland Community Councils' meeting. The Local Place Plans Team have created a dedicated Local Place Plans web page. The Chairman suggested that, as this would take up some time and a lot of people in this area are already busy, the Community Council should register with LPP and we would then be kept informed. The members agreed. This will be done.

CITIZENS ADVICE OUTREACH WORK: A message was received from Mr Alex Tresadern, outreach and energy advisor at Shetland Islands Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB), saying he is new to the post and is working to try to reduce fuel poverty and inequality within Shetland (including more rural and harder to reach locations such as the isles). He had been in contact with Mr M Duncan who advised him that he is happy to circulate any information he wishes to share to Community Councils. Alternatively he could attend Community Council meetings and deliver his presentation. The members agreed that the CAB is a very useful and helpful organisation.

PROPOSED NEW FARE STRUCTURE FOR PVGS: A message was received from Mr M Duncan saying that the Scottish Government and Disclosure Scotland are consulting on potential changes to fees for disclosure applications and protection of vulnerable group scheme membership and that the consultation closes on 28 May.

WILDCAT CARDIAC RESPONDER/VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER: The Scottish Ambulance Service is looking for volunteers to join them as Wildcat Cardiac Responders/Volunteer Community First Responders. Posters and leaflets were attached to help with raising awareness and recruitment can be found on our Facebook page.

CROSS PARTY GROUP (CPG) ON ISLANDS & NIP REVIEW CONSULTATION ANALYSIS: An email was received from Ms K MacColl, SIF Project Officer, saying that a CPG meeting is being held on Wednesday 22 May. Mrs J Fraser will attend.

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

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the Bixter Community Hall on Monday 10 June 2024 at 7.30pm.