

Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in the Rankin Lounge, Aith on Monday 8 July 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest
Mrs S Deyell
Mrs L Johnson
Ex-Officio: Cllr M Robinson
In attendance: Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

MINUTES & REPORT: The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mrs S Deyell, seconded by Mr J Priest.

BUSINESS ARISING: Community Council Scheme Review: The survey had been filled in and returned.

Term of Office for Community Councillors – A message was received from Ms A Cogle, SIC Depute Returning Officer, saying it had been agreed that the Term of Office for all Community Councils in Shetland be extended by one year to November 2025 to allow further time for the Review of the Scheme of Community Councils in Shetland to be completed. She had written to all voting members of all Community Councils in Shetland to formally advise that unless they advise otherwise, their term of office on their Community Councils will be confirmed as extended for a further year to 19 November 2025.

Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse: This scheme is almost complete.

Brig at Burn of Lunklet: Contractor has now completed this project.

Gritting of the road network: A copy of the Winter Maintenance Policy Review 2024 was received and considered. Our members agreed with most of the suggestions but noted that, on Priority 2 roads, there will be no treatment on Christmas or New Year's Days. Disappointment was expressed that the roads are not to be treated or pre-salted on those days as a number of people visit their families and friends at that time.

A reply will be sent to Mr Neil Hutcheson, expressing our disappointment that the roads are not to be treated on Christmas or New Year's Days and reminding him of the fatality which occurred in our area last Christmas Day due to untreated icy roads. Also older people are now encouraged to live in their own homes, assisted by Community Care and Carers have to visit them 365 days per year. We hope that further consideration can be given to providing gritting on Christmas and New Year's Days.

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) and Viking Community Fund: The Chairman had attended the most recent Liaison Group meeting and gave a report.

The Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing agreement for the Community Grant Scheme (CGS) which will replace the Advance Grant Scheme (AGS) were received. Both documents were signed and will be returned to SCBF.

Update on grants: Investing in Communities Fund: The amounts relating to the Investing in Communities Fund had been paid and grant finalised. Mrs S Deyell and Mrs L Fraser expressed their thanks for the amounts they received.

Funding: Funding details have been received from Mr M Duncan and circulated to the members.

Community Development Fund – 2024/25: A letter was received from Ms S Tait at the Community Planning & Development Dept attaching a Grant Offer Letter in respect of the CDF Distribution grant. The Letter was signed and one copy will be returned to the Grants Unit. The grant will then be paid into this Community Council's bank account.

Remembering Together Project: A plaque for this Community Council was received and will be given to Aith J H School for display.

Association: Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser had represented this Community Council at the Association meeting on 11 June and will give her report at our next meeting.

Local Place Plans (LPP): It was agreed to send a note to Mr P Mogridge, Planning Officer, Development Plans and Heritage, saying that we wish to express an interest in LPP but that, at present, we do not have any group who are willing to head it. However, we recognise the benefit and wish to be kept up to date.

A message was received from Mr Peter Mogridge saying they have now agreed their SPP Support Programme with Planning Aid Scotland and are organising the in-person, introductory training events. They have yet to fix final locations and venues, but the dates will be:- Tuesday 3rd September 2024, Wednesday 4th September 2024 and Thursday 5th September 2024.

Skeld Camping Bod: Mrs H Sutherland of Shetland Amenity Trust had replied saying that they had made an offer of the Camping Bod to the Skeld Waterfront Trust but had not received a reply. She is to enquire further.

Arven Offshore Wind Farm: An email was received from Mr M Duncan saying that the ASCC has secured an extension to this Scoping Consultation and also requesting comments. No comments were made.

FUNDING REQUEST: A funding request received from the Shetland Fencing Club was considered. As we have so little finance available for grants, we normally only consider financial requests later in our financial year and also seldom give grants to Shetland-wide groups except when lots of residents from this area are involved. A reply will be sent to the Club informing them of our situation.

VODAFONE NETWORK: A message was received from Mr James Cunningham, SIC Executive Manager of ICT, Performance & Improvement saying that, following some recent reports of Vodafone network issues, they have invited their Vodafone Public Sector Account Manager for an initial meeting to discuss the general performance of the Vodafone network in Shetland and seek some assurances around their commitment to further infrastructure development. The meeting is scheduled for 24th July. It appears that in Lerwick central the network is incredibly slow and almost unusable especially when the Cruise ships are in. Also recent changes in South Unst/Belmont seem to have diminished the Vodafone signal strength in that area. He asks whether this Community Council members have been aware of any problems in this area. None of the members present had heard of any problems with poor Vodafone connections.

SCAM ALERT: A message was received from Mrs D Smith of the Shetland Public Protection Committee attaching a copy of the latest Scam Alert Bulletin prepared by Trading Standards. It gives details of the most recent scam alert and details of the Bank scam. She

asks that we share it as far and wide as possible to raise awareness of the scam and the contact details of their Trading Standards Colleagues.

LERWICK ALCOHOL BYELAWS: A message was received from Mr M Hodgson, Solicitor, SIC Governance & Law, asking the opinion of this Community Council on the SIC's Prohibition of Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places Bylaws 2005. None of the members present had strong feelings on this subject.

DIGITAL VOICE ROADSHOW: A message was received from Mr M Duncan saying that BT are holding drop-in sessions about the switch to its digital home phone service. He gave the details and the sessions are open to everyone.

UNADOPTED ROADS: A number of applications were received for assistance towards the upkeep of unadopted roads. These were considered and allocations agreed. All applicants will receive a letter giving them details of their grants and informing them that all grants must be claimed by the end of November 2024.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held Bixter Community Hall on Monday 9 September 2024 at 7.30pm.