

BURRA AND TRONDRA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of the above Community Council was held in the foyer of the Burra Public Hall on Monday 11th November 2024 at 6pm.

Present

Mr. N. O'Rourke (Chairman)
Mr. B. Adamson
Mr. G. Laurenson
Ms M. Garnier

Apologies

Mr. R. Black
Mr. M. Fullerton
Miss N. Fullerton
Mrs. C. Smith
Cllr. M. Lyall

In Attendance

Cllr. C. Hughson
Cllr. I. Scott
Cllr. D. Sandison
Mrs. J. Adamson (Clerk)

1. Declaration of Interest – None.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of 7th October 2024 were approved by Mhairi Garnier and Gary Laurenson.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Active Travel Audit

Alistair Hunter, SIC Transport Planning, had emailed with an update on the above. A table was attached showing the timeline and was taken from the working document between themselves, the Roads Service and the transport company Stantec. This is still in draft form but he has been given permission to share with community councils to indicate when things are expected to be done by. (This appeared to show the initial section of path between the junction and beach car park.) A map was also attached showing Systra's recommendations. He had hoped to get a further update on all these projects at a recent meeting but they had barely scratched the surface of all the active travel interventions in the hour they had but he will endeavour to get updates for us at the next opportunity. However, the timeline that they have is that the design process including discussion of land acquisition will be proceeding over the next few months and concluded by the end of March. He apologised for the lack of response regarding this and advised that things should improve when Robina Barton is back in the new year.

(b) Burra Early Years – pick up/drop off sign

Cllr. Hughson has emailed Neil Hutcheson regarding the sign which has still not been installed and is waiting to hear back from him.

(c) Shetland Community Benefit Fund - Director

A couple of folk have been asked to take on this position but so far we have been unsuccessful. Another name was suggested and the Clerk will get in touch.

ACTION: Clerk

(d) Road at Meal – white centre lines/arrows

We requested white centre lines/arrows at the blind spot just north of Speed's corner some time ago. Barrie Scobie has been contacted again and advised they are behind schedule.

(e) Meal Beach - access

Liam Drosso, Outdoor Access Officer, had replied with a copy of the draft sign showing the alternative route at Meal Beach and asked for our approval before getting them printed. The members were happy with the sign and the Clerk will reply. **ACTION: Clerk**

(f) Coastal erosion – Minn Beach, Burra

Niall had spoken with Helen Laurenson to advise that we have been looking into this but have not made any progress in finding a solution due to the extent of the work that would need to be done. Cllr. Lyall had also contacted Liam Drosso, Outdoor Access Officer, and he confirmed that it is part of the Core Path network. He is going out monthly to monitor it but as long as it is accessible for walkers he won't take any action. Cllr. Lyall had also spoken with Colin Smith, Planning Engineer, as he had also visited the site with Liam. He said that the last major work was done in the 90s and is degrading and recommended that the angle of the barrier should be gentler to reduce the impact of the sea. He believes that SIC is the owner of at least part of the land which may be relevant to who pays for any repairs and thought it may be worth asking Assets about this aspect. It was agreed that this should be kept on the minutes.

(g) BT Phone Box, Hamnavoe

The Clerk had still not had a response from BT regarding the phone box and had sent another email to no avail. Photographs were sent with the first email showing the poor state of the phone box and also how it is blocking the path to the ladies public toilet. She also pointed out that the community is looking to improve disabled access to the toilets and the phone box would really need to be removed.

(h) Defibrillator Training

An email had been received from Matt Mason, Group Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, advising that the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Scottish Ambulance Service are working together through a partnership with the British Heart Foundation to equip people with vital CPR and defibrillation skills. They can offer free training sessions for communities which last around 60-90 minutes and include instruction and practice of CPR and defibrillation facilitated by the Ambulance and Fire team. They are providing this training across Shetland. The Clerk had replied to Matt Mason as we had spoken about this at a previous meeting. He asked that we provide some dates and they would be happy to come and do training when available. The members came forward with three dates and the Clerk email these through to Matt. **ACTION: Clerk**

(i) ASCC meeting – 6 November 6-8pm

Michael Duncan had sent through the papers for the ASCC meeting to be held on 6th November. Niall will attend this meeting. **ACTION: Clerk/Niall**

(j) Multicourt lights at Hamnavoe School

A reply had been received from Shona Thompson regarding the above. She advised that there had been a number of discussions about multicourts of late and they will all shortly be handed over to the Sport and Leisure Service to manage – some of them sit with schools and others with them but no one knows why. As part of their discussions the advice has been that lights are being removed from multicourts for these reasons:

- Expensive and difficult to maintain;
- Difficult to repair/change bulbs;
- Dangerous – some lights have been blown off columns in poor weather;
- Electrical switches are unreliable due to them being placed outside;
- Lights are often left on for extended periods as a result, and
- Issues with electricity bills – who pays?

They apparently got a quote for new lights and the outside switch, but that ran to several thousands of pounds which they don't have a budget for. She appreciated our points raised but said they would not be able to proceed as we requested. She did also point out that they are not removing them yet but Sports and Leisure have been gradually working away at removing them rather than replacing.

The members were saddened to hear this news as there is not much for the young folk in our community and with the recent 'knock door run' complaints in Hamnavoe surely this is evidence that the young folk are needing facilities like this. Cllr. Sandison also said that in a recent survey with young folk in Shetland the two things they needed most was better transport connections and good outdoor spaces. He offered to look into this further and will speak with Magnus Malcolmson in the first instance. (The Clerk will copy Shona Thompson's reply to Ben Ward.)

ACTION: Cllr. Sandison

Shona Thompson did say that they would replace the pockets/holes and lids to enable us to continue with the tennis net during the Summer

(k) Tree of Life plaque

The Clerk is still to speak with the History Group regarding this.

ACTION: Clerk

(l) Viking Genes

The Clerk had contacted Professor Wilson to ask why their application for funding was turned down by the Windfarm. He replied stating that the Shetland Community Benefit fund apparently will only fund things that are within the 6 priorities they have identified through public consultation (keeping young folk in Shetland, better broadband, etc, etc). Of course, given that no-one knew until recently that there was a need for genetic screening in Shetland, there's no way the community consultation could have picked this up as a priority. He has had various people say that they are just going to have to change their criteria. He advised that Peter Malcolmson has set up a committee to do fundraising for them and he hopes that he will get things kick-started. Niall also reported that this had been discussed at the recent ASCC meeting and they are looking to invite Prof. Wilson to attend the next ASCC meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Financial Assistance – Community Garden Project (Church of Scotland)

An application for funding had been received from Betty Fullerton on behalf of the above. They are looking to purchase various equipment needed for this year's Winter Wonderland at the garden adjoining the Bridge End Church of Scotland. This is a community-led volunteer effort to decorate the garden for all to enjoy. The members agreed on a donation of £400.

ACTION: Clerk

(b) Pre-application Consultation – Lee of Trondra – Shetland College

An email had been received from Gregg Arthur on behalf of UHI Shetland as part of their exploration into converting the 'Lea of Trondra' site to mussel production. Currently the site is consented for seaweed farming and has remained fallow for some time. They were looking for the view of the Community Council before proceeding with planning permission for this conversion. A map was also attached. The members present had no objections to this change of use.

ACTION: Clerk

(c) Various correspondence

The following correspondence had also been received and circulated to the members prior to the meeting for information:

- ASCC – November meeting update (*Niall had attended and gave a brief report.*)
- Shetland Charitable Trust – Small Grants Scheme
- The Robertson Trust – Small & Large Grants now open
- Correspondence from Minister for Climate Action, Alastair Allan MSP
- CC Survey – insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies
- Networking for Net Zero Stakeholder – Autumn Newsletter
- Funding Information – Corra Foundation
- Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for Adults

5. AOCB

(a) Light outside school

Cllr. Scott reported that the streetlight which had been removed near the west side of the school is to be reinstated. Complaints had been received when this was taken down as children walk this route to and from school and concern was raised for their safety.

(b) Meeting Dates 2025

The Clerk had sent a list of the meeting dates for 2025 to Michael Duncan. Meetings will continue on the first Monday of every month at 6pm (there will be no meeting in August).

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 2nd December 2024 at 6pm.