

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)
ON TUESDAY, 22nd October 2024 AT 6.15 pm
(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

James Rendall, Chair
Lucy Cummings
James Smyth
Peter Braithwaite
Mike Fogarty

IN ATTENDANCE

Juliet Bellis
Robert Thompson
Brenda Leask SIC
Fiona Stirling HIE
Steve Mathieson Visit Scotland
Frances Browne SIC
Raymond Imrie
Barbara Herman

Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

1. Apologies

Michael Duncan
Ryan Thompson

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th September were circulated. Lucy proposed a change to item 5.3. This was agreed and revised minutes will be brought to the next meeting.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Brenda Leask Children's Services SIC

James welcomed Brenda to the meeting.

Brenda outlined the various elements within her department, these include the Library service and Sports and Leisure Facilities.

Brenda is aware that there are now children living on the island.

James S asked what is happening with the school?

Brenda replied there is no change the school is still mothballed.

James S asked how many children would be needed to reopen the school?

Brenda replied there is no number for remote islands although the policy says families.

James R commented that children are entitled to education.

Brenda replied yes and one of the issues would be how they could provide a teacher.

Mike asked is it really one child to open the school?

Brenda replied yes but the policy is ambiguous, and would it be good for a child to be educated on their own?

James R commented that the last single child spent time here and some time on Unst. James R asked what are the timescales?

Brenda replied that the policy says that a service must be provided within four months. Juliet informed that the new family had been given information about education. But were homeschooling.

Brenda informed that the Council supports homeschooling and there is a homeschooling online hub.

Brenda informed that there has been a leak in one part of the school's roof. This will mean that some furniture and equipment may be moved while the repair work takes place.

James R commented that the Fetlar Community Maintenance post could assist with maintenance such as cutting grass when appointed.

James thanked Brenda for attending.

5. Other Guests

5.1. Fiona Stirling Highland and Island Enterprise

James welcomed Fiona to the meeting.

Fiona reminded members that she had been involved with Fetlar projects in the past including the Camper project.

She informed that there are still funds within a 'green' grant fund which could support tourism.

James S informed that the numbers of tourists visiting Fetlar are down this year.

Fiona replied that it would be helpful for her to speak to the Interpretive Centre.

James thanked Fiona for attending.

5.2. Steve Mathieson Visit Scotland

James welcomed Steve to the meeting.

Steve explained that it was a fact-finding visit for him.

He then went on to talk about options for encouraging tourists to visit Fetlar such as 'Ecotourism'.

James S asked what is Ecotourism?

Steve replied that there is a real interest in tourists supporting the environment. Eight to ten percent of global CO2 emissions are related to tourism.

It also considers wildlife.

So, a walking tour of Fetlar would be one example.

Steve outlined that Visit Scotland is undertaking a survey of businesses this year for what could be a bumper year for visitors to Shetland.

James S replied but not for Fetlar because of the problems with the ferries.

Steve then went on to discussions about encouraging smaller cruise ships to visit outside of Lerwick.

Juliet informed that there were four cruise ships that visited Fetlar this year.

Robert Thompson informed that the Shetland Harbour is looking at encouraging more small cruise ships to visit in consultation with Community Council's.

Peter was concerned that the signage for walks was not always on place.

Steve replied that the paths are maintained.

James thanked Steve for attending.

6. Ongoing Business

6.1 Dates for 2025 Meetings

Chris informed that Michael had requested the dates for next year. The dates were agreed.

6.2 Dial Ride Service

James S expressed concern about the Dial a Ride service. There have been occasions when this hasn't been available, and potential users have not been informed leaving them stranded.

The clerk will contact Jamieson's.

6.3 Consultation Letter Minister for Climate Action

A letter has been received by the Community Council from the Scottish Minister for Climate Action.

The letter includes a survey questionnaire with a return date of the 8th November 2024.

There was some discussion including the costs and dilemmas associated with any improvement work on island properties.

Raymond pointed out that ongoing costs for servicing are also substantial.

It was agreed that Lucy would draft a reply.

6.4 Local Development Plan

Lucy informed that there was nothing to report.

6.5 Ferry Timetable and Concerns

It was noted that during the recent problems with the Bigga. There would have been no emergency cover to transport 999 vehicles to Unst or Fetlar.

There was discussion about the difficulties in procuring replacement ferries.

There was discussion about staffing.

It was thought that the recent accident on the Bigga may create further problems with maintaining timetables.

It was agreed that the November meeting should focus on ferries with the senior officers of the Council who have agreed to attend. Frances will arrange. The meeting will start at 6.15 pm.

6.6 Health Care Support Worker

The clerk has received a response from Kim Anderson NHS Shetland. This was circulated to members. It was noted that some issues still need to be resolved particularly the medication delivery.

6.7 Maintenance Post

Still being discussed in SIC.

6.8 Road Speeds

The Clerk has so far only received an acknowledgement.

It was agreed to follow this up and copy in Robert Thompson.

6.9 Tunnel Vision Fixed Links

Juliet had attended a meeting on the 4th of October of the Inter- Island Transport Connectivity Community Stakeholder/User Group Meeting which discusses island connectivity including ferries. It was agreed that fixed links was not an appropriate title for this item.

There will be a further meeting on the 1st of November.

7. Finance and Administration

7.1 Finance Report

The Clerk presented a financial statement up to the end of September.

It was noted that this did not include the £3000 CDF Grants.

Chris also informed that the Community Council had provided funds for a replacement battery and pads for the defibrillator at the clinic. These had been supplied by the same charity as provided the defibrillator.

7.2 Invoice

The invoice was approved for payment.

8. AOCB

8.1 SIC Housing Visit

It was agreed that the housing department visit be pushed back to the December meeting or new year.

8.2. Fibre Broadband

It was noted that a surveyor has been assessing the location of potential fibre broadband connections to all properties on the island.

Robert Thompson didn't think this would arrive soon although there was a fibre connection at Gutcher.

8.3 Scrap Cars

Lucy informed that a scrap merchant had visited the island and was prepared to take away scrap cars from the island. The details are Edwin Davis 07761154455.

The Clerk will circulate.

8.4 Medical Information

Lucy informed that there is a health app on smart phones that enables anybody to access information in the event of an emergency. In "Settings" under either "Health" or "Emergency and Safety" there is an option to create a "Medical ID". You can enter any medical condition that you suffer from and contact details of next of kin. If you are found unconscious with your phone then whoever finds you can try to open your phone and on the screen that asks you to put in your passcode you can press the "Emergency" option and on the next screen there is the option to look at the "Medical ID".

8.5 Medication Information

Lucy also informed that the British Lions had kindly supplied their "Message in a bottle" scheme to the island. The bottles (small plastic tubs) are available for collection from the surgery and contain a form where you can list your medications. This is a national scheme and all first responders will look in the fridge to see if there is a bottle there in the event that you are found unconscious.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday November the 19th time at 6.15 pm