

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL

(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)

ON TUESDAY, 19th November 2024 AT 6.15 pm

(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

James Rendall, Chair

Lucy Cummings

Peter Braithwaite

Mike Fogarty

IN ATTENDANCE

Frances Browne SIC

Robert Thompson

Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

1. Apologies

Julie Maguire

James Smyth

Michael Duncan

Juliet Bellis

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September were circulated.

Lucy proposed James seconded, the minutes were approved.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd October were circulated.

Mike proposed Peter seconded, the minutes were approved.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. SIC Ferries

Due to the inclement weather the expected visitors from SIC Ferry Management had postponed attendance.

James thought it would be helpful to discuss the problems emerging from the accident on the Bigga.

Mike noted that Unst Community Council had already expressed their concerns. Although so far there had not been problems with connections.

James believes that the timetable will have to be adjusted to have 20-minute runs between Unst and Yell and that capacity will reduce as strapped down lorries take more space.

James also commented that the summer timetable will be even more affected with the increased volume of traffic.

Lucy noted that there are big trucks going to and from to Unst every day.

Robert Thompson informed that SIC is exploring all possible options. He also highlighted an additional issue when the Fivla and Geira will both be away in dry dock in January leaving only the Bigga to provide the service.

James believes that the MCA will need evidence to change its decision about the Bigga and that it isn't likely to happen until 2025. The emergency timetable should consider that the Geira crew could work on the Bigga.

Lucy commented that a previously proposed emergency timetable agreed by Unst and Fetlar had been rejected by Sellaness management.

Frances noted that discussions about the emergency timetable had previously been very slow.

Frances will find the previously agreed timetable and send to Chris.

Mike commented that it is good that SIC are exploring all options.

Robert replied that this includes looking at bigger boats to increase capacity.

James R commented that the problem is that our boats use a linkspan.

Robert informed that there is a possible boat in the Faroes that could be ok for Whalsay. He also noted that the emergency timetable needs to link to the bus timetable.

Frances said that Unst folk may not be aware of the Fivla/Geira issue. And also asked what the Council wanted to do about meeting Ferry Management again.

James suggested that there was no point in meeting until the January situation is clearer.

It was agreed that Frances would request a meeting in the week beginning the 6th of January.

Peter asked if the Linkspans are in good order.

James replied the answer is no. There is a problem with the rams and the parts are being manufactured.

Robert Thompson agreed to raise the concern at the Harbour Board.

5. Ongoing Business

5.1 Dial A Ride

There has been no response. Chris will chase up.

5.2. Consultation Letter Minister for Climate Action.

Lucy has not been able to complete this because of family concerns. But will complete soon.

5.3 Local Development Plan

Lucy has been attending training online one of which was meant to be this evening. Once completed she will start work on the plan.

5.4 Healthcare Support Worker

There has been no progress with requested changes. Kim Anderson is aware of the issues.

5.5 Maintenance Post

There has been no progress. Frances will chase up Emma Perrin.

Lucy asked about the Stakkafletts pavements maintenance.

Chris has been informed that an SIC worker will visit to complete.

5.6 Roads Speeds

There has been no news.

Robert Thompson informed that there have been several speed reduction requests in other places approved by the council.

Peter will undertake a survey and take photos of locations where signage would be helpful.

Robert also informed that there has been some discussion about supporting more active lifestyles with walking and cycling.

5.7 Inter islands Connectivity

Juliet has attended a meeting, and it has been agreed that the consultants will send a survey to all.

6. Finance and Administration

6.1 End of year Accounts

The end of year accounts was approved and signed.

6.2 Finance Report

The current balance was noted

6.3 Invoices

The invoices were approved for payment

7. AOCB

7.1 Islands Meeting

Frances is intending to set up an online chat for the islands. And is looking at an option for an island to host an in-person meeting.

7.2 Paths Signage

Peter has discussed signage with Visit Scotland and will undertake a survey of current signs when weather permits.

7.2 Community Council Review Process

Robert informed that the Community Council Review process next stages has been agreed for consultation and would like to see comments from Fetlar.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 17th December time to be agreed.