

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

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Draft minutes for hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7 pm held at the Walls Hall

Present: I Walterson (Chair)

M Forrest  
E Johnston  
S Johnston  
C Venus  
J Puckey  
J Laing  
Cllr L Peterson

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

## **1. Chair's Welcome**

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present. He commented on the tragic circumstances that caused the October meeting to be cancelled. He then went on to pay tribute to Lynsey Rendall, Community Development Officer, who has changed jobs within the SIC.

## **2. Apologies:**

F Macbeath (Vice Chair), M Macgregor, J Haswell, R Smith, L Rendall

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

S Johnston declared an interest in item 10 which is a Shetland Community Benefit Grant application made by the Sandness Parent Council.

## **4. Police Report**

The contents of the briefing paper of 4/10/24 from Sgt Barry Alexander were noted.

## **5. Minutes from 3/9/24**

The adoption of the minutes from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 was proposed by J Puckey and seconded by E Johnston.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### ***Re: 5.4 of 9/24 Mothballing Policy***

The Chair indicated that the SIC Schools Mothballing Policy is on the agenda for the Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. He stated that Brenda Leask and Shona Thomson, both from the SIC Children's Services Department, will be in attendance. The Mothballing Policy was discussed in some detail with the following points being raised:-

- An attempt is being made to encourage parent councils to become involved in this matter
- The issue of a school's capacity is of great concern
- Nursery departments can be mothballed if they drop below the 20% limit whilst their parent school can remain open.
- The Happyhansel Nursery is believed to be currently running at around 23%
- Concerns were expressed that decisions relating to the mothballing of schools has been delegated to unelected SIC officers.
- Papa Stour now has children of school and nursery age but it will be challenging to un-mothball the school with residents having been told that un-mothballing could take up to a full academic year as there will be staff recruitment issues to address.

### ***Re: 4 of 9/24 Visit by Ms Elaine Park (Transport and Contracts Operations Officer)***

The Chair asked if any feedback had been provided by Ms Park subsequent to the meeting. Given that there has been no update, the Chair asked the Clerk to email Ms Park requesting a progress report concerning the matters raised by the Members at the meeting.

**Action: The Clerk to email Ms Park to request a progress report on matters raised at the September meeting.**

## **7. Community Council Scheme Review- Phase 2 Consultation**

The Chair stated that he had attended a meeting of Community Council Chairs with Mr Michael Duncan to be briefed on the findings of the survey. One of the main findings concerned Community Council funding and how it has regressed in real terms. It was pointed out that communities located farthest from Lerwick face the greatest financial constraints. SIC Officers are attempting to address this matter. A report is expected to be presented to Elected Members in the next few weeks.

## **8. Housing**

### **8.1 Forralea Housing Development**

Members were informed that the houses are almost complete and expressions of interest in taking up residence there have been sought. 35 applications have been received. It was felt that this number should demonstrate a definite need for additional affordable housing in the Sandess and Walls area.

### **8.2 Construction Work Website**

Cllr Peterson stated that there is now a website accessible by construction companies to provide information of work such as repairs and renovations that smaller companies can bid for.

### **8.3 Refuse Bins at Stove Cottages**

M Forrest stated that she has been approached by a resident of Stove Cottages expressing a concern that one bin lid is being held down by a stone. It was felt that this was a health and safety matter. It was also indicated that the communal large bins were unevenly distributed. M Forrest stated she has been in communication with a SIC Waste Management Officer, but that this person is currently on leave and will look into the matter on her return.

**Actions:** 1. M Forrest to monitor the situation  
2. Should nothing happen in a few days after the officer returns, M Forrest to refer the matter to Cllr Peterson

## **9. Roads**

### **9.1 Dale Beach track**

The Clerk stated that he had received an email from M Macgregor stating that the Dale Beach track potholes have been repaired.

### **9.2 Brown Road Sign in Sandness**

S Johnston stated that the misinformation contained on the brown sign in Sandness has not yet been corrected.

**Action: The Clerk to raise this matter with Mr N Hutcheson (Roads Department)**

## **10. (a) Shetland Community Benefit Fund Grant Application CGS 0004 from Sandness Parent Council for £1000 towards the cost of a nest swing**

(S Johnston declared an interest in this matter and was temporarily excluded from Zoom.)

After a brief discussion during which it was pointed out that a similar installation in the Walls School playground had proved both beneficial and popular especially with Children who have additional support needs, it was felt that it would be a welcome addition to the Sandness play equipment. The funding bid was approved unanimously.

**Action: The Clerk to inform the SCBF administrator of this decision**

(S Johnston was readmitted to Zoom.)

## **10. (b) Shetland Community Benefit Fund Grant Application CGS 0009-01 from the Walls and District Agricultural Society for £5000 towards the cost of an agricultural shed**

(E Johnston expressed an interest in this matter and left the room)

It was pointed out that the addition of an agricultural shed to the Walls Show Field would be an asset not just on Show Day but could accommodate equipment and caravans over winter as well as be used for community functions. After a brief discussion the funding bid was approved unanimously.

**Action: The Clerk to inform the SCBF administrator of this decision**

(E Johnston returned to the meeting.)

### **11. Local Place Plan**

During a brief discussion on this matter, it was noted that the Sandness and Walls Community Council have expressed an interest in generating a plan for the Walls area and that Sandness Community Development have done so for Sandness and a similar expression of interest has been shown by the residents of Foula. Discussion focussed on the fact that it is possible for a Local Place Plan to be drawn up that includes land owned by someone who is not party to these proposals. The promised template to assist in the drafting process has not yet been issued. The Clerk was asked to email Mr Peter Mogridge to request a template.

**Action: The Clerk to request a Local Place Plan Template from Mr Peter Mogridge.**

### **12. Planning Consultation: Ref: 2024/248/PPF (Grutquoy, Walls)**

A brief discussion relating to this application to build glamping pods took place. Members expressed their unanimous agreement that acceptance of this application be approved and welcomed the development.

**Action: The Clerk to inform SIC Development Management that the Members of the Sandness and Walls Community Council unanimously recommended approval of this application and welcome such developments in this area.**

### **13. Letter of Support for Sandness Community Development**

The Chair read out the email from Ms Armstrong from Sandness Community Development seeking a letter of support from the Community Council to back up a funding bid from the Scottish Land Fund to enable the Sandness Community to take ownership of the Melby Pier and some of the surrounding area. J Puckey indicated that the residents of Papa Stour were very much in favour of the Pier project which was, at one time, the Papa Stour Ferry Terminal. Members expressed their unanimous

support for the project and the Clerk was requested to draft the letter.

**Action:** The Clerk to draft and circulate a letter of support on behalf to Sandness Community Development's bid for a grant to purchase Melby Pier.

#### **14. Facebook Page for S&WCC**

E Johnston stated that the Facebook Page continued to prove popular and that he was adding events and matters of interest to the page. He was commended by the Chair for this work.

#### **15. Financial Update**

Receipt of the spreadsheet was noted and no comments were made.

#### **16. Community Council Grant Request from the RVS for Christmas Lunch for Clients and Volunteers**

(M Forrest declared an interest and left the room.)

A request for a Community Council grant of £325 by the Royal Voluntary Service towards the cost of Christmas Lunches for RVS Clients and Volunteers based in the Sandness and Walls area was considered and approved unanimously.

**Action:** The Clerk to make a payment of £325 to the RVS from the Community Council's Community Development Fund.

(M Forrest returned to the meeting.)

#### **17. Community Council Grant Request for the cost of coach hire for the Lerwick Brass Band to play at the Walls Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

A brief discussion regarding the popularity of this annual event took place and Members unanimously approved this request.

**Action:** The Clerk to inform the organisers of this decision and request that the invoice for the coach be sent to him for payment.

#### **18. Correspondence including Emails**

An email from Mr M Duncan regarding a Community Council Survey about Insights on Community Resilience in Emergencies was discussed.

**Action: The Clerk was asked to recirculate the email from Mr Duncan.**

## **19. AOCB**

### **19.1 SSEN Grant for Electrical Work on the Walls Hall**

Given that this work has not yet been carried out, and that winter is rapidly approaching when the transfer switch might be needed, the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Brydon Irvine to request that the work be completed as soon as possible.

**Action: The Clerk to contact Mr B Irvine to request that the work be completed as soon as possible.**

### **19.2 Street Lighting in Walls**

E Johnston stated that he had been contacted via Facebook regarding the lack of lighting at the Walls Bus Terminal. Given that a serious accident had occurred there, it was felt that adequate lighting is a necessity. In addition, it was pointed out that the Forralea Houses lack street lighting and given the fact that an open ditch runs beside the pavement, there is a road safety issue there. The Clerk was asked to notify the Roads Department of these concerns.

**Action: The Clerk to email Mr Neil Hutcheson regarding street lighting at the Bus Terminal in Walls and the Forralea Houses.**

## **20. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 and will be a hybrid meeting which is scheduled to commence at 7.00pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Draft Minutes of S&WCC November Meeting subject to approval at next meeting.)