

# Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandsting & Aithsting Community Council held in Bixter Community Hall on Monday 14 October 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Priest Mr J D Garrick  
Mrs S Deyell Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser  
By invitation: Ms Tanya Riley and  
Mrs Rachel Shucksmith UHI Marine Scientists  
In attendance: PC Shona McGillvary  
PC Cameron Jamieson  
Mrs L Fraser, Clerk

Mr J Priest presiding

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J Fraser, Mrs L Johnson, 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 9 September 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read and were approved. Moved by Mr J D Garrick, seconded by Mrs O Jamwal-Fraser.

**Police:** The Chairman welcomed PC S McGillvary and PC C Jamieson to the meeting. PC McGillvary gave details from the most recent Police Report of the small number of incidents reported in this area. They said that the Traffic Police make quarterly visits to Shetland and have recently been here. There being no further matters to discuss the Police then left the meeting.

Ms Tanya Riley and Mrs Rachel Shucksmith from UHI Shetland to introduce themselves.

**LOCAL INSIGHT ON MARINE RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS:** Ms T Riley and Mrs R Shucksmith, Marine Scotland Scientists attended. Ms T Riley explained that UHI had recently secured funding to develop a Marine Restoration and Enhancement Action Plan for Shetland from the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate. They gave details of what might be tried and what should be encouraged. It was agreed that the beaches are now much cleaner than in times gone by. A number of matters were discussed and Ms T Riley will send a report to the Community Council to be checked. The Chairman thanked them both for attending. They then left.

**BUSINESS ARISING: Viking Genes:** There appears to be a lot of interest in this project. Mrs S Deyell reported that an on-line auction is to be held in November in aid of this project and that a Group is being set up to raise money for the cause.

It is felt that prevention is better than cure and that this project should be supported.

**Community Council Scheme Review:** Still ongoing. The Chairman had attended a Chairs meeting to discuss the funding but that they did not have enough information to make any decisions.

**Road Matters: Road past Garderhouse:** A letter will be sent to Mr Neil Hutcheson at the Roads Dept thanking them for the work already done at Garderhouse and saying that we hope that the next phase of the work will be carried out soon as some of the barriers are in very poor condition which does not give people very much confidence in them while travelling over this stretch of road in the winter time.

**Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) Community Grant Scheme (CGS):** An application from Aith & Bixter Parent Group for £1,000 was received and considered. As we now have less finance to disburse, it was agreed to grant 50% of the amount requested.

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

**Local Place Plans (LPP):** A Showcase event had been held in Aith regarding the Westside Children and Teenagers Plan.

**Shetland Public and School Bus Services:** Ongoing.

**Finance:** A thank you card and note was received from Aith Community Association giving details of what they have achieved recently and expressing their gratitude for the finance they have received from the Community Council.

**Unadopted Road grant:** 2 unadopted road grants were claimed.

**SSEN Transmission Events:** A message was received from Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) informing the Community Council about upcoming Community Information Events. SSEN say they are installing two new underground electricity cables between Gremista and the north of Shetland. This upgrade will enhance the electricity distribution network in the Shetland Islands. It will also increase network capacity for future development, help to improve the reliability and security of the power supply for communities across the islands and support Shetland's growing renewable energy industry. They are holding events in the Brae Hotel from 12 noon till 7pm on Tuesday 22 October and Lerwick Town Hall from 12 noon till 7pm on Wednesday 23 October.

**Financial Statement:** The Financial Statement was found to be correct by the auditor and forwarded to Mr M Duncan, Community Council Liaison Officer. A message was received from Mr M Duncan saying that it has been found to be in order and accepted.

**Extra Bus Shelter near Chapelside, Reawick:** No reply.

**Sand Bus Shelter Damaged:** The damage to the Sand Bus Shelter has been rectified.

**RNID:** Further details were received about the support available in Shetland for those living with hearing loss. RNID are also keen to expand their service to support different areas in Shetland and are looking for anyone interested in committing a few hours per month or every other month to help them achieve this.

**ASSOCIATION MEETING:** The next Association meeting will be held on 6 November. None of the members volunteered to attend but the Chairman agreed to be our representative to support our agenda item that the Community Council for an area should be consulted before a school is considered for mothballing. The Education Dept absorbs a large percentage of the SIC total budget and it demeans the role of the Community Councils if they are not involved in such an important issue.

**PLANNING APPLICATION:** The following planning application was considered and approved:-

2024/254/PPF To site static caravan; install new surface water soakaway and create connection to existing septic tank at Onimsgarth, Sandsound, Bixter by Stephen Anderson.

**HIE SURVEY – OUR PLACE, OUR PROSPERITY – THE VOICE OF COMMUNITIES:** An invitation was received from Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) to take part in their Our

Place, Our Prosperity – The Voice of Communities survey which closes on 31 October 2024.

**SSEN (DISTRIBUTION) COMMUNITY EVENTS, OCTOBER 2024:** A message was received from Nicola Ross at SSE saying that SSEN Transmission has initiated early discussions with Shetland Community Councils regarding potential future projects. A Drop-in Session will be held in Lerwick Museum Auditorium on 18 November from 7pm – 9pm.

**MEETING DATES FOR 2025:** Mr M Duncan requested the dates of our meetings in 2025. A list was agreed and will be forwarded to him.

**INFORMATION:** Several emails sharing information with the Community Council were received and noted.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held Bixter Community Hall on Monday 11 November 2024 at 7.30pm.