

Sandness & Walls Community Council

Chairman:

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Draft minutes for hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7 pm held at the Walls Hall

Present: I Walterson (Chair)
F Macbeath (Vice Chair),
M Forrest
E Johnston
M Macgregor
S Johnston
J Puckey
R Smith
Cllr L Peterson
Cllr M Robinson

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk), Acting Police Sergeant Steven Anderson (Police Scotland)

1. Chair's Welcome

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies:

J Haswell, J Laing C Venus, M Duncan, R Fraser

3. Declarations of Interest

Re: 11(a) Shetland Community Benefit Fund grant application CGS0010 - E Johnston declared an interest.

Re: 11(b) Shetland Community Benefit Fund grant application CGS0016 – F MacBeath and M Forrest declared interests.

(Cllr M Robinson joined the meeting)

4. Police Report

The Chair welcomed APS Anderson. APS Anderson indicated that the Community Council would receive an updated police report in December. He stated that he had hoped to attend more meetings but that staff shortages had prevented him from doing so. He went on to say that Shetland based police officers have now been trained to use drug wipes. The Chair invited Members to express their concerns regarding policing issues. The following matters were raised:

- Vehicles speeding through Walls
- What appears to be an abandoned car in Sandness
- Cars parking on pavements and the possibility of Mr Colin Gear coming to Walls to carry out road safety checks. (It was suggested that photographs be taken of what is deemed to be dangerously parked vehicles and dash cam videos made.)

(APS Anderson left the meeting)

(Cllr M Robinson left the meeting)

5. Minutes from 5/11/24

The adoption of the minutes from 5th November 2024 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by J Puckey.

6. Matters Arising

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

The Clerk stated that he had not received a response from Ms Park to his email. He was asked to write again copying in Cllr L Peterson and the Chief Executive.)

Action: Clerk to resend the email to Ms E Park copying in Cllr L Peterson and the Chief Executive.

Re: 9.2 of 11/24 Brown Road Sign in Sandness & 19.2 of 11/24 Street Lighting in Walls

The clerk stated he had not received a response from Mr N Hutcheson (Team Leader - Road Asset and Network Management) on either of those matters. It was proposed that Mr Colin Gear be invited to visit the areas lacking street lighting

in Walls to assess the risks. The Clerk was asked to resend the email to Mr N Hutcheson copying in Cllrs L Peterson and M Robinson as well as the Chief Executive.

Action: The Clerk to Email Mr N Hutcheson reiterating the concerns raised previously as well as requesting a visit by Mr Colin Gear and the email to be copied to Cllrs L Peterson and M Robinson and the Chief Executive.

Re: 5.4 of 9/24 Mothballing Policy

J Puckey **stated** that the trigger point has been reached to call for the reopening of the Papa Stour School. This issue was raised at a recent Community Meeting on Papa Stour. The Community Council was asked to write to the Head of Children's Services in support of the Papa Stour Community's request to reopen the school. Cllr Peterson stated that the matter is due to be considered by SIC Members in January. She stated that where mothballing is concerned regarding a small island school, it can be reviewed within four months whilst reviews for other mothballed schools take place annually. The Chair indicated that the Mothballing of Schools Policy had been on the agenda for the November meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils but that neither of the two delegated representatives from Children's Services had attended. He expressed his disappointment at this.

Action: The Clerk to draft and circulate a letter to the Head of Children's Services in support of the Papa Stour Community's bid to reopen the Papa Stour School.

Re: 17.2 of 8/24 Skip for Foula to remove old white goods

The Clerk informed the meeting that the cost of this had been much greater than had been anticipated. Members were unanimous in their view that the company who had been responsible for this task should not be asked again.

7. Community Council Scheme Review- Phase 2 Consultation

Given that the findings of Phase 2 of the review have been published, Members turned their attention to the Phase 3 Consultation. It was acknowledged that no additional funding has been made available for Community Councils and that they have experienced a stand still budget since 2013. The Chair indicated that in the case of one Community Council, the grant covered the

Clerk's salary with very little to spare. Cllr Peterson stated that she, along with some other councillors, would like to see the grant to Community Councils raised. The Clerk indicated he had received paper copies of the Community Council Scheme Review - Phase 3 Consultation. A brief discussion took place regarding the question on 12 to 16 year old associate members. The Chair requested the members to consider their responses to the Phase 3 Consultation and express those views via email before the January meeting so that a Community Council response can be drafted prior to that meeting.

Actions:1. Members to consider and circulate their responses to the Community Council Scheme Review – Phase 3 Consultation.
2. The Clerk to arrange distribution of paper copies of the consultation to Foula, Papa Stour, Sandness and Walls.

8. Housing

It was noted that the Forralea Houses all appear to be occupied. A brief discussion regarding to ongoing need for social housing in Shetland followed.

9. Roads

9.1 Passing Place Signs in the Mid Walls/Dale of Walls areas

It was reported that the missing passing place signs in the Mid Walls/Dale of Walls area have not yet been replaced. The Clerk was asked to repeat the request for this work to be carried out.

Action: The Clerk to email Mr N Hutcheson to repeat the request for the signs to be replaced.

9.2 Construction of a Two Lane Carriageway on the A971 from the Murrister Quarry to Da Punds in Walls

Cllr Peterson stated that the business case for the construction of a two lane carriageway on the A971 from The Murrister Quarry to Da Punds in Walls will be presented to Council early in the New Year by Mr N Hutcheson (Team Leader - Road Asset and Network Management). Cllr Peterson encouraged Members to write to SIC Members to solicit support for the project. The subject of having the Bridge-of-Walls surveyed was also raised.

10. Report on ASCC Meeting

The Chair indicated that the most important matters discussed at this meeting have already been covered.

11. (a) Shetland Community Benefit Fund Grant Application CGS 0010 from Gruting and District Community Association for £4370 for building repairs

(E Johnston declared an interest and left the room.)

The Clerk stated that he had telephoned Emma McKay (SCBF Administrator) regarding this application and had been advised that the Gruting and District Community Association were putting in some of their own money into the project but had not provided this information on the application form. After some discussion the Clerk was asked to request more information regarding the total cost of the works and how much the Gruting Community Association were investing. Members agreed in principle, proposed by M Macgregor and seconded by M Forrest, to approve the funding subject to the above information being provided.

Action: The Clerk to contact the SCBF Administrators to request information about how much the repairs will cost in total and how much the Gruting Community Association is investing in the work.

(E Johnston returned to the meeting.)

11(b) Shetland Community Benefit Fund Grant Application CGS 0016 from the Westside Sharks Swimming Club for £2547 for galas and competitions

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

After a brief discussion regarding the cost of holding swimming events and the additional funds being provided from other sources by the Westside Sharks Swimming Club, the approval of this application was proposed by M Macgregor and seconded by R Smith.

Action: The Clerk to complete and return the application form expressing the decision of the Sandness and Walls Community Council.

(F Macbeath and M Forrest returned to the meeting.)

12. Local Place Plan

The email sent by Mr Peter Mogridge on 13th November was discussed and Members felt that the template should be available by now. The Clerk was asked to find out if this was the case.

Action: The Clerk to contact Mr Peter Mogridge to find out if the template for creating a Local Place Plan is available.

13. Facebook Page for S&WCC

A brief discussion took place regarding the Facebook Page. It was suggested that the current SIC Council Tax Consultation Survey and the Community Council Scheme Review - Phase 3 Consultation be added to the page.

Action: E Johnston to add the SIC Council Tax Consultation Survey and the Community Council Scheme Review – Phase 3 Consultation be added to the Community Council’s Facebook Page.

14. Financial Update

Members acknowledged receipt of the most recent Community Council’s financial spreadsheet.

15. Banking expenses with Bank of Scotland

The Clerk explained that with effect from Mid-January 2025, the Community Council’s banking arrangements are going to change with a monthly charge of £4.25 being imposed and a charge of £0.50 for each cheque passing through the account. It was acknowledged that this is now standard practice for business accounts. The Clerk was advised to inform Mr M Duncan of this situation.

Action: The Clerk to scan and copy the letter from the bank and forward it to Mr M Duncan for advice.

(M Macgregor left the meeting.)

16. AOCB

The Chair advised Members that they are able to step down from

The Chair reminded members that due to the ongoing Community Council review process, the current tenure of

Community Councillors had been extended by a year but the should members so desire they may resign their posts at any time.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 14th January 2025 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 9.20 pm.