

# MINUTE

# A&B - Public

**Development Committee**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick**  
**Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 10.00am**

**Present:**

A Cooper	T Smith
M Burgess	S Coutts
B Fox	A Manson
F Robertson	M Stout
A Westlake	

**Apologies**

G Robinson

**In Attendance (Officers):**

N Grant, Director of Development Services  
D Irvine, Executive Manager - Economic Development  
S Brunton, Team Leader - Legal  
L Adamson, Committee Officer

**Also Present (Members)**

G Cleaver  
R Henderson  
J Wills

**Chair:**

Mr A Cooper, Chair of the Committee, presided.

**Circular:**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

01/14 **Minutes**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013 on the motion of Mr Fox, seconded by Mr Stout.

Subject to the following, the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2013 on the motion of Ms Westlake, seconded by Ms Manson.

Mr Burgess advised of a correction to the minute which he would raise in private session.

02/14 **Formal Consultation Between Shetland Islands Council and the Shetland Fisheries Sectors**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Economic Development (DV001-F), which promoted discussion on a formal communication arrangement between Shetland Islands Council and the main representatives of the Shetland fisheries industries.

The Executive Manager – Economic Development introduced the report. In referring to the Terms of Reference of the Support Group at Appendix 1, he advised on the intention that representation on the Group should also include the two Councillor representatives on the CPMR.

A Member questioned how this proposed level of formal support to the fisheries sector compared to that afforded to the other industry sectors. The Executive Manager advised on the support group that had been set up with representation from the agricultural industry. He confirmed that none of the other industry sectors had approached the Economic Development Service for similar support to be established.

In response to a question, the Executive Manager reported that it has been agreed that the existing quarterly meetings between the Council and Shetland Fishermens Association will continue in addition to those of the Support Group.

In response to comments from Members, the Executive Manager explained how the format for the Group would be a partnership arrangement between the Council and the industry. The Council's involvement would be more political engagement and support, with the lead on issues for the agenda to be taken forward by the commercial sector. Members were in agreement with the suggestion from the Executive Manager, for an addition to be made to the Terms of Reference of the Support Group which would specify that suggestions for agenda items and reports for the meetings are to be put forward by the industry.

There was a suggestion that the title of the Support Group be changed to better encompass all elements of the fishing industry. Following some discussion, Members agreed that the group should be named the "Fisheries and Aquaculture Support Group".

Nominations were sought for the two Members, in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair of Committee, to represent the Council on the Group. Mr B Fox, Mr M Stout and Mr M Burgess were nominated. Mr Stout withdrew his nomination, and Mr Fox and Mr Burgess were duly appointed. The Committee also confirmed that Dr Wills and Mr Ratter would represent the Council on the group, being the Council's substantive and substitute members on the CPMR.

Mr Coutts moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report, and the additional recommendations as agreed during the discussion. Ms Westlake seconded.

### **Decision:**

The Development Committee **RESOLVED:**

- That the name of the group be changed to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Support Group;
- To approve the terms of the Group as set out in appendix 1 to the report, with the addition to specify that suggestions for agenda items and reports for the meetings are to be put forward by the industry;
- To appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair and two other Members of the Committee to represent the Council on the Group, namely Mr B Fox and Mr M Burgess;

- That Dr J Wills and Mr D Ratter would represent the Council on the Group, being the Council's substantive and substitute Members on the CPMR.

03/14

### **Statement of Intention for Protecting Shetland's Marine Environment**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Economic Development (DV002-F), which sought approval for a draft Policy Statement on protecting Shetland's marine environment.

The Executive Manager – Economic Development introduced the report.

Reference was made to the second paragraph of the draft Policy Statement at Appendix 1. In response to comments from Members, it was agreed that 'aquaculture' would be added to the list of marine resources at the second sentence; and for the third sentence to be amended to read, "Making the most of commercial opportunities while protecting the eco system of the sea is a vital equation....".

Dr Wills commented that the draft Policy Statement was an excellent piece of work as it provides a summary of exactly what Shetland is about. He went on to advise that the Marine Spatial Plan and coastal zone management is being discussed in Europe next week, and to be able to inform that a Policy Statement has progressed to the consultation stage will keep the Council at the forefront in Europe.

It was agreed that the Committee would consider each of the eleven Statements in turn, and comments were made as follows:

First – Accepted

Second – Comments were made on the importance of the ZCC Act to Shetland in regard to protecting the environment and the eco system, and to ensure the sea around Shetland remains clean. Although similar powers exist in Orkney, the Western Isles has no such powers, and therefore protecting the Act may not be perceived as important to some Local Authorities. It was agreed that the Statement should not be diluted in any fashion in regard to the Our Islands Our Future debate.

Third – After hearing some Members advise on their concerns in regard to the perceived acceptance of the Crown Estate's position going forward, it was agreed that the first sentence be changed to read, "Third, that Shetland, along with other coastal communities, is given more say in the use of policies that govern the use of the seabed, currently administered by the Crown Estate Commission".

Fourth – Accepted

Fifth – Members advised of their support for the Shetland Shellfish Management Order. It was anticipated that the feedback from the individual fishermen, as part of the consultation process, would be favourable. It was noted however that Marine Scotland are relied on to police the Management Order.

Reference was made to the importance to retain the Marine Stewardship Accreditation for Shetland, being the highest accreditation nationally, and on the need for a policing regime to be established to ensure the highest standards are maintained and that the fishermen are kept onboard.

Sixth – Accepted

Seventh – Accepted

Eighth – Accepted

Ninth – Following comments from Members, it was agreed that specific reference would be made to decommissioning to ensure the Council has influence in the future.

Tenth and Eleventh – Comments were made on the industry sectors that have already agreed to contribute to community benefits, while other sectors, e.g. offshore renewables, are still at the development stage. This is considered a good time for arrangements to be made to secure further community benefits which will form part of an established level of local control. It was reported that the arrangements are also to address environmental protection issues and to ensure consultation takes place on safe practices due to the potential impact on the seafood sector.

A comment was made on the diverse nature of the eleven Statements which form part of the overall Policy Statement, and on the need to ensure that all the relevant stakeholders for each element of the Policy statement are involved during the consultation process.

A Member commented on the significance of the Policy Statement for Shetland, and for the document to be fed into the Our Island Our Future debate as quickly as possible. The Director of Development Services said there were issues where Shetland will share the same objectives with Orkney and the Western Isles and some where Shetland will differ, and that this Policy document and others will be hugely important to define Shetland's position.

On the motion of Mr Robertson, seconded by Mr Stout, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report, with amendments to the second paragraph, and to the Third and Ninth Statements, as agreed during the discussion.

#### **Decision:**

The Development Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to accept the draft Statement of Intention for Protecting Shetland's Marine Environment, as amended.

**In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr Cooper moved, Mr Stout seconded, and the Committee agreed to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the following item of business.**

04/14

#### **Minutes of the Meeting – 27 November 2013**

**Min. Ref.: 56/13 – Scottish Ferries Plan – Responsibility for Inter Island Ferry Services**

Mr Burgess advised of a correction to the minute; in that the first sentence of the tenth paragraph should be changed to read, "Mr Burgess questioned whether the dialogue with the Scottish Government should address responsibility for ferry services and fixed links for Shetland".

The meeting concluded at 10.50am.

.....  
Chair