MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2014 AT 11AM IN THE SHETLAND MUSEUM AUDITORIUM

PRESENT: Hazel Anderson Bressay CC
         Jonathan Duncan Burra & Trondra CC
         Donald Robertson Dunrossness CC
         John Ridland Dunrossness CC
         Averil Simpson Lerwick CC
         Jim Anderson Lerwick CC
         John Alex Cromarty Northmaven CC
         Ian F Walterson Sandness & Walls CC
         Iris Sandison Sandness & Walls
         James David Garrick Sandsting & Aithsting CC
         Mike Bennett Sandsting & Aithsting CC
         Karen Osborn Sandwich CC
         Mairi Smith Sandwich CC
         Cllr Davie Sandison Scalloway CC
         Kenny Pottinger Scalloway CC
         Douglas Anderson Skerries CC
         June Johnson Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale CC
         Joyce Pole Tingwall, Whiteness & Weisdale CC
         Gordon Thomson Unst CC
         Joan Ritch Unst CC
         John Peterson Unst CC
         David Hughson Whalsay CC
         Dan Thompson Yell CC

EX OFFICIO: Jim Gear, Chairman
             Laurence Odie, Vice Chairman
             Kate Massie, Administration Assistant (minute taker)

In Attendance
Anne Robertson, Voluntary Action Shetland Development Officer
Vaila Simpson, Shetland Islands Council (SIC), Community Planning & Development Executive Officer
Cllr Gary Robinson, SIC Council Leader
Cllr Allison Duncan, Shetland South

2014/04/01 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from Delting CC; Gulberwick, Cunningsburgh & Quarff CC and Jan Riise SIC.

2014/04/02 MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Minute of the meeting held on 5th October 2013 was adopted on the proposal of Mr Jim Anderson; seconded by Mr Ian Walterson.
2014/04/03  UPDATE FROM JOINT LIAISON GROUP (JLG) MEETING HELD ON 07/03/14

Mrs Massie said that at the above meeting the Group discussed the Community Development Fund (CDF).

A survey had been carried out by SIC Community Planning and Development to ascertain from Community Councils (CC) and Community Development Companies (CDC) how the CDF had worked over the past year. In the main the feedback had been positive; the only negative points were around the administration and processing of the grant applications. There was a lengthy discussion at the meeting and it was agreed that the application form and criteria should be amended to make them more user friendly.

Community Planning and Development said that the CDF final report would be submitted to Council on 26/03/13 and will include recommendations from CCs and those made at the JLG meeting and also recommendation that the Fund continues for the next financial year.

The report was submitted at the meeting on 26/03/14 and all amendments and recommendations were accepted by the Council. The Fund will continue for the next financial year.

2014/04/04  MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTE NOT ON THE AGENDA

4.1 Roads update

Mrs Massie handed over to Ms Vaila Simpson to give a road update from the Council’s point of view.

Ms Simpson said there have been numerous requests over the years from Community Councils and Council members for road improvement works throughout Shetland. The list of these requests range from small low value works to large capital improvement schemes, for which there is currently no funding under the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan. Therefore it is felt that the best thing to do is prioritise these schemes for such time as future funding may become available. The aim is to ensure that funding is targeted to achieve the best possible benefit for the road user.

Mr Laurence Odies said that the Council should have waited for the results of the safety report before carrying out road works at the Brig O’ Fitch.

Mr Dan Thompson wanted it noted that the road safety issues at this section of road have been brought before this meeting on several occasions. He felt that his concerns had been dismissed by the Council delegate from Governance & Law.

Cllr Davie Sandison said that although the Council does have a roads prioritising list in place the CCs need to be clear that there is no money to carry out the work at this time.

Mr Donald Robertson asked if some smaller road repairs, like pot holes, could be addressed now. He said that if smaller road repairs are not undertaken now then they may well become a bigger and more costly project and he feels this is not the best policy and would need to be addressed sooner rather than later. Mr David Hughson agreed with Mr Robertson on this point. Cllr A Duncan said that many of the roads in mainland Scotland
are in a worse state of repair than roads in Shetland. Cllr Sandison said that we still have good roads in Shetland. Following a short discussion Cllrs Duncan and Sandison said that they would speak to the Council regarding smaller road repairs and if they intend to carry out this type of work in the near future.

**Action:** Cllrs Sandison and Duncan

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**2014/04/05**  
**PROPOSED LARGE SCALE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN LERWICK**

As this item had been requested by the Normaven and Dunrossness CC the Chairman handed over to Mr John Alex Cromarty and Mr Donald Robertson.

Mr Cromarty said that the fact that the Council is proposing a large scale housing development in Lerwick is of real concern for rural areas and needs to be addressed. Mr Robertson said that the comments submitted from his area for the Local Housing Strategy had not been considered. He feels that everything is being centralised. This makes it difficult for young people to settle outside Lerwick and has a detrimental effect on the rural areas. He pointed out that there are already Council owned serviced sites in Dunrossness which could be utilised for building social housing. Mr Robertson said that more consideration for rural housing requirements needs to be addressed.

Cllr Duncan said he would look into this on behalf of the Community Councils.

Mrs Joyce Pole asked if it would be possible for the Council to release land to Hjaltland Housing Association (HHA) to fulfil housing needs in rural areas. Cllr Duncan said the Council are working with HHA on this.

Mr Jim Anderson said that there has been a drop in population in Lewick, more so than anywhere else in Shetland. He feels that hindering any proposed housing developments in Lerwick will not solve the housing problem in rural areas. Mr Robertson asked if there was any social housing in Gulberwick. He was informed that the houses at Heathery Park were social housing.

Following further discussion Mr Robertson said that there is a need for housing in the south end of Shetland to accommodate folk working at the airport. Mr Cromarty said that they are not proposing that there should be no new housing developments in Lerwick but there should be a more equitable spread of developments to include rural areas.

Mr Jonathan Duncan said that in the Councils Housing Needs Strategy they have looked at where the greatest need for housing is. He suggested that this could be something that Councillors could look at to ensure this is delivered fairly.

Mr Ian Walterson said he agrees with the points made by Mr Robertson and Mr Cromarty. Mr Walterson pointed out that the Council owned land in Walls which could possibly be developed to accommodate five houses. He said that there is demand for social housing in the Walls area.

Mr Dan Thomson said that he also agreed with the points being made by Mr Robertson and Mr Cromarty. He said that the lack of social housing in the north isles is detrimental to the area.
Cllr Davie Sandison said it was good to hear everyone’s views. He proposed that we invite SIC Housing Officers and Hjaltland Housing Association representatives to the next ASCC meeting. The Chairman agreed to this and instructed Mrs Massie to liaise with the Council to arrange this.

**Action: Kate Massie**

Ms Hazel Anderson agreed and said that if we do not address the problem of lack of social housing in the rural areas it will become a substantial problem. She said that Bressay itself was in crisis due to school closures and high ferry fares. Ms Anderson said that communities need to take back some of the control in the peripheral areas.

Cllr Duncan agreed with Mr Jonathan Duncan’s suggestion that Councillors look into the delivery of social housing needs and he said he would be willing to take this forward. Cllr Duncan seconded Cllr Sandison’s proposal to invite officers from the Housing Departments.

**Action: Cllr A Duncan**

Mr Anderson suggested that if folk have questions they want to put to the Housing Officers they should do so beforehand. This will enable them to prepare responses for the meeting.

Mrs Massie will ask CCs for their input regarding housing when she circulates the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr Laurence Odie suggested we have a special meeting just to address this issue. The Chairman asked Mrs Massie to look into how practicable a special meeting would be. If it is not feasible then we will go with the first option of inviting the Housing Officers to the ASCC October meeting.

**Action: Kate Massie**

2014/04/06 **USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

The Chairman introduced Ms Karen Osborne from Sandwick CC to the meeting.

Ms Osborne said that Sandwick CC had developed a Facebook page to promote the work that Sandwick CC did in their area and projects they were involved in. Their agenda and meeting papers are also displayed on their Facebook page.

Mr J Anderson asked if anyone can post a comment on their page. Ms Osborn said they could but it can be removed if not suitable. Mr J Duncan said it was good to see the minutes on the Facebook page and feels this is a good idea.

Ms Osborn said that the Community Portal was a bit onerous but the Facebook page is a lot easier to manage. Ms H Anderson asked if Sanwick CC still had a web page. Mr Osborn said they no longer had this as it was not easy to manage and incurred costs. She went on to say that the minute is still displayed in paper copy in the normal way.

Mr David Hughson said that this appears to have worked well for Whalsay CC. Cllr Sandison said that this is a good tool for local groups as it enables them to engage quickly with their community.
The Chairman thanked Ms Osborn for her presentation.

2014/04/07  AOCB
Ms K Osborn said that their Clerk felt that the deadline for the first round of funding applications for the Community Development Fund (CDF) was too short and would like it extended.

Cllr D Sandison suggested that this question should be put to Ms V Simpson. Ms Simpson said that the current time structure for funding application to the CDF was set to take into account what the CCs wanted. The Chairman said that the timescale for the first round of funding applications was tight and may disadvantage some CCs.

Mr J Anderson said that this is what CCs asked the Council for so it seems a bit strange to now want it changed. Mr I Walterson agreed with Mr Anderson and suggested that CCs use their core funding meantime.

The Chairman asked those present how they wished to proceed. Ms Osborn said it would appear that they would not have much support in their request. Mr J Duncan felt this was not too much of an issue as there are three bidding rounds to access the CDF.

Following a short discussion Mr J Anderson proposed that the deadline for the first round of bidding for the CDF should be extended from 30th April to 2nd May 2014; Mr J Duncan seconded this proposal. Ms Simpson will pass this on to her colleagues for action.

Ms H Anderson enquired about the training for Community Councillors. Mrs K Massie said that this was still ongoing.

2014/04/08  DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 4th October 2014 at 11am, venue to be confirmed.

This part of the meeting closed at 12.10pm

Chairman........................................................

Date .........................................................
“Our Islands Our Future”
Following lunch the Chairman introduced Council Leader Gary Robinson. Cllr Robinson proceeded to give a presentation on “Our Islands Our Future”.

The negotiations and discussions have developed to cover a wide range of issues such as Crown Estate; Renewables; Fishing; Oil and Gas; Community Benefit; Crofting; Aquaculture; Transport; Europe and Digital Services

- June 2013 – Shetland, Orkney and the Western Isles meet to set out their vision for a stronger future for the islands.

- July 2013 – the Scottish Government responds to the campaign by announcing a joint forum, a Ministerial Working Group, to look at potential for further devolution of powers to the islands.

- August 2013 – the UK Government’s Secretary for State for Scotland, Alistair Carmichael welcomes the debate and invites Leaders to talks. First meeting of the Island Areas Ministerial Working Group. Scottish Government agrees to respond to the campaign with a Prospectus for the islands.

- September 2013 – Our Islands Our Future Conference in Kirkwall brings together politicians, academics and experts for two days of debate. The event is hailed as a major milestone on the road to delivering more powers to the islands.

- November 2013 – Secretary of State for Scotland agrees to work toward a Concordat for the islands that the Coalition Government will sign with the three Councils.

- January 2014 – First formal talks with Scottish Labour. The Leaders meet Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Planning, Sarah Boyack and Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart to discuss progress and seek Labour’s support for the aims of the campaign.


Cllr Robinson said that to date they are pleased with the impact they have had so far, with leading politicians in Edinburgh and London committed to considering the case we are making – and responding before the referendum. He went on to say that there is still a long way to go as negotiations continue in the months ahead. Cllr Robinson said it is important that our community demonstrates their support for Our Islands Our Future.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Robinson for attending the meeting and for his presentation.

Proceedings closed at 2.15pm