

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Zoom Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 24th February 2025.

PRESENT

Fiona Mitchell (Chair)	Aileen Brown	Irvine Burgess	Helen Moncrieff
Agnes Tallack	Vicky Tylsar	Ana Arnett (SIC)	
Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)		Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)	

APOLOGIES

Dawna Phillips Michael Duncan (SIC)

ABSENT

Allen Sinclair Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio) Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

24/100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24/101 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 20th January 2025 was adopted on the motion of Aileen.

24/102

24 February 2025

page two of five

24/102 POLICE REPORT

The Police Report for the months of December 2024 and January 2025 had been received and reported as follows:

There have been 14 incidents recorded for Dunrossness which can be summarised as follows:

Road Safety and Road Crime

- Careless Driving (2)
- Road Traffic Collision with Minor or No Injury (2)

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

- Assault
- Neighbour Dispute
- Threatening or Abusive Behaviour
- Vandalism (2)

Acquisitive Crime

- Theft
- Theft by Housebreaking

Other

- Firearms Security
- Firearms Seizure
- Sudden Death

24/103 MATTERS ARISING

1) Road Matters:

a) Robins Brae Bus Shelter Light: There was nothing new to report.

2) Kirk Yard Bench: There was nothing new to report.

3) Church of Scotland Brigades Fund: Aileen offered to pursue this matter at the next Church of Scotland meeting.

4) Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate: There was nothing new to report.

5) Bus Shelter Bike Racks: There was nothing new to report.

24 February 2025

page three of five

24/104 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) **Budge Family Trust – To tar spray additional bus parking area for St. Ninian’s Isle to relieve congestion within Bigton:** Irvine proposed, seconded by Agnes, to award the requested sum of £700. There were no counter motions.
- 2) **Community Council Funding:** March is the end of the Community Council’s financial year and the Clerk reported that there is still some grant funding available which, if it isn’t spent, will have to be returned to the SIC. Ana and the members of the Community Council will pass the word around.

Cllr McGregor joined the meeting at 7.30pm

24/105 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

No relevant external meetings had been attended.

24/106 COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS

- 1) **Visitor Levy:** Cllr Alex Armitage reported that discussions had been held with Lerwick Port Authority regarding the pros and cons of introducing a Visitor Levy for Cruise Ships visiting Shetland. Too high a levy and you risk deterring ships from visiting, too low and the benefits would be negligible. The number of Cruise Ship visitors has risen significantly since Covid but is expected to level out at around 150,000 per year. The LPA are of the opinion that there could be some room for discussion with the large companies who make use of a lot of the local infrastructure where funds from a Visitor Levy could be used to improve the visitors experience by upgrading facilities such as public toilets in areas out with Lerwick, service bus capacity etc. Alex suspects this matter will eventually be brought to the SIC and, with Dunrossness having a high number of attractions visited by Cruise Ship passengers, he believed it to be worth giving the matter some prior consideration.

24/107 FAIR ISLE

Fiona reported as follows:

- 1) **Fair Isle Primary School:** The new Principal Teacher is due to take up post in May. Fiona reported that the supply teachers who are temporarily filling the post are doing a ‘great job’.

24/107/2

24 February 2025

page four of five

24/107 FAIR ISLE (Continued)

- 2) **Bird Observatory:** Work is progressing but workers are currently waiting on the delivery of materials and plant. The Observatory hopes to be able to start taking bookings for May.

24/108 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

Ana Arnett, SIC, had been tasked with ascertaining if Dunrossness Community Council is willing to create a Community Resilience Plan. She advised that any Community Resilience Plan created will sit alongside the SIC's Emergency Plan. A couple of local communities have already written Plans and it is hoped to use an SSE template for future plans. Ana will forward the SSE template and a couple of examples to the Clerk for forwarding to the members for consideration.

24/109 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) **Rabbit Control at Levenwick Burial Ground:** Yvonne Scott, SIC Burial Services Officer, had emailed requesting an update on any progress the Community Council had made with regards to rabbit control measures around the Levenwick Burial Ground. As previously reported, Irvine had approached two local parties with the necessary firearms licences to see if they would be willing to carry out some shooting. They had agreed to approach the landowner(s) for the necessary permission. Irvine offered to contact the above individuals for an update.
- 2) **Scatness:** An email had been received from a member of the public reporting the deterioration of the supports for the 'Scatness' sign and the fact that the grassy area on the roadside at Sandblister Place appears to be being used as a car parking area. Cllr Robbie McGregor reported that he had raised both issues with Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads, and was awaiting a response from him.
- 3) **Disabled Toilets at Grutness:** Having passed on the concerns of the Fair Isle Ferry Skipper and a member of the public regarding the positioning of the disabled parking spot at Grutness, discussions had been held between the relevant parties and an alternative position had been agreed. Both the members of the Community Council and the Fair Isle Skipper agreed the new proposed site was a better option. Irvine reported that his understanding is that SIC Roads will soon be on site to improve road access and lay a duct for future power supply. The original intention had been to build or site a new accessible waiting room and toilets at Grutness, however the government funding pot for this was withdrawn so the Council will wait until this becomes possible again, hence the temporary solution for disabled toilets in addition to the existing ones.

24 February 2025

page five of five

24/109 CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

- 4) **Association of Shetland Community Councils:** The next meeting of the ASCC is scheduled to take place on 11 March 2025. Helen and Irvine had offered to attend on behalf of Dunrossness CC.

24/110 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

- 1) **Former Seaside Award Noticeboards at Westvoe:** Helen enquired if it would be acceptable for her to make use of the former Seaside Award Noticeboards at Westvoe for some visitor information. This was agreed.
- 2) **Church of Scotland Roof:** The Clerk reported that a patch of slates had come off the former Dunrossness Church of Scotland roof. As agreed, the Clerk will report this to the SIC Burials Dept.
- 3) **Dunrossness Bottle Banks:** The Clerk reported that an oven appears to have been dumped beside the bottle recycling bins near 'Mainlands' shop. Ana will find out who this needs to be reported to so that it can be uplifted.
- 4) **Local Place Plan:** Ana reminded members that there are various online training sessions scheduled for March and an 'in person' all day session in April.

24/111 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters for consideration.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 31st March 2025.**