

DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 31st March 2025 in Dunrossness Primary School

PRESENT

Aileen Brown (Chair) Fiona Mitchell Irvine Burgess Ana Arnett (SIC)
Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio) Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)

APOLOGIES

Helen Moncrieff Agnes Tallack Dawna Phillips Allen Sinclair
Michael Duncan (SIC)

ABSENT

Vicky Tylsar Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio) Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)

24/112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Irvine declared an interest in item 24/116/2 below

24/113 MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 24th February 2025 could not be adopted as the meeting was not quorate.

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24/114 POLICE REPORT

There was no Police Report available.

24/115 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:** There was nothing new to report.
- 4) Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate:** There was nothing new to report.
- 5) Bus Shelter Bike Racks:** There was nothing new to report.

Fiona joined the meeting remotely at 7:10 pm

24/116 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 1) Levenwick Village Club – To assist with the costs of erecting a slatted barrier adjoining the halls solar panels for the safety of visiting children & the panels:** In line with previous policy, it was agreed to award the sum of £467, being 90% of the project cost. Proposed by Irvine and seconded by Fiona.

Cllr McGregor joined the meeting at 7.15 pm.

- 2) South Mainland Community Association – To assist with costs of replacing the current dilapidated stiles which provide access over the perimeter walls and to repair necessary sections of dyke:** It was unanimously agreed to award the sum of £800. Proposed by Aileen, seconded by Fiona.
- 3) Ness Boating Club – To assist with the costs of constructing a new storage area within the Boat Shed to be used by groups hiring the premises.** It was unanimously agreed to award the sum of £2800. Proposed by Irvine, seconded by Aileen.

Fiona left the meeting at 7:25 pm

24/104/1

24/117 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND

Fiona had requested that this item be added to the Agenda. The Clerk reported from a historic letter, that the fund had been set up initially in 1982 by 4 trustees with a donation of £3000 from Dunrossness Community Council. The purpose of the fund was to provide financial assistance for any person experiencing financial difficulties who needed to travel south as a result of ill health. To help monitor the need in the community, 2 of the trustees were local GP's Drs Brooker and Hunter. The fund was rarely used and transferred to the Community Council and new trustees appointed. The Clerk confirmed that bank statements used to be delivered to her address, but none had been received for a number of years, probably due to no activity on the account. The Clerk thought that Edna Flaws may have been one of the latest trustees and will contact her to see if she can provide any details regarding the bank account and whether or not there is a constitution.

24/118 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils: The latest ASCC meeting had been held on 11th March and Michael Duncan, SIC, had provided the following summary of the meeting.

OPEN Project – Research on Alcohol & other Drug Use in Shetland: Shannon Boston and Rhiannan Burns from OPEN delivered a presentation setting out the findings from their research project.

Core Paths Plan Review: Shetland Islands Council's Planning Service is undertaking a review of its Core Path Plan. There are 3 main phases to this process, namely:

1. Undertake informal consultation involving Local Access forum and key stakeholders. Gathering evidence & informed views;
2. Prepare a draft amended core path plan – to be signed off by the Local Access forum;
3. Undertake public and stakeholder consultation process (which will take up to 12 weeks).

The Council is currently entering the first phase of the Review so are keen to receive feedback from Community Councils on any errors that may exist in the current core path mapping; receive feedback on any new routes that could be given core path status or improve local connectivity and receive information about any routes that are being used differently or could be amended to improve them

24/118 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

1) Association of Shetland Community Councils (continued):

Community Council Scheme Review: An update was provided on the latest stage of the Scheme Review. Phase Three consultation has been completed, collated and analysed. Phase Three responses have been considered by the Project Board and a number of recommendations on a new Community Council Scheme of Establishment are due to be presented to and considered at a Special Shetland Islands Council meeting on 25th March. If the report recommendations are approved, the new Scheme will be effective immediately.

Community Council Elections – 2025: It was proposed that a short life working group is set up to agree how best to promote the 2025 Elections.

Next Meeting: The next ASCC meeting is scheduled for 10 June 2025

24/119 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

There were no relevant matters to report.

24/120 FAIR ISLE

No report was available.

24/121 CORE PATHS

Helen had asked that this item be included on the Agenda, but unfortunately, she was unable to attend the meeting.

The Core Paths Plan Review had been discussed at the recent ASCC meeting – see item 24/118/1 for further details. Irvine, who had attended the ASCC meeting, reported that he understood that there is currently a lack of finance available for Core Path works.

24/122 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

Following discussion at last month's meeting, Ana Arnett, SIC, had forwarded an SSE template and a couple of examples of other areas Plans which the Clerk had duly passed on to the members. Ana stated that with regards to the South Mainland, in this instance she sees it as 3 areas, the Ness, Bigton and Levenwick. Irvine suggested that a 'standalone' meeting should be organised with representatives from the Ness Boating Club, local Halls etc invited to attend to provide information with regards to which services and facilities they can offer in the event of a local emergency. Irvine volunteered to draft an email invite for consideration by Ana which will then be distributed by the Clerk from the Community Council email. It was agreed to schedule the meeting for 25th April and Ana will check hall availability for this date. With regards to GDPR, Ana confirmed that all requirements will be met as personal contact information will be held securely and those providing this information will be made fully aware of how it is intended to be used.

24/123 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Rabbit Control at Levenwick Burial Ground:** Following Yvonne Scott's (SIC Burial Services) enquiry last month, Irvine reported that he had received an update that the shooters had undertaken rabbit control measures on a few occasions over the winter and would be continuing to do so in the coming months. The Clerk pass on this update to Yvonne.
- 2) Church of Scotland Roof:** Yvonne Scott, SIC Burial Services had replied thanking the Community Council for reporting the damage to the building's roof slates. She reported that the owner of the building had been contacted, and repairs would be carried out soon.
- 3) VoiceAbility:** Vikki Parry, Advocate with VoiceAbility in Shetland had emailed to introduce herself. Vikki reported that VoiceAbility are an independent charity and one of the UK's largest providers of advocacy and involvement services. They support people to be heard in decisions about their health, care and wellbeing. The members suggested that VoiceAbility could promote their services at community events such as Sunday Teas etc. The Clerk will also enquire if they have a poster which could be posted on the Community Council Facebook page. Further information can be found on their website at www.voiceability.org

24/123 CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

- 4) Public and School Bus Business Case:** Elaine Park, SIC Transport Contracts & Operations Officer, had emailed to provide an update on the Public and School bus Business Case. Elaine reported *“To date the work has included an extensive stakeholder engagement exercise including feedback from yourselves, Bus Operators and the Shetland public. A significant number (almost 1000) of responses were received. Due to the volume of responses, it has been necessary to amend the timeline for the business case work and service contracts have been extended for 12 months in order to enable this to happen. The Strategic Business Case stage has been reported to ZetTrans and the Council. The wealth of information gathered has been used to help develop the options for the future public bus network and now the Outline Business Case is being worked through. This will culminate in a recommendation for the preferred future network and will report to ZetTrans and the Council in September”*.
Cllr Alex Armitage suggested that it be proposed that the number 6 bus, which currently leaves the Viking Bus station at 0800 in a morning, could start its journey approximately 5 minutes earlier from the Holsmsgarth Ferry Terminal. This would be a great benefit for passengers arriving off the Northlink Ferry. The members agreed that they would support this proposal.
- 5) Da Voar Redd Up 2025:** This year’s Voar Redd Up is scheduled to take place between 19th and 25th April.
- 6) Local Place Plan:** Following discussions at the recent ASCC meeting, Michael Duncan, SIC, had emailed requesting an update. Irvine and Aileen reported that they had attended various of the online training events and had met with representatives from the other South Mainland Community Councils to explore options for Local Place Plans in this area. A ‘letter drop’ is also being considered to try and draw in some more interested parties.

24/124 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS

- 2) Scottish Road Safety Conference:** Cllr Robbie McGregor reported that he had recently attend the Scottish Road Safety Conference in Edinburgh and had suggested the implementation of cameras in Shetland.
- 3) Men’s Coffee Morning:** Cllr Alex Armitage reported that there are plans to hold informal Men’s Coffee Mornings in the Sumburgh Head Lighthouse soon.

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Cllr McGregor left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

24/125 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

- 1) To erect single storey dwellinghouse; install air source heat pump and solar panels; erect separate workshop building; install new septic tank and land infiltration system; install surface water soakaway, Durigarth, Skelberry, Dunrossness by Mr Chris Johnson – There were no objections.**
- 2) To erect single storey dwellinghouse with integral garage and install air source heat pump; create new access, parking and turning; install new septic tank and land infiltration system; install new surface water soakaway, Northwest of Lindale, Ireland, Bigton by Mr Owen Jamieson – There were no objections.**
- 3) Installation of subsea fibre optic telecommunications cable system connecting the US and Denmark, Fair Isle Channel from West to East within Scottish Territorial Seas by Polina Vasileve – There were no objections.**

Due to the meeting not being quorate, these decisions will require to be ratified.

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 28th APRIL 2025 VIA ZOOM.**