

Minutes of Meeting of Yell Community Council

Monday 17th February 2025, 7pm, Mid Yell School

Present: Mr L Odie (Chair), Mrs A Jamieson, Mrs S Williamson, Mr R Jamieson, Mr K Jenkins, and Ms F Stirling.

Apologies: Mr Michael Duncan (Community Councillor Liaison Officer), Cllr Duncan Anderson (Elected representative).

In Attendance: Mrs Johnina Henderson (Clerk), Cllr Robert Thomson (Elected representative), Cllr Ryan Thomson (Elected representative), Ms Frances Browne (North Isles Community Involvement and Development Worker), 3 Members of the public

Mr L Odie welcomed everyone to the meeting, Julie Graham from UHI Shetland, our visitor for tonight has cancelled due to illness and the meeting moved into business.

02/25/01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr R Jamieson and Cllr Ryan Thomson declared an interest in the Statkraft Wind Farm.

Ms F Stirling declared an interest in the Mid Yell Hall CDF application.

Mrs A Jamieson declared an interest in the Visitor Levy discussion.

Cllr Robert Thomson declared an interest in the Planning application.

Mr L Odie and Mrs J Henderson declared an interest in the Yell Show CGS application.

02/25/02 MINUTES

20th January 2025 - Mr R Jamieson and Ms F Stirling approved the minutes of the January meeting.

02/25/03 MATTERS ARISING

LOCAL POLICE OFFICER

Replacement for North Isles Officer to be advertised. YCC will be updated in due course.

WATER PIPE IN CULLIVOE BETWEEN GREENSIDE AND MOARFIELD

Scottish Water sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused by the bursts in this area.

The disturbance appears to have subsided, and the section of the main has since stabilised and will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

SALMARKAKER OCEAN PRESENTATION

Mr K Jenkins to be sent a copy of the presentation.

02/25/04 OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

7.1 TRANSPARENCY CONCERN REGARDING POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN STATKRAFT DEVELOPMENTS.

Following on from emails from Mr Adrian Brockless and letters in the press regarding transparency concerns in discussions/options regarding shared ownership in the Statkraft developments in Yell, Mr

L Odie had contacted the legal department of the SIC through Michael Duncan. Mr L Odie expressed that his biggest concern was that there is inaccurate information in these letters. The response from SIC Legal department was that if the YCC members were happy that they are being transparent then it was up to the meeting to decide what action to be taken. The options available were to advise the people who wrote the letters/emails to give them the option to raise a formal complaint and either a member of the Community Council or the SIC could investigate it.

YCC individual members had also received an email from Mr A Skinner's expressing similar transparency concerns. Chair to respond to A Skinner.

A thorough discussion was held regarding Community benefit, Shared ownership etc and that the discussions being held by the subgroup are fact finding in order that the subgroup has information to share publicly. YCC are minded that they have a role in beginning discussions on any benefits to the community could receive.

The potential contamination of drinking water relating to the Statkraft development in North Yell and the consultation on this but will be discussed later in the meeting.

Chair Mr L Odie asked the members if they could confirm whether they thought that the YCC has a transparency problem regarding the benefits that may or may not arise from the Statkraft developments in Yell. It was agreed by Mr K Jenkins and Ms F Stirling that there were no transparency concerns, Mr L Odie asked for any countermotions, there were none.

7.2 TRANSPORT - FERRIES

Community Hire Applications

Shetland Folk Festival

A Community Hire request has been received from Shetland Folk Festival Committee requesting a late community hire for their concert in Burravoe hall on the night of 2nd May. The ferry has been requested for 00.30am on 3rd May. The January meeting agreed to allocate the ferry subject to getting an allocation for this year. This application has been sent to Sellaness by the Clerk. It has been requested that the unused community hire from 2024/2025 that this be carried over for this hire, this is to be confirmed.

Community Hire Allocation April 2025 - March 2026

Allocation of Community run ferries were discussed at the January meeting and it was agreed to ask Sellaness what allocation was for 2025/2026 and that to find out in February was too late. The allocation has now been confirmed as four hires.

Applications

An application has been received for a Wedding in September. The meeting agreed to defer the application and advertise the community hire runs to the public. Applications to be discussed at the March meeting.

Saturday 18th January - Runs not available to the public.

The 845 from Toft to Ulsta and the 1130 from Ulsta to Toft runs were not available to the public on Saturday 18th January. No explanation was given for this. Due to no run from Ulsta at 11.30 the mail from the North Isles was delayed getting out of Yell and missed its onward connections out of Shetland. The January meeting was concerned regarding this and the Clerk to contact Sellaness regarding this issue, but no reply has been received.

New signage at Ferry Terminals

New marshalling signage has been erected at all ferry terminals, but some signs are quite small.

Yell Sound Docking Timetable

The Docking Timetable has been published for Yell Sound that will be in operation from Monday 3rd March to Friday 28th March 2025 while Daggri undertakes her annual docking. The meeting agreed to complain that YCC is not happy with just one ferry on and not adopting the 25-minute turnaround.

Unst and Fetlar Community Councils - Emergency Ferry Timetable

F Browne shared an update from Unst and Fetlar Community Councils regarding the Emergency Ferry Timetable on Bluemull Sound. A meeting has been held with Michael Craigie and Andrew Inkster, SIC following the single vessel for the first two weeks of January and several times in 2024. A meeting has been requested with all islands to discuss this.

Yell Sound - Monday Timetable changes

An update has been received from M Craigie that they are currently working on this with colleagues in Ferries. They aim to have a timetable out for consultation in mid-February. The intention is to issue a draft that covers the Ferries and also how bus services connect and have a joint meeting with representatives of Yell, Unst and Fetlar communities.

The additional complexities of having to build a timetable that accommodates the need to lash vehicles on Bluemull Sound when necessary has certainly impacted on how timetables need to look from an operational perspective and, as YCC is already aware, there is a relationship with the timing of services on Yell Sound.

7.3 ROADS UPDATE

Burravoe Footpath

It is disappointing that this project is not being included 2025/2026, the meeting discussed the option of raising a formal complaint regarding this.

Ulsta Ferry Terminal 20mph signs

Clerk has contacted Roads regarding this project, it has been investigated, and it has been confirmed that the TRO was made some time ago and an order placed for the new signs.

Unfortunately, the installation was delayed and the standing contractor for this work moved onto other activities. However, it has asked that this be made a priority once they complete the works in Lerwick.

Greenbank Turning point.

While the legal extent of the public road includes its verges, the boundaries at Greenbank are not necessarily clear and so any determination of what is/ isn't part of the public road would be open to dispute with the adjacent property owner/ occupier. It is therefore not something that the Roads would be looking to address at this time.

New Cullivoe Road

An update will be put to full council in March.

Bus Shelters in Yell

No update yet

Cullivoe Bus Shelters damage

It was reported to the meeting that the two bus shelters in Cullivoe were damaged. Both bus shelters have a hole in the Perspex. Clerk contacted Roads regarding this but no update yet.

6.4 STATKRAFT WIND FARM DEVELOPMENTS

A CLG in person meeting will be held on 10th March in Cullivoe Hall, Mr L Odie asked the meeting who was available to attend, Mrs A Jamieson and Mrs S Williamson plan to attend.

6.5 NET ZERO CARBON NEUTRAL ISLAND (YELL) PROJECT

An update on the CNI Yell project from Cllr Robert Thomson was given to the meeting, Robert will email the CNI steering group reps to discuss its future, and the outcome will be reported back to YCC.

6.6 FIXED LINKS - TUNNEL ACTION GROUP UPDATE

No further update. Mrs S Williamson reported that lots was happening in the background and that a meeting would be held soon.

6.7 COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE IN YELL

Meeting with Jo Robinson

Following the meeting Jo Robinson, Director of Community Health and Social Care has followed up with a lengthy email with information and solutions on several of the issues raised. Dr Susan Laidlaw has offered a follow up session In Yell. The meeting suggested that the Community Pop In's may be a suitable opportunity.

6.8 SSEN MEETING

The SSEN representatives are attending the next meeting on Monday 17th March at 6.45pm.

6.9 SCOTLAND'S BEACH AWARDS 2025

The Clerk has applied to SCBF for funding for the West Sandwick and Breckon beach awards applications 2025, allocations take 8 weeks but Clerk to contact regarding getting a decision before our next meeting on 17th March.

6.10 POSTBOXES IN YELL

BURRAVOE POST-BOX

Burravoe Post Box was repaired shortly after the last YCC meeting, Hamnavoe one was inspected and reported to the repairer.

LINKSHOUSE POSTBOX

No update has been received regarding moving, Bruce is waiting on Royal Mail confirming.

AYWICK POSTBOX

Mrs S Williamson reported that concerns have been raised about the guttery hole at the Aywick Post Box, is there anything that can be done about the poor access at this Post Box. Clerk to raise this concern with Royal Mail.

6.11 DRINKING WATER CONCERNS REGARDING WINDFARM DEVELOPMENTS IN YELL

Following on from discussion at the last YCC meeting and questions forwarded from Mrs S Williamson, an email was sent to SEPA and Scottish Water regarding the risk to the drinking water for Yell and the

possibility of contamination during the windfarm construction phase in Yell. It was agreed to contact them regarding what contingency plan is in place to protect the drinking water in Yell and to check how they are monitoring this situation and to raise the concern from local residents.

Replies have been received from both Scottish Water and SEPA suggested that in terms of Water Quality Monitoring Plans, these would be set out by Shetland Islands Council under the site's planning conditions for the development. SIC has been contacted and have replied that they can confirm that to date the Council as planning authority has still to receive a submission of a Plan from the developer pursuant to the terms of this condition.

Statkraft has not yet answered the questions submitted to them.

Mrs S Williamson would like the questions asked to be addressed.

6.12 DOG FOULING IN MID YELL

Officers have been up last week and looked at the area and will be returning next week. After this they will get together and discuss what options we have. They may come back to the community council about doing a dog watch scheme or it may be that a few well-placed signs might be enough to prompt people to pick up.

02/25/05 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 R100 BROADBAND EVALUATION

An evaluation survey has been shared on Facebook, survey is open until 3rd March for residents to complete.

7.2 ULSTA FERRY TERMINAL BOTTLE BANK

An email has been received regarding the muddy area around the bottle bank.

The meeting discussed this area and agreed to contact the relevant department for bottle banks.

7.3 SIC PUBLISHES PLANNING ADVICE NOTE 14 - BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

This advice note was noted.

7.4 ASCC MEETING - 11TH MARCH 2025

Attendance at the meeting was discussed and was confirmed that L Odie and A Jamieson will attend either in person or remotely.

7.5 TUNNEL VISION ROADSHOW 2025 SAVE THE DATE

This year Alistair Carmichael and Beatrice Wishart will once again host a week beginning 18th August of Tunnel Vision Roadshow events to report back and listen to community views on inter-island connectivity and tunnel proposals. They would value your attendance and help in spreading the word of this provisional date and plan to return to Unst, Yell, Fetlar, Bressay and one in Brae. This save the date has been noted.

7.6 GREMISTA GRID SUPPLY POINT (SHETLAND) - SSEN DRAFT STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Members and constituents are encouraged to complete the consultation which closes on 14th March.

7.7 ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR COMMUNITIES - HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND (NORTH REGION)

Alison McCrossan, the new Engagement Advisor (Community) within Healthcare Improvement Scotland. She covers the North Region which encompasses Argyll & Bute, Highland, Western Isles, Orkney, Shetland, and Grampian.

She would be keen to meet to discuss her role in more detail with a view to linking into your local community members/groups thereafter.

This was noted and the Clerk will contact her when a date is confirmed.

7.8 VISITOR LEVY - FULL ISLANDS ACT ICIA REQUIRED

An email from Kathryn Johnson to draw your attention to the Highland Council Visitor Levy consultation and to request that we represent the interests of your island residents. SIC is in negotiations with Orkney and Western Isles Council regarding this just now. This was noted.

7.9 HAVE YOUR SAY - COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) will shortly be hosting a number of community conversations across Scotland to gather local peoples' opinions on community benefits generated through offshore and onshore renewable energy developments. Members were requested to check out and attend webinars if available.

7.10 MY PLACE AWARDS: CELEBRATING PLACEMAKING EFFORTS IN SCOTLAND

An email from the Scottish Civic Trust to promote the national My Place Awards, which celebrate excellence in community-led placemaking in Scotland was noted.

7.11 LOCAL PLACE PLANS

CATCH UP MEETING

A request to all the groups that have expressed interest in the Local Pace Plan Capacity Building project to arrange a short online meeting before 4th April, this was noted.

TRAINING WEBINARS

Mrs S Williamson has signed up for the webinars and will give feedback on when attended.

Cllr Robert Thomson left the meeting at 8.35pm.

02/25/06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

8.1 2025/001/WL TO INSTALL A 33KV SUBSEA CABLE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS

This application was supported, proposed by Mr R Jamieson, and seconded by Mr K Jenkins.

F Browne left the meeting at 8.40pm.

02/25/07 FINANCE/GRANTS

9.1 CDF FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Ms F Stirling left the room for the discussion of this item due to declaration of interest.

Four Local Groups requested application forms for funding following the advert.

£500 is available for distribution.

Yell Youth Club - Chinese New Year Celebration

Members thought this application was not capital, it was a running cost and does not qualify for CDF.

Mid Yell Public Hall - Purchase Trolley, Sound System, and Ice Machine

Total cost of the project was £900. It was proposed to allocate £500 to this project by Mr R Jamieson and seconded by Mr K Jenkins.

9.2 CGS0026 - APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION - YELL SHOW COMMITTEE

Mr L Odie and Mrs J Henderson left the room for the discussion of this item due to declaration of interest,

Mrs A Jamieson chaired the meeting for this item.

£7000 was awarded to this project proposed by Mr R Jamieson and seconded by Mr K Jenkins.

9.3 SCBF DIRECTOR

The SCBF Director post was discussed, and it was agreed to put a post in Isles view column of the Shetland Times.

02/25/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 GOSSABROUGH BEACH BENCH

Mr L Odie reported that he had heard the bench at Gossabrough beach had recently been damaged as it had blown into sea with high winds. Mr L Odie to investigate this before next meeting.

10.2 HEALTH IMPACTS OF TURBINES - SALLY HUBAND EMAIL

An email has been received to circulate to all members. She is selling her home in East Burrafirth after experiencing serious health impacts from Viking's acoustic emissions. This email was circulated to all members and noted.

10.3 RADIO SWITCHOVER - 30 JUNE

Mrs A Jamieson raised concerns regarding the switchover and its effects on households, after a discussion it was agreed to ask SSEN at next meeting.

10.4 BRECKON BEACH

A couple of issues from the landowner at Breckon were raised, the lifebuoy has been moved as requested in beach award report in 2024, however it has perished and has rainwater in it. The meeting agreed to contact Liam Drosso regarding this issue.

An enquiry asking if any decision has been made regarding extending the car park at Breckon which was discussed a few months back. Cllr Robert Thomson was to contact Roads but not sure if that has taken place, so it was decided to contact Roads regarding this.

10.5 PARKING AT OLD SCHOOL FLATS, BURRAVOE

Concerns were raised regarding the parking space being fully used and the area used as a passing place as it is not a sign posted as one. The meeting agreed to contact Roads regarding this.

10.6 A BROCKLESS - TRANSPARENCY CONCERNS

Mr A Brockless requested to speak regarding his transparency concerns particularly regarding the steering group meetings held in September and November. He had made his issues public due to him getting vague information from Yell Community Council. He asked several questions which members addressed.

Mr L Odie said Mr Brockless had the option to submit a formal complaint if he wished.

Cllr Ryan Thomson left meeting at 9.20pm

THE MEETING ENDED AT 21.25HRS.

The next meeting of the Yell Community Council will be held on Monday 17th March 6.45pm, Mid Yell School.