

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)
ON TUESDAY, 18th March 2025 AT 7.45 pm
(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)

PRESENT

James Rendall, Chair
Lucy Cummings
James Smyth

IN ATTENDANCE

Frances Browne SIC
Robert Thompson
Juliet Bellis
Michael Duncan SIC
Emma Perring SIC
Carl Symons SIC

Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

1. Apologies

Mike Fogarty
Michael Duncan SIC

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2025 were circulated.
Proposed by Lucy Seconded by James S and approved.
The minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2025 were circulated.
Proposed by James S Seconded by Lucy and approved.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Maintenance Post

Emma and Carl attended the meeting to share progress on the Fetlar Maintenance Post.

- Emma explained that the job description had been revised with a broader remit and fewer complications.
- Carl had held discussions with other SIC Departments.
- The post is currently on the redeployment register for a week. It will then be advertised and move to interviews.
- Carl will be the line manager for the post to enable flexible working across departments. And be the main communication link with the Community Council via James R. It would be helpful if James could pass on any potential candidates.

Carl shared that the original job description had grown to six pages.

- The focus of the new job description is supporting small island communities.

- The new post will be pitched at Level 3 with some flexibility depending on the skills of the person recruited.
- If the recruitment process is not successful then the post will not be readvertised but offered permanently to the person currently providing the service on a temporary basis.

Lucy asked how many hours a week is the post?

Carl informed that it will be 30 hrs although the hope is that it could rise to 37 to be a living wage. This could include work on another island.

Lucy asked if the postholder could undertake private work.

Carl agreed that this could be mentioned at interview and that there may be bureaucratic obstacles.

Emma informed that the post would have annualised hours so there could be flexibility.

It was noted that a lot of the current work was summer jobs working outside and that this might create some scope for internal jobs such as improving insulation for the winter.

The Community Council agreed that this was very positive progress.

James thanked Emma and Carl for attending.

5. Ongoing Business

5.1 SIC Housing

Chris has sent an email to SIC housing requesting clarification on the availability of two empty properties in Stakkafletts.

Lucy thought that the Community Council should complain about the reply as it was not an appropriate response to a statutory body.

James R thought that the reply was very blunt.

James S had been asked by SIC which flats were occupied by ferry crew.

James R informed that no one from SIC has come to check on a deceased person's property.

Lucy informed that properties 10 and 14 are unoccupied.

It was agreed that Chris should forward the original email to Michael Duncan and Robert Thompson to assist.

5.2 Ferry Timetables

Lucy has attended the Association of Community Association and requested that ferry timetables be put on the agenda as we are not being listened to.

Robert commented that a lot of work is being done in the Council on ferries. It would be good to have any issues amalgamated.

James R noted that all the ferry crews he had spoken to didn't believe that the Bluemull sound crossing would take 25 mins because of the new requirements for lashing.

His observation was that there were generally no delays.

Robert commented that new equipment could speed things up as well.

James R also commented that the voicebank was notifying of delays in the morning with normal service resuming soon after.

Robert informed that SIC was trying to reduce heavy traffic in peak times.

James R asked if there were any road works planned on Unst in the summer which would require heavy equipment. Robert will check.

Lucy commented that the fundamental issues remain the same the inappropriate emergency timetable.

Juliet commented that the current Yell Sound docking timetable has seriously impacted bus connectivity as well as adding significant waiting times for car journeys.

James R commented that the people who create the timetable don't have to use it.

It was agreed that it would be useful to have a joint meeting with Unst.

5.3 Local Development Plan

Nothing to report Graham Booth is only just back.

5.4 Healthcare Support Worker

Lucy has received an acknowledgment from the NHS about the complaint she raised requesting permission from the relatives to proceed which she has sent.

Frances has met with Kim Anderson Chief Nurse, and she has confirmed that Palliative Care should be available for residents on Fetlar. And that the incident previously noted was a mistake.

Kim's preference was for a daytime meeting with Fetlar folk.

Frances informed that the issues have been recorded on the islands with small populations log.

Frances proposed a workshop style event and this was supported. Frances will pursue.

5.5 Road Speeds

Chris has not had any response to an email sent to Neil Hutchinson on the 20th February with respect to road speeds.

5.6 Inter islands Connectivity

The consultation event held on the 5th of March and was successful. The consultants were aware of the issues.

Another survey is coming soon.

The consultants were informed of the up-to-date population of Fetlar.

5.7 Clerk Recruitment

Michael informed that the new pay rates had been circulated and the proposals for changes to Community Council funding had been published. These will be decided by SIC on the 25th of March.

It was again agreed to wait until the April Meeting.

5.7 UHI Invitation

UHI couldn't attend in March but has the April date.

6. Finance and Administration

6.1 Finance Report

6.2 Invoices

The Clerks Salary of £313.40 was approved. It was also agreed that the March invoice should be paid before the next financial year in April.

7. AOCB

7.1 Archiving

Chris informed that he had prepared archive folders for Minutes and End of Year accounts to send to SIC. Appendices to the minutes will be destroyed.

Michael informed that the archived documents will be stored in Lerwick Museum.

7.2 Peter Braithwaite

Michael requested that he should be informed formally of the resignation of Peter Braithwaite.

7.3 Brough Lodge

James R asked if Chris could request an update from the new owners of Brough Lodge.

He also asked about the Airstrip as land has been purchased adjacent to the airstrip. After discussion it wasn't clear what the intention could be.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 15th of April time to be agreed.