

## NORTHMAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: D Brown  
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### Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Northmaven Community Council on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 held in North Roe Primary School.

*This minute is UNAPPROVED until adopted at the next meeting*

<b>Present:</b>
Cllr D Robertson
Cllr J Parry
Cllr R Doull
Cllr G Anderson

<b>Ex Officio Present:</b>
Cllr E MacDonald
Cllr A Hall

<b>Apologies Submitted:</b>
Cllr B Wilcock
Cllr E Robertson
Cllr K Scollay
Cllr D Brown

<b>In attendance:</b>
Mrs C Anderson – Clerk
Mr J Milne – SIC Harbours
Mr R Mclennan – SIC Harbours
Mr N Hutcheson – SIC Roads
Ms L Hall – SIC

**The meeting started at: 19.30**  
**Cllr R Doull in the Chair.**

Agenda Item	Narrative
<b>2.Declarations of Interest.</b>	Cllr J Parry any SCBF Business & Voiceability
<b>3.Approval Of Previous Minute</b>	Cllr G Anderson approved, Cllr J Parry seconded
<b>Welcome</b>	Cllr R Doull thanked everyone for attending and welcomed visitors to the meeting and passed over to Neil Hutcheson from SIC Roads.
<b>4. SIC Roads</b>	Mr Hutcheson updated those present on the recent policy changes for road gritting. Cllr R Doull said there was concern in the community for routes to work/school not getting done. There was a discussion around ways this could potentially be resolved. Cllr D Robertson suggested Northmavine gritters heading to Brae and Brae gritters heading north so both sides of the road gets done as early as possible. Mr Hutcheson said this is something they can look at using the GPS on the gritters. Cllr D Robertson also raised ploughs not being used giving an example in Eshaness of cars bottoming out last year. Cllr R Doull asked what the guidelines are for putting on a plough and Mr Hutcheson said it was anything over a couple of inches of snow. Cllr R Doull said that it had been brought up at a previous meeting that folk felt there is less salt being used. Mr Hutcheson said this is not true and in fact more salt is being used than ever

	<p>before. There was a discussion in the group around why salt may not work. Mr Hutcheson said he would suggest using more grit at the next meeting. CCllr D Robertson said there is a big difference when pre grits are done the night before. CCllr R Doull said that the crews did a great job and were a frontline service. CCllr D Robertson asked during extreme snow when contractors are hired in to help clear roads. Mr Hutcheson said generally it was right away. He said it was difficult to get contractors for the general gritting but during extreme events they were always helpful. He also added there will be a new contract going out soon. CCllr D Robertson asked if something similar to Orkney could be done with local farmers contracted to help out. Mr Hutcheson said it was definitely something to think about however farms in Orkney generally had bigger equipment and there was the risk of damage to the roads. There was a discussion around staff resources with CCllr D Robertson asking if shifts could be staggered. Mr Hutcheson said they had not thought about this but with most gritter drivers being pulled from their regular work, it may prove difficult to implement. CCllr G Anderson highlighted the need for people to have the right kind of tyres. Mr Hutcheson said that they do offer a tyre clinic every year with 40 people using the service last year.</p> <p>CCllr D Robertson highlighted the degradation of verges and the lack of white lines on roads in Northmavine. Mr Hutcheson said that previously lines were only painted once a year but this year they have been booked twice and should be doing more in the coming months. Cllr A Hall highlighted the difference the new cats eyes between Voe and Brae has made and asked if this has to be done by a contractor. Mr Hutcheson said that it is done in house and uses a scratch resistant plastic which is cheaper and quicker to install.</p> <p>CCllr D Robertson asked about surface dressing. Mr Hutcheson said that it would be the same amount as last year, but there were a few places to catch up on due to poor weather last year. Mr Hutcheson told those present about the proposed 20mph zones around housing proposed by Scottish Government and there would be a consultation coming shortly. CCllr R Doull highlighted the campaign to reduce speed around Valladale. Mr Hutcheson said that SIC are also looking at active travel from Valladale to the school but there were obstacles with the width of the road and the minimum width a path needs to be. He added that there would be consultations on this too, it was currently with the design team but probably would be 26/27 at the earliest.</p> <p>CCllr R Doull thanked Mr Hutcheson for attending. Mr Hutcheson left meeting at 20.00</p>
<p><b>5. SIC Harbours</b></p>	<p>CCllr R Doull welcomed Mr James Milne and Mr Ross Mclennan to the meeting and asked for an update on the Collafirth pier. Mr Milne said that the pier was cleaner than it has been in the past and that some of the fishermen had taken it upon themselves to tidy it up. Mr Milne added SIC can put up signs to try to identify owners and dispose of items. CCllr D Robertson said this had been done before. Mr Mclennan said that SIC used to do this more regularly but it costs a lot of money to remove truck loads of items. CCllr G Anderson said he had visited the pier that day and coming down to the pier it</p>

	<p>was just bruck lying around. Mr Milne said that SIC had been working to improve Symbister and Toft and Collafirth was next on the list. CCllr G Anderson said there was a camera on the pier and Mr Milne said that SIC Harbours don't have access to it but are installing new cameras. CCllr D Robertson suggested getting compounds set up. Mr Milne said that he had spoken with CCllr D Brown a few weeks ago and he had suggested the same thing. Mr Milne said that once the pier is cleaned up it is definitely worth considering.</p> <p>Mr Milne highlighted that some boats have been tying up to safety ladders and although SIC have sent letters to the owners of the vessels, they get moved back after a short time and SIC can't have this. It was suggested that a safety bulletin could be shared with NCC to put out on social media.</p> <p>CCllr R Doull asked if there was any update to cruiseliners using Collafirth. Mr Milne said there was no update at the moment and SIC were focusing on other harbours. Mr Mclennan asked what was the feeling in the room as they had had a mixed response. CCllr R Doull said that there hadn't been any pushback to the proposal but there was concerns around the size of vessels and the number of passengers. Mr Mclennan said it would be unlikely vessels would tie up alongside. He said SIC were currently working closely with Fair Isle and Foula to see how many liners they can take. He highlighted that around Samphrey is a pilotage area and before any liners could come into Collafirth there would need to be work to see how many people can be accommodated, what welfare provision there is and what busses are available. Mr Mclennan asked those present if they had any other ideas for uses on the pier. The clerk informed those present that NCCDC were looking at different tourist provisions across Northmavine. Mr Milne asked whether the fendering on the pier was adequate with the Altaire no longer using the pier. Mr Milne and Mr Mclennan urged CCllrs to get in touch if they had any ideas or concerns from the community.</p> <p>CCllr R Doull thanked both for attending. Mr Milne and Mr Mclennan left meeting at 20.24</p>
<b>6. Police Report</b>	A report had been circulated prior to the meeting – two incidents had been recorded in December/January.
<b>7. Banking</b>	No update
<b>8. SCBF Applications</b>	No applications this month
<b>8.Matters Arising</b>	<p><b>Eela Water / Roads</b></p> <p>Clerk said she had emailed SIC Roads and had a response that it would be passed to the correct person but had heard nothing since. CCllr R Doull asked Cllr E MacDonald what the appropriate time for a response at SIC was. Cllr E MacDonald said she wasn't sure. Ms L Hall added that NCC could asked Michael Duncan but she thought it was 10 days.</p>

	<p><b>Collafirth Pier</b> Addressed earlier in meeting</p> <p><b>Planning Application</b> No planning applications received this month</p> <p><b>Transport Planning</b> No update</p> <p><b>Redundant car removal</b> No update</p> <p><b>Marine Restoration and Enhancement Action Plan</b> No update</p> <p><b>School Transport</b> Clerk updated that SIC said the current arrangement worked for them and the parents would need to contact them directly if they weren't happy.</p> <p><b>War Memorial</b> Clerk had looked into funding available from the War Memorial Trust and needed to create a record before being able to apply. <b>Action: Clerk to get photos and create record</b></p>
<p><b>9.Community Council Scheme Review</b></p>	<p>Cllr A Hall said that the results of the last consultation will be presented to Cllrs on the 25<sup>th</sup> March.</p>
<p><b>10. Correspondence</b></p>	<p><b>Visitor Levy Consultation – 31<sup>st</sup> March</b> CCllr J Parry raised that under the current proposal it would not just be visitors to Shetland who would have to pay but people coming out from the isles to catch onward travel who have to stay on the mainland the night before. Cllr A Hall said that it was in very early stages and SIC are working with Orkney and the Western Isles. CCllr R Doull said that in the previous consultation SIC had been against it. Cllr A Hall said that Edinburgh, Highlands and Argyll and Bute are for the proposal but he wasn't sure how much of a benefit it would be to Shetland but that SIC need to understand it before making a decision. Cllr E MacDonald said that the previous council had a strong feeling against the proposal however this might have changed. A socio impact assessment was currently being collated and reports should be ready by the summer.</p> <p><b>My Place Awards</b> The clerk highlighted that community-led projects and community champions can be nominated for the My Place Awards. The deadline for entries is the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</p> <p><b>Community Resilience Plans</b> Ms L Hall explained about the need for community resilience plans across Shetland so that there is a list of key contacts in an emergency and where things are such as generators etc. SSE have provided a template that can be used. Ms Hall said it would be a useful thing to have in place. CCllr R Doull agreed. There</p>

	<p>was a discussion around suitable people to have on the list. Ms Hall added that the first draft was needed by Easter.  <b>Action: CClrs to think about people that could be included before the next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>SEPA consultation</b>  Clerk informed those present about the current consultation on Proposed Changes to the Environmental Regulation (Scotland) Guidance on Public Participation and Fit and Proper person test. Consultation is open until the 30<sup>th</sup> March for responses.</p> <p><b>Public and School Bus Business Case</b>  There was an update from Elaine Park around the public and school bus business case with NCC asked to respond to the next stage between 24<sup>th</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> April. It was decided this would be considered at the next NCC meeting.  <b>Action: Clerk to look at questions once consultation open</b></p> <p><b>Complimentary spaces for community councils</b>  CClr R Doull informed CClrs that there are a number of conferences coming up that they can apply for.</p> <p><b>VoiceAbility</b>  An introductory email had been sent by Vikki Parry, an advocate for VoiceAbility in Shetland.  <b>Action: Clerk to invite Ms Parry to a future meeting</b></p> <p><b>Scottish Water – Rock Blasting</b>  Scottish water advised rock blasting would commence w/b 23<sup>rd</sup> March with road closures for around 10 minutes during blasting.</p> <p><b>Ride Anywhere Week 15<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>  Scheme to encourage people to get on their bikes with prizes available for participants.</p>
<p><b>11. AOCB</b></p>	<p>CClr D Robertson updated those present about an issue with the Hillswick/Eshaness school bus from Brae. During the afternoon run the door had broken and the bus had continued the route with 8 children still on board. He added a similar fault had happened on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. CClr D Robertson highlighted it was illegal to drive with the door open and if one of the children on board had unfastened their seatbelt they could have fallen out. He added various parents had contacted SIC and the police and he had been asked to bring it to the meeting. CClr D Robertson had contacted Chief Executive at SIC Ms M Sandison but felt her response was unsatisfactory. Cllr A Hall asked Cllr E MacDonald if this sort of incident had happened before. Cllr E MacDonald said no it had not, and she would follow up with Ms M Sandison in the morning. CClr R Doull suggested NCC sending a letter to Ms M Sandison highlighting the incidents on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March and the safeguarding issues which hadn't been resolved.  <b>Action: Clerk to send letter to Ms M Sandison</b></p>
<p><b>12. Date and time of next meeting</b></p>	<p>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April in the Urafirth Primary School at 7.30pm.</p>

**The meeting ended at: 21.03**