

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

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Draft minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7 pm at the Walls Hall

Present: I Walterson (Chair)

M Forrest  
E Johnston  
M Macgregor  
J Puckey  
C Venus  
R Smith

In attendance: B Mycock (SIC Antisocial Behaviour Prevention Officer), D Forrest (Clerk)

## **1. Chair's Welcome**

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present and extended a warm welcome to Mr Billy Mycock who had attended to provide information about his work as Antisocial Behaviour Officer.

## **2. Apologies:**

F Macbeath (Vice Chair), J Laing, R Fraser, J Haswell, S Johnston, M Duncan, Cllr L Peterson

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made at this time.

## **4. Police Report**

The receipt of the Community Council Report December 2024 and January 2025 was noted.

## **5. Visit by Billy Mycock (SIC Antisocial Behaviour Prevention Officer)**

### **5.1 General Information**

During his brief description of his role, Mr Mycock made the following points:

- People should come to him for advice concerning instances of antisocial behaviour at as early a stage as possible to prevent matters escalating.
- He is able to support communities in neighbourhood disputes for example.
- Should it be necessary to involve the police in a non-emergency situation, he advised calling 101.
- He highlighted the need to protect vulnerable people of all ages and those who are hard to reach.
- He can, where necessary, institute an interagency approach.
- Mr Mycock distributed a set of leaflets describing the Local Authority's strategy on antisocial behaviour and a link to further information on that strategy.

(R Smith joined the meeting.)

### **5.2 Specific Issues concerning the Sandness and Walls Area.**

#### **5.2.1 Vandalism at the Central Walls Toilets, the Charity Cupboard and Happyhansel Primary School**

A recent spate of vandalism concerning the toilets adjacent to the Walls Hall, the charity cupboard and the village primary school was discussed. It was pointed out that because of this, it is now deemed necessary to lock the community run toilets each night and to discontinue stocking the village charity cupboard. It was also noted that the police are aware of this situation. The installation of CCTV was discussed, but it was felt that clarity would be required as to which local body would take responsibility for this.

#### **5.2.2 The Glass Collection Bin at the Sandness Hall**

Mr Mycock was made aware of the concerns regarding the security of the glass bin located at the Sandness Hall. He volunteered to request that a secure fastening be supplied by the SIC.

**Action: Mr Mycock to request that the glass bin at the Sandness Hall be securely anchored.**

### **5.2.3 Storage Bins for Refuse at the Stove Cottages, Walls**

Mr Mycock was made aware of the difficulties some of the residents of Stove Cottages are experiencing when attempting to dispose of their black refuse sacks between collection days. A letter from the SIC Environment Department to Stove Cottage residents was read. The overriding message was that residents should recycle more and thus reduce their dependence on black bags. Members felt that this would not be the best solution for the residents who are, for the most part, elderly and in some cases, have mobility issues.

**Action: Mr Mycock indicated he would discuss this matter with the appropriate officer.**

## **6. Minutes from 4.2.25**

The adoption of the minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by J Puckey.

## **7. Matters Arising**

### ***Re: 13 of 2/25 Request to attend meeting by Julie Graham, UHI***

The Clerk indicated that Ms Graham had emailed to say that a questionnaire would be sent out soon.

### ***Re: 18.2 of 2/25 R100 Evaluation***

The Clerk stated that the email that had been sent in response to the R100 Evaluation had not elicited a reply to date.

### ***Re: 18.4 Electric Vessel Sea Trials between West Burrafirth and Papa Stour***

J Puckey stated that she had been in communication with the shipyard responsible for the construction of the electric vessel. They have indicated that the project is behind schedule but that the trials should begin towards the end of March or the beginning of April. Members expressed concerns regarding the berthing of the craft at the Papa Stour end. Members were informed that the intention is to charge the vessel's batteries using a bank of smaller batteries to be based at West Burrafirth which, in turn,

will be charged via the mains supply. She concluded by expressing a concern that has been raised regarding the berthing of the electric craft at West Burrafirth given that there is limited space in that harbour.

**Re: 19.2 of 11/24 Street Lighting in Walls**

The Clerk stated that he had not received a reply from Mr Hutcheson (Team Leader - Road Asset and Network Management) on this matter. M Forrest displayed photographs of the sites. It was acknowledged that the Roads Department were unwilling to erect street lighting at the bus stop and that no suggestions had been proposed for the Forralea pathway. It was also acknowledged that Mr Hutcheson had not acknowledged the Members' request for a site visit by Mr Colin Gear (Road Safety Officer).

Action: The Clerk was asked to resend the email to Mr Hutcheson and copy in Maggie Sandison (SIC Chief Executive), Cllr L Peterson and Cllr M Robinson.

**8. Housing**

No issues were raised.

**9. Roads**

No issues were raised

**10. Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

The receipt of SCBF promotional material was acknowledged.

**11. Voar Redd-up**

The receipt of emailed posters advertising the 2025 Voar Redd-up was acknowledged.

Action: The Clerk was asked to print off copies for display in the community.

**12. Local Place Plan**

The Chair indicated that this item is due for discussion at the forthcoming Association of Shetland Community Councils' meeting. It is hoped that clarification will be provided regarding the possibility of having a paid assistant to support Community Councils in generating local place plans.

### **13. Facebook Page for S&WCC**

E Johnston stated that the SIC webpage providing Community Council minutes has been updated.

### **14. Financial Update**

After having revisited the accounts, the Clerk indicated that some funding was still available in the current financial year. After a brief discussion on how best to disburse them, it was agreed to donate £200 each to the Sandness Hall, the Walls Hall and the Gruting Community Centre.

**Action: The Clerk to disburse the funds as described above.**

### **15. Correspondence**

A letter of thanks has been received from the Sandness Primary School in gratitude for the funding the Community Council provided for their proposed pond.

### **16. AOCB**

No matters were raised.

### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and will be a hybrid meeting which is scheduled to commence at 7.00pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

(Draft minutes of the March 2025 S&WCC Meeting subject to approval at the next meeting)