

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes subject to approval at next Community Council meeting

Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 7.00 pm at Whalsay Primary School (Venue changed at last minute)

PRESENT:	APOLOGIES
Cllr Jackie Leslie (JL) – Chair	Dana Jamieson - Police Scotland
Cllr William Polson (WP) –Vice Chair	Michael Duncan - Community Council Liaison Officer (MD)
Cllr Margaret Hughson (MH)	Roselyn Fraser – Community Involvement & Development Officer (RF)
Ryan Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RT) via Teams	Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)
Kate Willis (local resident)	Robert Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RTH)
	Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations SIC(AI)
	Neil Hutchinson – SIC Roads

MINUTE TAKER: Gina Irvine – WCC Clerk (GI)

WELCOME:

JL chaired meeting and welcomed all.

APOLOGIES: Apologies noted

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

JL asked if all were happy with minutes. JL approved; WP seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

Current account was shared with members by clerk.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

1. Fire Hydrant at New Park

Kate Willis discussed obtaining more fire hydrants to be placed in the New Park area as well as a review of current ones in places to check that they are accessible and in working order in conjunction with local fire service and within current guidelines.

JL asked if it is possible to have all areas within Whalsay checked and asked clerk to contact Scottish Waters about the processes to have more installed within isle.

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2. FERRIES

Ryan Thomson (RT) joined us and reported that the request for extra bus transportation during the re-fit was not approved, as SIC was unable to allocate sufficient time to accommodate it.

WCC expressed disappointment and highlighted the critical situation of overflowing cars at Laxo due to the limited car spaces on ferries. Concerns were also raised about the lack of car spaces at Vidlin and the challenges faced by commuters as a result of service changes.

WP proposed that a minibus shuttle service between Laxo and Vidlin, particularly during peak periods, could alleviate these issues.

JL requested that this matter be escalated to the appropriate parties to ensure a more effective solution is implemented for the next season's refit.

MH discussed the issues caused by the bus/ferry service changes, highlighting the lack of internet and mobile service at both terminals, which leaves people—especially children—vulnerable and stranded. It was emphasized that the ferry and bus services need to work together more effectively to prevent similar incidents in the future.

RT acknowledged these concerns and would help bring with matter to the relevant parties with RTH and revert back.

JL asked for feedback on the changes made to next season's festive bookings, if the computer issues are resolved, and asked the Clerk to look into it.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up with official complaint

3. Cycling UK

The Clerk reported receiving a request from WKDC seeking contact details for Cycling UK to support their grant application, and this was approved

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up

4. POLICE MATTERS

No report since Dec received

ACTION: No action

5. ROADS, FENCE AT DUMP, STREETLIGHTS CYCLE & WALKING PATHS

Clerk informed WCC that photos of potholes were sent and WCC asked to follow up as well as lights at Norrendale.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up

6. Whalsay Tunnel Action Group

WCC discussed the updates received

ACTIONS: Update for next meeting

7. Symbister Pier

The issue of neglected and abandoned cars on the isle was discussed, along with potential options available for locals. The Clerk was asked to look into how residents can arrange for car disposals.

The group also reviewed an email and suggested reaching out to Environmental Health for support.

Additionally, the Clerk was requested to follow up with Claire Christey regarding assistance for removing these cars, as the matter was raised last year.

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WP Raised concerns about potholes in the area were also discussed, and the Clerk was tasked with reporting these issues to the relevant department.

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up

8. DENTIST

No update and all discussed the need to continue with request

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

9. MAP/NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to start gathering information for the next meeting and to request an extension on the grant.

ACTION Clerk tasked with actions

10. Skips

Everyone agreed to plan for the skip on 11th March, and the Clerk was assigned to advertise and make the necessary arrangements.

ACTIONS: Clerk to organise

11. Houll Loch

Poop bags have been ordered from SIC, and there was a discussion about repositioning the holders to help prevent future damage

JL discussed increase of dog excrement in the area and need to have solution in place

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

12. Bus Review

Clerk informed all that no update was shared to date. All asked for feedback about the review

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

13. Bus Shelter

Clerk was unable to share any progress with obtaining map highlighting current shelters

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

14. New WCC Meeting Dates

All agreed to 29th April, 10th June, 2nd Sept, 14th Oct, 25th Nov, 13th Jan 2026, 24th Feb 2026, 24th March for future community council meetings and tasked clerk to make submission to SIC.

15. Participatory Budget Event

JL shared plans for the event and timings etc , all agreed for 12th March 2025

ACTIONS: Clerk tasked with implementing

16. Nomination of New Member

Request was received from Caroline Watt who expressed her interest in becoming a member.

WP Declared interests and unable to vote

Nomination was proposed by MH and seconded by JL

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ACTIONS: Clerk to inform relevant parties

17. Harsdale Renovation

The proposed works were discussed, and it was agreed that the proposed plan of works should be requested

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up

18. Nomination for SCBF Directorship

All proposed John Daly to be nominated and asked clerk to confirm

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

19. Proposed New Toilet Plans at Symbister Pier

All unanimously disapproved with proposed plans. It was noted that the current proposal was neither in the community's interest nor fit for purpose, but the cancellation of the proposal was met with surprise, given the ongoing need for new toilet facilities. Emphasis was placed on the necessity to modernize the existing dilapidated facilities and improve accessibility for all, as the temporary disabled toilet was never intended to be a permanent solution.

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up

Meeting closed at 8.59 pm Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 25th MARCH 2025 @ 7pm, at Heritage Centre for locals and Teams for others considering joining.