

# **Sandness & Walls Community Council**

*Chairman:*

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Draft minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Sandness and Walls Community Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 7 pm at the Walls Hall

Present: I Walterson (Chair)  
F Macbeath (Vice Chair)  
M Forrest  
E Johnston  
J Laing  
C Venus  
Cllr L Peterson

In attendance: D Forrest (Clerk)

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

I Walterson (Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed all those present.

## **2. Apologies:**

M Macgregor, J Puckey, R Fraser, J Haswell, S Johnston, M Duncan, R Smith

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made at this time.

## **4. Police Report**

No Police report was available for this meeting.

## **5. Minutes from 4.3.25**

The adoption of the minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 was proposed by M Forrest and seconded by C Venus.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### ***Re: 18.4 of 2/25 Electric Vessel Sea Trials between West Burrafirth and Papa Stour***

The Clerk informed Members that he had received an email from J Puckey stating that the proposed electric ferry sea trials would not now take place in Shetland.

### ***Re: 5.2.1 of 3/25 Vandalism at the Central Walls Toilets, the Charity Cupboard and Happyhansel Primary School***

It was stated that this situation has now been resolved, but it would appear that the perpetrators were not identified.

### ***Re: 5.2.2 of 3/25 The Glass Collection Bin at the Sandness Hall***

This issue was addressed satisfactorily soon after the March meeting. Embers expressed their thanks to Mr Mycock for his assistance with this matter.

### ***Re: 5.2.3 of 3/25 Storage Bins for Refuse at the Stove Cottages, Walls***

Members discussed a letter that had been sent by the Environment Department suggesting that residents at Stove Cottages could reduce the pressures on refuse storage bins by recycling more waste. Members felt that some of the residents have no intentions of recycling waste, and that this suggestion would not be acted upon. The Clerk was asked to write to the department again to seek more black bag storage bins.

**Action: The Clerk to write to the Environment Department to request more black bag storage bins for Stove Cottages. Copied to Cllr Peterson and Mr Mycock.**

## **7. Housing**

No issues were raised, however, a discussion took place regarding the effectiveness of the Local Authority's policy on remote and fragile communities. Cllr Peterson indicated that, along with another councillor, she is due to have a meeting with Mr Neil Grant, Director of the SIC Development Services Department, to discuss this issue.

## **8. Roads**

### **8.1 Road Sweeping and General Maintenance**

F Macbeath stated that he had been delighted to observe the road sweeper cleaning up loose gravel on the Dale of Walls road. He requested that an email showing appreciation for this be sent to the Roads Department. M Forrest stated that the clearance of weeds and minor improvements had been carried out in Walls. She also requested that appreciation for this work be acknowledged.

**Action: The Clerk to send an email to the Roads Department thanking them for recent work carried out in the Walls area.**

### **8.2 Upgrade of A971 from the Murrister Quarry to Da Punds**

Cllr Peterson stated that she had had a meeting with Mr Neil Hutcheson regarding the business case for the upgrade of the A971 between the Murrister Quarry and Da Punds. He had indicated that some of the figures in his report to Council needed to be adjusted, but that the business case should be presented to Council in the near future.

### **8.3 Street Lighting**

Cllr Peterson indicated that Robina Barton (Transport Policy and Projects Officer) has proposed a further meeting with the Sandness and Walls Community Council in order to check the findings of the Active Travel Survey and to prioritise possible works which may include additional street lighting.

## **9. Community Council Scheme Review**

Concerns were expressed regarding 12 – 15 year-olds becoming associate members of Community Councils. It was pointed out that there is ambiguity in the description as to how they will be supported at meetings. It was felt that the practicalities of having children at meetings have not been thought through. Given that the Scheme of Establishment had been emailed one day prior to the meeting, it did not give Members sufficient time to read and digest the 37 page document. It was decided to defer discussion on this document until the next meeting.

**Action: The Clerk to include the Community Council Scheme of Establishment be included in the May agenda.**

#### **10. Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting – Chair’s Report**

The Chair highlighted the following items from the March meeting of the Association of Shetland Community Councils:-

- Core Paths Review- report from Mr Liam Drosso  
There is limited funding available for any new paths, but should anyone be aware of a simple route that would not be costly, it may be considered.
- Open Project – Local research into drug and alcohol misuse by young people has suggested that there is a desire to move away from these things, but few activities exist for this generation outside of licensed premises.

#### **11. UHI Learning Needs Questionnaire**

After a brief discussion on this matter, it was suggested that Members should attempt to complete the UHI Learning Needs Survey. The Clerk was asked to recirculate the email containing the survey.

**Action: The Clerk to recirculate the email from Julie Graham containing the UHI Learning Needs Questionnaire.**

#### **12. Public and School Bus Business Plan -Update for Community Councils**

Members noted the fact that this was a very lengthy report. One of the issues that was raised concerned the Number 9 bus from Lerwick to Walls that leaves Lerwick at 5.15 pm. It was felt that a slightly later departure time would benefit people who could not leave work at exactly 5 pm. It was also felt that an additional departure from Lerwick at 7 pm would be welcomed by the public.

#### **13. Shetland Community Benefit Fund**

The Clerk stated that he had received a phone call from a member of the Walls Regatta Club indicating that the Club is about to submit an application for funds towards the cost of a new guard boat.

#### **14. Local Place Plan**

Members expressed their frustration that seminars and webinars take place during the working day. They also were disappointed at the lack of progress in the creation of a template to enable Community Councils to produce LPPs.

#### **15. Voice Ability**

A request from Vikki Parry to attend a future S&WCC meeting either in person, by phone or virtually was discussed. Ms Parry serves as a health and well-being advocate for people who have difficulty in dealing with professionals on such matters. It was agreed to invite Ms Parry to the May S&WCC Meeting.

**Action: The Clerk to invite Vikki Parry to attend the May meeting of the Community Council.**

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

It was suggested the E Johnston include details of Voice Ability on the Facebook page.

#### **17. Financial Update**

##### **17.1 2025/26 Budget**

The Clerk indicated that the application form to enable Community Councils to draw down funding for the financial year 2025/26 was now live. He stated that a breakdown of how each Community Council intended to disburse the funds was required. To that end he had drawn up a list of possible funding outlets. This was shared with the Members and there was unanimous approval for the application form to be drafted in line with those suggestions.

**Action: The Clerk to complete the 2025/26 Grant Application in line with the figures discussed that the April Community Council meeting.**

##### **17.2 Unadopted Roads Grants**

(I Walterson and F Macbeath declared an interest.)

The Clerk reminded Members that in 2024 the advertisement for unadopted roads grants had been displayed in April of that

year. The deadline for applications was the end of that month. He asked Members if this was what they wished to happen this April. It was proposed that in future, applicants be restricted to seeking a grant every 2 years. Given that potential applicants have not had prior warning of this, it was agreed to maintain the status quo for this year, but state on the application form that, in future, applications would only be considered every second year.

**Action:** 1. Clerk to redraft the unadopted roads grant form and circulate this to Members for comment.  
2. Clerk to draw up and display a poster providing information about unadopted road grants.

## **18. Correspondence**

A letter of thanks has been received from the Gruting Community Centre for the donation made to them by the Community Council.

## **19. AOCB**

### **19.1 Neighbourhood Concerns**

Members were made aware of a concern raised by a member of the public. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Clerk refer this matter to Mr Billy Mycock.

**Action:** The Clerk to refer the above concern to Mr Bill Mycock.

### **19.2 Archiving Old Community Council Minutes**

The Clerk stated that he was making good progress in preparing old S&WCC minutes and accounts in readiness for them to be archived at the Museum.

## **20. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 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 9.00 pm.

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