

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes subject to approval at next Community Council meeting

Minute of the Whalsay Community Council (CC) meeting. Held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7.00 pm at Whalsay Heritage Centre

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)
Robert Thomson – North Isles Cllr (RTH) via Teams	Duncan Anderson - North Isles Cllr (DA)
Duncan Anderson – North Isles Cllr (DA)	Andrew Inkster - Executive Manager Marine & Air Operations SIC(AI)
James Milne – Deputy Harbour Master SIC (JM)	Neil Hutchinson – SIC Roads
Ross MacLennan – Small Ports Supervisor SIC (RM)	

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. WP approved; JL seconded.

FINANCE REPORT:

Clerk confirmed extension for PB Fund until end of April. Current account was shared with members by clerk.

ACTIONS: Ongoing

1. Symbister Pier

- Proposed Works for Pier and Condition:

JL raised concerns regarding potholes. JM informed that resurfacing works for the harbour area are scheduled for this summer.

Action: JM to provide indicative start dates for the resurfacing works.

- Abandoned Cars:

JM recommended reporting abandoned vehicles to Environmental Health for assistance.

Action: Clerk to contact Environmental Health and report the abandoned cars.

- Pier Cleaning Programme:

JM outlined plans for pier cleaning, including issuing notices to all car owners and seeking berth holders' cooperation.

Action: JM to issue notices to car owners and coordinate with berth holders regarding pier cleaning.

Parking Improvements:

MH highlighted the need for additional and better-organized parking during the dry dock period.

RTH committed to reviewing the parking situation with SIC for next year.

Action: RTH to discuss parking improvements with SIC and propose changes for the next dry dock period.

- CCTV Installation:

JM mentioned new CCTV systems currently being tested for compatibility. MH and JL emphasized the need to cover disabled toilet area to be included in CCTV coverage plans

Action: JM to complete testing and inform WCC of installation of CCTV systems.

2. Waiting Room and Toilets

JL talked about how the plans for the office with toilets got scrapped. MH and WP mentioned that the area really needs to be flattened and rebuilt, with a focus on modernization. They also said that new plans should include accessible toilets, since the original ones didn't have those. WCC raised concerns that there might not be any new facilities coming as, the disabled toilet in use is just a temporary fix, so there's a push to make sure future plans properly address these needs.

Actions: RTH and DA said they'd look into the project further as revert back

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

3. Fire Hydrant at New Park

Clerk shared letter from Scottish Waters who would work with Fire Department and JL asked clerk to follow up with Kate Willis and relevant parties for support.

4. FERRIES

- Computer Issues with Booking System

JL inquired about the resolution of computer issues during the festive season. RTH reported that SIC is exploring new booking system intended to offer greater flexibility, similar to Orkney.

Actions: RTH to provide updates on progress and implementation timelines of the new booking system. are done

- Parking Issues During Dry Dock Period

JL reiterated concerns regarding the lack of parking at terminal during the dry dock periods, particularly at Vidlin. WP suggested road widening at Vidlin as a potential review for future planning. RTH informed all that matters have been raised with SIC, including a proposal for "Dial -a-Ride" or shuttle bus service to support terminal operations during dry docks works.

Actions: RTH to coordinate with SIC to review and propose bus/parking solutions for future dry dock periods.

- Wi-Fi Connectivity at Terminals

Poor Wi-Fi connection at both terminals was discussed, with emphasis on the potential risks during emergencies. MH noted no improvements to date and requested actions.

Actions: RTH to escalate the issue of Wi-Fi connectivity with SIC and revert back.

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.

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

5. Cycling UK

Clerk informed all the WKDC had acquired for four E-Bikes which they would be renting in the coming weeks. MH suggested having them located near to pier would be ideal.

6. POLICE MATTERS

Report for Dec and Jan shared

ACTION: No action

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

JL asked for timescales for works on Whalsay and scope of work

ACTION: Clerk to follow up

8. Whalsay Tunnel Action Group

RTH highlighted the necessity of examining tunnel options as the ferry fleet continues to age. RTH informed all that SIC is looking at acquiring an additional vessel as an interim measure to mitigate disruptions during dry dock operations and repair periods. WCC highlighted the rise in transportation disruptions and supported the need for urgent measures.

ACTIONS: DA and RTH to revert back with any plans or support needed

WHALSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

9. DENTIST

No update and all discussed the need to continue with request

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

10. MAP/NEWSLETTER

WCC discussed the next steps

ACTION Clerk tasked with actions

11. Skips

WCC discussed looking at Saturday options and asked clerk for costs

ACTIONS: Clerk to revert back

12. Houll Loch

MH to share contact to obtain more holders for area

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

13. Bus Review

Clerk to re-share bus review update

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

14. Bus Shelter

MH located position of new bus shelter and asked clerk to follow up

ACTIONS: Clerk to follow up

15. Participatory Budget Event

All discussed preparation for PB Event for 3rd April

ACTIONS: Clerk tasked with implementing

16. Nomination of New Member

Caroline Watts was coopted and JL asked clerk to invite to future meetings and share dates and constitution

ACTIONS: Clerk to action

17. Harsdale Renovation

WCC asked clerk to follow up on the scope of work and timescales

ACTIONS: Clerk asked to follow up

18. JL Thanked all for attending and hopes that issues discussed can be raised with appropriate parties to achieve a more effective and efficient outcomes.

Meeting closed at 8.52 pm Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 10th June 2025 @ 7pm, at Heritage Centre for locals and Teams for others considering joining.