

# **Fetlar Community Council**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL**  
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)  
**ON TUESDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 AT 7.45 pm**  
**(WITH A TEAM'S OPTION TO JOIN REMOTELY)**

## **PRESENT**

James Rendall, Chair  
Lucy Cummings  
James Smyth  
Mike Fogarty

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Frances Browne SIC  
Robert Thompson  
Juliet Bellis  
Julie Graham UHI  
Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

## **1. Apologies**

Michael Duncan SIC

## **2. Minutes of the previous meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> of March were circulated.  
Proposed by Lucy Seconded by James S and approved.

## **3. Declarations of interest**

None

## **4. Ongoing Business**

### **4.1 UHI Invitation**

James R welcomed Julie to the meeting.

Julie is the engagement officer for UHI she is speaking to as many people as possible. This is to get feedback on whether UHI is meeting people's needs and to top help develop strategy.

She is particularly interested in the barriers that prevent people using UHI.

Lucy asked if she was aware of the current demographic in Fetlar and that there are no school age children.

Mike commented that he had recently had a child who was undertaking an apprenticeship degree. The main problem was the disconnect between public transport and UHI timetables. This will be made worse by the proposed move to Scalloway. He thought that there would be a similar experience for the other northern Isles.

James S Commented on the lack of accommodation that is also expensive.

Julie asked what the council thought about the courses available.

Chris who had looked recently thought that there was a good range of courses, and that the website seemed to work well. He asked if grant funding was available for mature students.

Julie informed that funding was available.

Julie asked if there were any courses missing? She informed that people had already mentioned knitting. She thought that UHI could provide courses similar to 'Utube' for Microsoft Office or Sage to help small businesses.

Similarly there may be a need to provider courses on agriculture or basic engineering e.g. welding for incomers to Shetland.

There was agreement that these could be useful.

James thanked Julie for attending and Julie thanked the Council for the information shared.

#### **4.2 SIC Housing**

Michael Duncan had received a reply to his email that said the same things but more politely.

There was some discussion about properties lying empty.

One was now available but had not been allocated to someone living in Fetolar who was now moving to Yell.

There was concern that the Housing Department was inadvertently creating a process of depopulation.

Lucy was concerned that they were advertising a job but wouldn't be able toi employ unless accommodation was available.

There was some discussion about properties reserved for ferry crews who weren't permanent residents.

Robert said that he would follow up these concerns and ask for more liaison with local communities.

#### **4.3 Roads Speeds**

Chris had received a detailed response from Neil Hutchenson asked for comment on speed issues to be marked on a map of Fetlar.

It was noted that Robert had contact with Active Travel. And that Robin Barton from Active Travel had visited Fetlar.

#### **4.4 Maintenance Post**

The Council was informed that interviews had been held and an appointment made. Further details to follow.

#### **4.5 Community Council Scheme of Establishment**

The Council noted that the new Scheme of Establishment had been approved.

#### **4.6 Community Council Core Funding Guidelines**

Chris informed that the Council funding was now confirmed and that there needed to be a decision about how the funds would be divided.

It was agreed that the Development Fund would remain at £3,000 and the rest would be for core admin costs.

Chris will apply for the grant.

#### **4.6 Budget Options**

Chris presented three budget options.

He outlined that it would appear that the Council is responsible for maintaining the defibrillators at Hamars Ness and the Clinic. Costs are estimated in the budget.

The Council agreed to go with the middle budget where the clerk is paid at £16.80 per hour.

Chris will clarify with 'Lucky to be here'. When and who purchased the defibrillators

#### **4.7 Clerk Recruitment**

It was agreed that the post should be advertised with a closing date of the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **4.9 Ferry Timetables**

There was continuing discussion about the problems with the ferries. It was noted that the agreed discussion about new timetables appeared to be on the back burner and that recruitment to the additional crew for the Geira had also not happened.

It was agreed that Robert should actively lobby for the recruitment process to begin.

#### **4.10 Local Development Plan**

Peter Maguire SIC Planning has visited Fetlar and met with Lucy and Graham he advised on the updated timetable. It was agreed that action should be deferred until after the summer.

#### **4.11 Healthcare Support Worker**

Juliet has discussed the situation on the Islands with Small Populations group. The Skerries are having the same problems as Fetlar.

Chris noted that in the preceding week there had been no nursing presence on Fetlar including at the GP appointments, so there was no chaperone.

Lucy has not received the response to the complaint as the family want to receive it first. But will still pursue general issues.

#### **4.12 Inter islands Connectivity**

There is another meeting soon.

### **5. Finance and Administration**

#### **6.1 Finance Report**

Current balance £442.55

### **6. AOCB**

#### **6.1 Brough Lodge**

Chris has not received a response from the new owners.

Juliet shared maps showing the land that they have purchased.

#### **6.2 Da Voar Redd Up**

Chris has registered for this year.

### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May time to be agreed.