

Minutes of Meeting of Yell Community Council

Wednesday 21st May 2025, 7pm, Mid Yell School

Present: Mr L Odie (Chair), Mrs A Jamieson, Mrs S Williamson, and Ms F Stirling.
Apologies: Mr R Jamieson, and Mr Michael Duncan (Community Councillor Liaison Officer).
In Attendance: Mrs Johnina Henderson (Clerk), Cllr Robert Thomson (Elected representative) Cllr Ryan Thomson (Elected representative) via Teams, Ms Frances Browne (North Isles Community Involvement and Development Worker) and 1 Member of the Public.
Visitor: Billy Mycock (SIC Environmental Health) via Teams.

Mr L Odie welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed over the meeting to Billy Mycock.

Billy gave an update on the services that his department provides: Bullying, family fallouts, mental health, social behaviour and vulnerable members of the community, problems in the community, abandoned vehicles, dogs and noise are a range of the issues covered. Yell Community Council have been in touch with Billy recently regarding the Dog Fouling in Mid Yell and updates were discussed on this and comments received regarding dog fouling throughout Yell and dogs roaming around in Burravoe. Billy gave details of what community councils in Lerwick and Whalsay were doing to combat the dog fouling problems in their areas. His department is available to help if Yell Community Council would like to do something similar. Billy thanked the meeting for allowing him to join remotely and to get in touch if there were any issues in the Community that his department could help with. Mr L Odie thanked Billy for joining and giving us an update and he left the meeting at 19.10.

05/25/01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms F Stirling declared an interest in the Mid Yell Hall CDF application.
Cllr Robert Thomson declared an interest in the Planning application.
Mr L Odie declared an interest in the Beaw Field wind farm discussions as a tenant of land.
Mr L Odie declared an interest in the Burravoe School.
Mr L Odie and Mrs J Henderson declared an interest in the Yell Show ferries request.
Mrs S Williamson declared an interest in the Colvister Quarry.

05/25/02 MINUTES

17th March 2025 - The minutes of the February meeting were approved by Mrs S Williamson and Ms F Stirling.

05/25/03 MATTERS ARISING

AYWICK POSTBOX

Still no update on the Post box at Aywick, Clerk has asked Cllr Ryan Thomson to investigate it.

05/25/04 OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

6.1 TRANSPORT - FERRIES

Community Hire Applications

The two wedding applications, one for 26th July and one for 21st September have been approved by Sellaness and the applicants have been notified. The Yelloween application is still to be approved by Sellaness. There is still one Community ferry run available for hire. We would need our allocation of Ferries advised in February for organisations requiring a community hire ferry for April and May functions.

F Browne said a late ferry from Fetlar through Yell Sound on 8th August was available.

Yell Show Day Ferries

The Yell Show Committee has requested additional ferries for Yell Show Day on Saturday 6th September. Mr L Odie and Mrs J Henderson declared an interest. The meeting agreed to contact Sellaness regarding this request.

Bookings on Yell Sound and Bluemull Sound

Concerns were raised regarding the ferries booking system and ferries being apparently fully booked. Although ferries are fully booked, there is capacity for unbooked vehicles in most crossings. Cllr Robert Thomson told the meeting that selective sampling would be carried out and offenders would receive a warning email. Due to the docking of Dagalien and the Fivla covering the service, last week trucks were unable to use smaller ferry with the low tide. The introduction of the new Geira shift system should help capacity on Bluemull Sound.

Press Report - No agency Staff.

A press release today said that there was no agency staff on the ferries. Cllr Robert Thomson stated that it was an inaccurate statement, and it was Sellaness harbour staff that message was regarding.

6.2 ROADS UPDATE

Burravoe Footpath

There is still no further update on this project.

New Cullivoe Road

The contract has had to be retendered. The new tenders have been returned and are currently being checked by Legal, Finance and Procurement. The SIC are hoping that a start date can be made sometime in July 2025.

Cllr Robert Thomson told the meeting that Cllr Moraig Lyall was keen to organise a special SIC meeting to approve the tender and get the roadworks started.

Bus Shelters in Yell

Mervyn Smith, Roads advises that suitable gates will be ordered when the budget was available. Clerk to request an update on progress.

Old Burravoe School Parking/Passing Place

A site meeting is to be arranged with the landowner to approve extending the parking/passing place.

West Yell and Colvister Grids

The Cattle grids were damaged and removed in March. Work has started on replacing the grids.

6.3 STATKRAFT WIND FARM DEVELOPMENTS

CLG MEETING UPDATE

Meeting notes have been received from a meeting in Cullivoe Hall on 10th March. Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

6.4 NET ZERO CARBON NEUTRAL ISLAND (YELL) PROJECT

Project has been cancelled.

6.5 FIXED LINKS - TUNNEL ACTION GROUP UPDATE

No update since last meeting.

6.6 COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE IN YELL

Jo Robinson informed the vice chair that an inspection of Isleshavn Care Centre has been carried out. The report will be public soon; this will be discussed at the next meeting.

6.7 SCOTLAND'S BEACH AWARDS 2025 APPLICATIONS

Applications for 2025 for West Sandwick Beach and Sands of Breckon were submitted by the Clerk and accepted.

BRECKON LIFEBUOY

The lifebuoy has still not been replaced, and no one is willing to pay for a replacement.

BEACH RESPONSIBILITY

Concerns were raised that local groups may need to take responsibility for beaches and associated works and apply for the awards in the future.

6.8/6.9 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME OF REVIEW/COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT

Review has been completed. New core funding to be applied for annually and approved by SIC Officer. This year the Chair had to contact M Duncan who fast tracked payment this year to enable the clerk to be paid. Cllr Robert Thomson to investigate the process. The meeting queried if other community councils were in this predicament. The meeting agreed CC Funding be requested as ASCC agenda item.

Co-option rules have been temporary lifted, and the clerk will be advertising for a 4-month taster session prior to the elections in October.

6.10 LOCAL PLACE PLAN SPRING WORKSHOP

Clerk Johnina Henderson attended the LPP Spring Workshop on 4th April and found it informative.

CHILDREN & TEENAGERS' PLAN - SHOWCASE EVENTS

Mrs S Williamson and Ms F Browne had attended the showcase event last week in Mid Yell and gave feedback to the meeting from pupils in the North Isles schools.

6.11 WHITE WIFE

A public meeting was held in the East Yell Hall on 3rd April with representatives from Shetland Amenity Trust regarding the restoration of the White Wife.

The White wife figure head will be restored in Edinburgh and on return must be kept inside, the meeting agreed that it should be in the Old Haa. Also discussed at the meeting was that local residents would like some improvements carried out to the existing one in situ. Wooden walkways have been fitted to wet marshy areas to improve access on the way down and the donated bench is on site.

6.12 VISITORS TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

It is proposed that public events could be organised to allow the community to meet with the many visitors who wish to attend CC meetings.

The meeting agreed to add it as an ASCC meeting agenda item.

05/25/05 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 SEPA PUBLISHES NEW SURFACE WATER FLOOD MAPS

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have published new surface water flood maps. The meeting noted this email.

7.2 REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION NESHION ENERGY PARK

The proposed development is for ten wind turbine generators with a 200m blade to tip height and Battery Energy Storage System located in the North Mainland, the meeting noted this major potential development.

7.3 SEPA CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED EPAS

SEPA is launching a consultation on a proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS) - a fair way of reporting on how businesses are meeting their responsibilities. The consultation runs from 31st March to 30th June.

The 'Communities' on-line information session is taking place on Wednesday 4th June at 7pm. Anyone interested and available is encouraged to register and attend this session.

7.4 ASCC MEETING - 10TH JUNE 2025

The next ASCC meeting is being held on 10th June, Chair and Vice Chair will attend remotely.

7.5 JUNE/JULY MEETING DATES

The June meeting will be held on Monday 23rd June at 7pm. The July meeting will be cancelled.

7.6 BURRAVOE POST OFFICE

Gilda Bruce, Burravoe Post Mistress contacted Mr L Odie that she had given notice to retire from Burravoe Post Office. The Post Office eventually advised of their decision not to relocate. Following considerable lobbying, Via A Carmichael and Cllr Ryan Thomson the decision was rescinded. The Post Office will now advertise.

7.7 FOI REQUEST - SALMAR PRESENTATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Shetland Times have made a FOI request regarding the presentation by SalMar communication and presentation at January meeting. The request has been forwarded although community councils need not reply with FOIs.

7.8 NEW FUNDING ANNOUNCED - CASHBACK TO COMMUNITIES

This was noted by the meeting.

7.9 SHETLAND EXTERNAL TRANSPORT FORUM - 27 MAY

No members are available to attend as a rep of ASC. YCC would like to raise their concern regarding capacity and availability on NorthLink.

7.10 BURRAVOE SCHOOL

Cllr Ryan Thomson gave an update on the potential mothballing of Burravoe School following discussion at Monday's Education and Families committee. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the lack of SIC investment in housing and transport in rural areas.

05/25/06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

9.1 Planning Ref:2025/100/PPF

Proposal: To erect a 4 x 8m polytunnel to the south-west of the Old Church, Mid Yell. Members agreed to make no comment.

9.2 Planning Ref:2025/057/PPF

The restoration of a length of the former A968 Ulsta to Gutcher Road at Camb, Yell. Surplus peat excavated and not re-used on the B9082 Cullivoe Road will be used to cover the bitmac surface of the former road to a depth of 0.3 metres. This will then be topped with peat turves from the Cullivoe site or seeded with a native species grass, heather, wildflower mix.

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The restoration of a length of the former A968 Ulsta to Gutcher Road at Hellinquihida, Yell. Surplus peat excavated and not re-used on the B9082 Cullivoe Road will be used to cover the bitmac surface of the former road to a depth of 0.3 metres. This will then be topped with peat turves from the Cullivoe site or seeded with a native species grass, heather, wildflower mix.

Concerns regarding these applications have been raised to Yell Community Council from local users of peat banks in the area. The meeting agreed to contact the Planning department regarding these concerns.

The meeting also noted that there were planning applications submitted for the restoration of the Colvister and Cunnister (Portland) quarries with surplus peat excavated and not re-used on the B9082 Cullivoe Road.

05/25/07 FINANCE/GRANTS

10.1 SCBF DIRECTOR

Two members of the community have expressed an interest in becoming a SCBF director, Chair to contact them and discuss further and update to June meeting.

10.2 CORE FUNDING 25/26

Core Funding has been applied for and received. Grants to be advertised with a closing date of 18th June.

10.3 MID YELL PUBLIC HALL CDF GRANT

Mid Yell Public Hall Committee have provided receipts.

05/25/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 LINKSHOUSE POST-BOX CHANGEOVER

The meeting asked Cllr Ryan Thomson to investigate it along with the Aywick post box.

11.2 LINKSHOUSE BUS SHELTER

No further details have been received regarding the bus shelter at Linkshouse, following consultation with the Roads Department in December 2023.

11.3 VIKING GENES - SHETLAND COMMUNITY SCREENING PROJECT

Mrs A Jamieson attended the launch of Viking Genes Shetland earlier today. At the event, the newly established committee aiming to raise awareness of the work of Viking Genes and support fundraising to allow genetic screening of the five thousand Shetlanders for health risks that are important locally was introduced. Leaflets and other information were shared amongst those present.

11.4 SOLICITOR LETTER - ADRIAN BROCKLESS

Mr L Odie has received an email from a solicitor representing Adrian Brockless regarding his request for a written reply to his emails also discrepancies in the YCC February minutes.

Legal advice is being sought before replying.

11.5 ADRIAN BROCKLESS

Adrian asked to speak and addressed a question to Clerk Johnina Henderson regarding notes taken at the February meeting. Chair L Odie stated that since the issue was being addressed via legal channels it was inappropriate to respond.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 21.35HRS.

The next meeting of the Yell Community Council will be held on Monday 23rd June, 7pm, Mid Yell School