

Fetlar Community Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)
ON TUESDAY, 20th May 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

Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

1. Apologies

Michael Duncan SIC, Duncan Anderson

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th of April were circulated.
Proposed by James S seconded by Lucy and approved.

3. Declarations of interest

Mike declared an interest in a Ferry Hire that will come up in AOB

4. Ongoing Business

4.1 SIC Housing

There was some discussion about the continuing issues with tenancies in Fetlar. The empty houses and the inappropriate tenancy of someone who no longer lives in Fetlar. The issues are causing problems with employing much needed workers.

Frances commented that SIC can't break confidentiality.

It was known that one property was offered to a woman who turned it down.

Chris will write to SIC housing expressing the concerns. Copying in Robert Thompson.

Robert commented that there was a problem with senior staff absence, but he would make contact when this was resolved.

4.2 Roads Speeds

It was noted that the member of the Community Council who had raised this issue had resigned. It was not felt appropriate to request numerous road markings to reduce speed. Most speeding is by Fetlar residents. Visitors are often very careful because of the narrow roads.

It was agreed that Chris would write to request a 30-mph limit from the shop to the hall.

4.4 Fetlar Handyman post.

The Council had not received any formal communication. However, it was known that Roy Buckland would be starting on the 2nd June.

4.5 Clerk Recruitment

There had been no response to the advert.

Chris is happy to continue for the foreseeable future.

4.6 Ferry Timetables

Chris has contacted SIC with respect to the timetable problem related to the 10.55 Hamars Ness. Andrew Inkster has replied, and it will be resolved.

James R asked if there had been any progress with the booking system moving to a payment process.

Robert replied that there had been discussions with software providers. There could be progress later in the year.

James noted that there is still a problem booking the 7.55.

Mike noted that there is a problem with Saturdays because of the Yell Sound connections.

Juliet noted that the 9.35 from Hamars Ness to Gutcher leaves at 9.45 as it can't berth at Gutcher earlier.

Robert commented that SIC is looking at people who book but don't travel.

James commented that people double book because they are anxious about the ferries running.

James asked if there was any progress on the new crewing system.

Robert replied there has been some discussion about using spare staff.

Frances noted that there been no feedback about a possible meeting to discuss timetables.

4.6 Local Development Plan

Lucy commented that there will be action later in the year.

4.7 NHS

Lucy has had further discussion related to the previous complaint.

There have been delays due to the emergency protocols at Gilbert Bain.

Lucy has emphasised that the issues in the complaint are relevant to all islanders.

There was discussion about palliative care in Fetlar.

Mike felt that the Shetland policy should be for everyone.

Frances informed that the Islands with Small Populations will be taking up the concerns and has requested meeting with the CEO's of Health and Social Care.

There is a planning on person event for the Islands with Small Populations in August

There was some discussion about the role of the Health Care Assistant.

It was noted there were times when there are few people attending the clinic in Fetlar.

It was agreed that it was more useful for the HCA to be active elsewhere, but it would also be good to have a Band 6 nurse weekly and a GP twice a month.

Juliet commented that the HCA could present the 'Living Well' approach.

4.8 Inter Island Transport Connectivity

The next meeting will be on the 14th of June. Juliet will attend.

4.9 Brough Lodge

Chris has sent two emails to the new owners with no response.

Lucy has heard that they are undertaking structural surveys.

5. Finance and Administration

6.1 Finance Report

Current balance £438.30

The clerk's salary invoice was approved.

Chris has submitted the grant application and expects confirmation of the grant shortly.

6. AOCB

6.1 Community Ferry

Chris has received a request for a Community Ferry following the wedding of a Fetlar Resident on the 8th of August. This was approved Chris will process.

6.2 Defibrillators

Chris has enquired about dates and who purchased from Lucky2behere.

It would appear that the Community Council was the main contact.

Lucy proposed that the First Responder's check on the defibrillators at the Surgery and Hamars Ness on a regular basis. It was agreed that there should be a Shetland wide policy

Robert will look into it.

6.3 Fetlar Hospital Beds

It was agreed that Fetlar residents should have access to hospital beds supplied by the NHS.

6.4 Scottish Island Policy Consultation Event

The meeting went very well and was attended by 6 Fetlar residents.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 17th of June time to be agreed.