

GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD JUNE 2025 AT CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL AT 7.00PM

A. THE CIRCULAR CALLING THE MEETING HELD WAS READ.

B. PRESENT	Mrs M Davis	Mr E MacPherson	Mr C Clark
EX OFFICIO	Cllr R McGregor		
IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs K Geddes	Mrs A Arnett	
CHAIRPERSON	Mr G Murray		
APOLOGIES	Miss E Copland Cllr B Peterson	Mr M Duncan Cllr A Duncan	Mrs P Christie Vikki Parry, VoiceAbility
NOT PRESENT	Cllr A Armitage		

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McGregor declared an interest in Planning, Item 12, as he is the chair of SIC Planning Board.

Mr MacPherson declared an interest in Planning, Item 12, specifically application 2025/142/PPF as he had written an information letter to the Planning Department about the application.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 29TH APRIL 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th April were approved on the motion of Mr G Murray and seconded by Mr E MacPherson.

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. Community Benches

One of the benches gifted by SSE to the Community Council has now been collected by the Quarff Hall Committee for siting within their district. Mrs Christie is progressing the site for the Cunningsburgh bench.

ACTION: Mrs Christie to progress work towards locating a site for a bench in Cunningsburgh.

2. Community Council Election Publicity

The clerk, Mrs Geddes, is part of a short life working group to help come up with ideas for the publicity for the upcoming Community Council elections. They are meeting online tomorrow night and she will update as necessary.

3. Food Storage Hot Box

The hot box purchased for Mackenzie's Farm Shop and Café to help them safely transport the Community Council free hot meals during Covid lockdown is needing to find a new home as the farm shop building is being sold. The clerk has contacted local halls and the school to see if any of them could use it. Mrs Arnett said she will also speak to other community groups and organisations within the south mainland. If it is not gifted to a community group, the clerk will attempt to sell it and put the funds back into the CC bank account.

4. Viking Genes Launch

The clerk attended the launch event and provided a brief overview of the project – information can be found here: [The case for genetic screening in Shetland | Viking Genes](#)

As the test costs £200 per person, there was discussion about whether a Community Council might contribute funds to enable local residents to access testing. While the funds cannot be ringfenced specifically for individuals from Gulberwick, Quarff, and Cunningsburgh, contributing to the general fund would still benefit people from our area, as well as the wider Shetland community.

It was noted that Viking Genes may formally approach Community Councils for funding, with further details likely to be shared at the upcoming ASCC meeting. In the meantime, it was agreed that if there is any unallocated grant funding remaining at the end of the financial year, the increased flexibility in how Community Councils can award grants could allow for a donation to the Viking Genes Fund to be considered.

5. Place Making – A Place in Childhood

Mrs Arnett shared the work that had been done with schoolchildren in various schools in Shetland – including Cunningsburgh and Sound. Children were supported on walks around their area to evaluate how successfully the spaces worked for them in terms of their human rights. The information is being collated and will be shared soon, and there are likely to be some suggestions and information which is of interest to members.

ACTION: Mrs Arnett to share information about meetings and any information of interest.

6. Enviroglass

There is no update at present on the various ideas and options which could be used to clear or use the recycled glass from the plant in Cunningsburgh, now under SIC ownership.

2. POLICE REPORT

No police officers were present at the meeting but the Shetland Policing Report for February/March 2025 had been circulated previously. There were seven incidents in Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningsburgh during February and March. An extortion, two frauds, a domestic incident classed under protecting vulnerable people, a drugs possession, a firearms seizure and a sudden death.

3. VOICEABILITY ADVOCATE VIKKI PARRY – VISIT FOR INFO SHARING AND GATHERING

This has been postponed to the August meeting.

4. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The bank statement on June 2nd reads £15,685,37.

Chair Mr Murray signed the grant acceptance letters and we have now received our core and grant funding from the SIC - £13,108.47 came into the account on May 29th. Grant applications are now being accepted and members should share this with community groups and organisations.

The only transaction outwith the usual monthly ones was £155.88 for the Zoom subscription. It is planned to cancel this next year and use Microsoft Teams instead.

The clerk has not yet heard back about the 2024/25 accounts which were submitted to VAS for independent examination on April 9th.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS

There were no Shetland Community Benefit Fund or Community Council applications to consider.

ACTION: Everyone is to encourage groups and organisations to apply for grants.

6. ROADS AND PATHS

1. Core Plan Path Review

Email replies from the Outdoor Access Officer Liam Drosso were read and noted. It is hoped that the information now shared with SIC Roads about the Cunningsburgh community's desire for a path down the side of the showground might be fed into the walking assessment which is due to happen soon.

It seems different departments have responsibility for different types of paths and members were unsure exactly what constituted a Core Path, or who decided on what type of path was which. Mr MacPherson expressed concern that the Core Paths seemed to just direct people around the coastline and this can be dangerous – have they opened themselves up to risk if someone has an accident after following the route? Mrs Arnett directed everyone to the Core Paths page on the SIC website and shared some of the information from there.

It was decided to invite Mr Drosso to a meeting to get some background on Core Paths and paths in general in Shetland, and if any issues came up as a result of this, then it could be a suggested agenda item for the ASCC.

ACTION: Clerk to invite Outdoor Access Officer Liam Drosso to a meeting.

2. Pothole and Puddle at East Voxter Junction

No update.

7. CUNNINGSBURGH SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

Community concerns about road safety, particularly for children, and the lack of school transport for some pupils during the summer terms was discussed at a public meeting in May. There was a good attendance showing the strength of feeling in the community. Michael Craigie, SIC Executive Manager – Transport Planning has issued Meeting Notes which have been shared via email and on the Facebook page, and were read and noted at the meeting tonight.

Members share the community's frustration that the next meeting planned for June 16th has been postponed and will now likely happen during the school holiday – something everyone at the meeting was strongly opposed to. The delay is to ensure that the walking assessments can be fully carried out but members felt that promises to hold the meeting in the school term should not have been made – especially as none of the SIC Road staff carrying out the work were able to attend the meeting, so timelines were unknown.

Prior to the meeting one parent emailed to ask if the road traffic counters would be placed at a location he had requested, and road engineer Colin Gair replied to say:

"We've had the traffic counter tubes down in a number of locations around Cunningsburgh these past few weeks to count traffic volumes, flow patterns, and confirm speeds. There are a number of locations still to be surveyed, which includes a number of points along the A970. The number of sites to be surveyed is part of the reason why it will be towards the

end of this month before we can complete any walking route assessments – which includes specific assessments of gaps in the traffic flow for crossing the main road.”

Members were pleased that comprehensive assessments will be carried out, but shared the frustration about the delayed meeting and felt that this should be voiced to Mr Craigie on behalf of the community.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Craigie to express disappointment that the meeting is to happen later than promised. SIC Chief Executive Maggie Sandison to be copied into the email. Clerk to share date of the postponed meeting when it is set, as well as any other relevant information.

8. GULBERWICK, QUARFF & CUNNINGSBURGH DEVELOPMENT GROUP UPDATE

The first draft of a constitution has been created and was shared with members at the last meeting. No comments or suggested edits were forthcoming during the agreed timescale. A meeting is to be organised to progress the Local Place Plans and Resilience Plans as detailed in the next agenda item. Progressing both of these plans will help progress the Development Group aims.

ACTION: Development group members to organise a meeting as soon as possible.

9. LOCAL PLACE PLANS AND LOCAL RESILIENCE PLAN

Local Place Plan

With members being away there has not yet been a meeting. At the last meeting it was decided to start looking at the template before setting a date for speaking to Planning Aid Scotland. Having the beginnings of our own plan would be more useful to get the full benefit of Planning Aid Scotland’s time and expertise.

ACTION: Members interested in progressing the Local Place Plan to meet to have a look through the template. A support meeting with Planning Aid Scotland also to be organised.

Local Resilience Plan

Mr Murray has created the first draft of a Local Resilience Plan and sent it to the community organisations which are identified as likely Hubs during an emergency – the three halls and Cunningsburgh Primary – to get their input and for them to fill in details of what services and provisions each building has. If they do not have generators for use in an emergency this may be something that the Community Council can help with. The importance of communication during an emergency was also agreed and the possibility of purchasing VHF radios was also discussed.

Mrs Arnett shared that an organisation called Ready Scotland has further resilience plan templates which could be of use.

Everyone present thanked Mr Murray for the work he had done, agreeing it was of a high standard.

It was agreed to invite SIC Emergency Planning Officer Ian Taylor to a meeting for more information on how the community resilience plans fit into the overall emergency response in Shetland.

ACTION: Clerk to invite Ian Taylor to a meeting. Mr Murray to keep everyone updated on the latest draft of the resilience plan.

10. UPDATES FROM ELECTED MEMBERS

No updates were received from any of the elected members who did not attend.

Cllr McGregor said he was meeting Chief Superintendent Hilary Sloane on Thursday. She is head of Road Policing in Scotland and will be giving an update on Shetland's inclusion as a pilot site for the use of Drug Wipe – a mouth swab drug detection kit. It gives an instant result to check for cannabis and cocaine. If the test is positive, drivers are then taken to a police station for a blood test which can detect other substances. It is then sent away to a laboratory and if appropriate, a case prepared for court.

Cllr McGregor also reported that he had noticed that the plaques on the War Memorial in Lerwick are unreadable, so he is investigating that.

He is continuing his campaign to raise awareness of drivers who are unfit to drive through illness or sometimes old age. He included himself in that category and said it was important for the safety of all to 'get folk like me off the road.'

Mr MacPherson asked Cllr McGregor if he knew anything about possible plans to introduce wheelie bins for black bags/household waste as he had concerns about the implications of introducing them as a mandatory measure. He wanted to know what would happen with garden waste if they were introduced. The clerk said she could contact Waste Services about it and would copy Cllr McGregor into the email.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Waste Services for more information on possible plans to introduce wheelie bins for household waste/black bags.

-----Mrs Arnett left 8.00pm-----

11. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Association of Shetland Community Councils Meeting

The next meeting of the ASCC is next Tuesday 10th June, 6-8pm in the Town Hall. Mrs Davies agreed to attend on behalf of GQC CC.

2. Broadband Letter

A Gulberwick resident living in Lower Hillside has been in contact to ask if the Community Council has any influence with Openreach, specifically in relation to when/if homes in Lower Hillside, Hillside Park and Hillside Brae will get access to 'full fibre'.

After some discussion it was agreed that the clerk would try to contact Openreach for some clarification, and Mr Clark would speak to someone he knows is a local employee of Openreach.

ACTION: Clerk and Mr Clark to contact Openreach for clarification on when homes in Gulberwick – and in Cunningsburgh and Quarff – may get access to fibre broadband. Clerk to keep the author of the letter updated.

12. PLANNING

----- Cllr McGregor left the room 20.10 -----

There were only three new planning applications on the planning portal for the CC area since the last meeting and none of them required comment:

[2025/124/CLUP](#) – Erect polycrub in garden, Valkyrie, 6 Aisterlea, C'burgh

[2025/142/PPF](#) Agricultural access track upgrade (retrospective) – Fladdabister, C'burgh

[2023/297/NMV](#) – Reduce size of extension, Pukanui Cottage, Upper Setter, Gulberwick

Mr Clark gave an update on the application discussed at the June meeting [2025/077/PPF](#) – Erect single story house, 4A Aisterlea, Cunningsburgh, Shetland. He had been on a site visit and listened to an alternative series of events from those stated in the letter of objection from a neighbour, and discussed last month.

Members agreed that they did not have the ability to unpick the truth from all the events and points of views shared so were glad to hear that the Planning Department is conducting an investigation and looked forward to hearing the results.

They were also in agreement that they supported the application – but only when the ongoing flooding issues (whoever and whatever had caused them) had been resolved.

----- Cllr McGregor came back into the room at 20:15 -----

13. AOCB

There were no other issues to discuss.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 18th August 2025.

Meeting Ends – 20.15.

CHAIR

15. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

August 2024 – bench location to be decided.

February 2025 – Community CPR sessions – no answer from emergency services re date.