

NORTHMAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: D Brown
 Crogreen
 Ollaberry
 ZE2 9RT

Clerk: NDCS Services
 Ollaberry Hall
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 ZE2 9RT

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Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Northmaven Community Council on 14th July 2025 held in the Ollaberry Hall.

This minute is UNAPPROVED until adopted at the next meeting

Present:
Cllr D Brown
Cllr R Doull
Cllr J Parry
Cllr E Robertson

Ex Officio Present:
Cllr A Hall
Cllr E MacDonald

Apologies Submitted:
Cllr R McGeady
Cllr B Wilcock
Cllr G Anderson
Cllr D Robertson
Cllr K Scollay
Ms L Hall – SIC

In attendance:
Mrs C Anderson – Clerk
Mr A McLaughlin – Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Ms V Parry - Voiceability

The meeting started at: 19.43
Cllr D Brown in the Chair.

Agenda Item	Narrative
2. Declarations of Interest	Cllr J Parry any SCBF Business Cllr D Brown any NDCS Business
3. Approval Of Previous Minute	Due to some technical difficulties, the meeting was not quorate to approve the previous minutes. This was moved to the end of the meeting.
4. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Cllr D Brown welcomed Mr A McLaughlin to the meeting. Mr McLaughlin thanked NCC for letting him attend a meeting and gave an overview of his time in the service. Cllr R Doull joined the meeting at 19.46 Mr McLaughlin said that fire related incidents have reduced quite a lot over the years and the service are reviewing if stations are based in the right places. He added that there are a variety of factors that have to be consider such as number of callouts, number of available personnel, strategic places for appliances, size of community etc. He added the at the fire service have also been impacted by the current financial climate with an annual cost of over £8 million across Scotland. He informed those present that through the last review of the service the Fetlar station which has sat dormant for a number of years has been earmarked for closure.

	<p>CCLr R Doull asked if Mr McLaughlin could clarify rumours that the Hillswick station didn't meet current standards. Mr McLaughlin stated that the Hillswick, Walls and Bressay stations had been cited as not being up to standard in local news. For Hillswick this was around providing decontamination facilities for the crew and the service were not in a position to cover the costs of providing that. The service are trying to find solutions and the Hillswick Station has now been classed as a garage with the crew using decontamination showers in Brae. He added that in the future these stations could be combined. CCLr D Brown said that surely any closure would need to include input from the community and questioned whether Mr McLaughlin was putting forward a closure for Hillswick. Mr McLaughlin said that there would be a full consultation process for any changes to the service, but sustainability was paramount. CCLr R Doull asked if Brae was the closest station and there was a call out during the day, how well the station is manned to respond. Mr McLaughlin said crew members have to live within a certain distance to the station to be able to respond in a timely manner and that there are two appliances. CCLr R Doull said that the fire service do a sterling job which is not easy and should be commended. Mr McLaughlin agreed saying that most of the crew have full time jobs and join the fire service to serve their community.</p> <p>CCLr D Brown asked if there are enough recruits to the service. Mr McLaughlin said that recruitment is always difficult but there had been around 20 new recruits across Shetland over the past few years with 4 more waiting to go through training. It has been reliant on word of mouth in the past but the service are trying to use different methods such as QR codes. He added that the service welcomes anyone and are happy to chat with anyone who might be interested. CCLr R Doull asked if the Lerwick Fire Brigade still assess homes for fire alarms. Mr McLaughlin said there is a safety advocate officer who can do assessments. Services can refer vulnerable people in the community to the service and they can work with social work if needed.</p> <p>CCLr D Brown thanked Mr McLaughlin for attending Mr McLaughlin left the meeting at 20.20</p>
<p>5. Voiceability</p>	<p>CCLr D Brown welcomed Ms V Parry to the meeting. Ms Parry gave an overview of Voiceability who are an advocacy service to help anyone who struggles to speak for themselves under NHS and SIC services and have been working in Shetland since June 2024. They aren't able to help with housing matters at the moment but they are working on that. Cllr A Hall asked if Voiceability was similar to CAB. Ms Parry said that although they work closely with CAB, CAB can give advice whereas Voiceability help people to speak for themselves. Cllr A Hall asked if they are a charity. Ms Parry said they are and added that there have been some issues with referrals not being passed on due to tight constrictions but that if anyone hasn't had a response to get in touch with her directly.</p> <p>CCLr J Parry joined the meeting 20.26</p> <p>Cllr A Hall asked how many staff they have in Shetland. Ms Parry said there were 2 part time staff. Cllr A Hall asked if Shetland</p>

	<p>Advocacy still existed. Ms Parry said no their contract had ended a number of years ago. Cllr E MacDonald added that a company based south had had the contract before Voiceability but it had not worked well.</p> <p>Ms Parry said that they can meet with people over the phone, teams or a public space. They can also do home visits but both staff members have to attend.</p> <p>Cllr D Brown asked if many people know about the service. Ms Parry said that not many people do so her and her colleague are getting out into the communities to spread the word. Cllr R Doull said she knew of a person who had applied for disability benefit but had missed out on a payment because they were one point off in their application. She asked if Voiceability could help appeal the decision. Ms Parry said yes they could she added that both CAB and DWP offer four hours of staff time to help with applications with the form being nearly 100 pages long, Voiceability staff break it down into more manageable chunks and applicants have 56 days to submit their application. She added that it is good to have second person to look over applications. Cllr A Hall said he thought the process had been streamlined. Ms Parry said it is still an arduous process. Cllr R Doull asked if someone struggled to get grants for improving their home could Voiceability help. Ms Parry said they can't help with housing issues but they could help write a statement of work, helping the applicant to write down what they want.</p> <p>Cllr E MacDonald asked when the current contract ends. Ms Parry said 2028.</p> <p>Cllr D Brown said that any information could be shared on the NCC social media. The clerk added that any information could also be circulated in the NCDC newsletter. Cllr D Brown thanked Ms Parry for attending.</p> <p>Ms Parry left the meeting at 20.33</p>
<p>6. Police Report</p>	<p>Report from April/Mary was circulated prior to the meeting with seven incidents. Cllrs were concerned with the number of incidents with it being a lot higher than recent months.</p>
<p>7. Road Grants</p>	<p>There had been 11 applications submitted this year. The clerk stated that offering 80% was just slightly over the £3000 budget and suggested for next year altering the budget allocations. Cllr E MacDonald agreed that it would probably be wise to look at allocations. Cllr D Brown agreed and added that there were more people looking for road grants than local grants.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to proceed with grant reward letters</p>
<p>8. Banking</p>	<p>No update</p>
<p>9. Code of Conduct</p>	<p>Cllr D Brown asked if anyone had read through the code of conduct. Cllr J Parry said he had and the only question he had was around declaration of interest and the need to leave the room. There was a discussion around the appropriate conduct. Cllr E MacDonald said that while sitting on the planning committee, she would leave the room during any planning application discussions at community council meetings. Cllr A Hall agreed that during his time on the Delting Community Council, Community Councillors</p>

	<p>would leave the room if they had declared an interest. Cllr D Brown said that during local grant allocation, this can be difficult with some Community Councillors being involved in numerous applications. Cllr E MacDonald said that during Coastal Communities Funding meetings each application would be looked at separately rather than grouped together. Clerk confirmed that Community Local Led Development Funding meetings were conducted in the same manner.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to speak with Michael Duncan about declarations of interest</p>
10. SCBF Applications	No applications received this month
11. Planning Applications	<p>There were two planning applications received</p> <p>Ref: 2025/146/PPF to reinstate former bothy at Bardister Haa – Community Councillors supported the application</p> <p>Ref: 2025/158/CONSUL removal of phones from telephone boxes across Shetland. There are two in the Northmavine area, one in Sullom and one at Heylor. Cllr D Brown said that they would be available to the community to buy once decommissioned. The clerk said that NCDC had bought two previously that were now being turned into visitor information points.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to respond to applications.</p>
12. Matters Arising	<p>Eela Water / Roads</p> <p>An email had been received after the last meeting stating that SIC would speak with Scottish Water again about the verges around Eela Water and that Garriocks were currently fixing cattle grids in Yell and would be coming to Northmavine after this. Clerk said that a digger had been at the Ollaberry Hall cattle grid last week.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to check other cattle grids had also been cleared.</p> <p>War Memorial</p> <p>Clerk updated those present that the fund from the War Memorial Trust only covered damage to the actual memorial and not the fence. She was waiting for John Hughson to come back with a quote for the work.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to speak with John Hughson again</p> <p>Visitor Levy Consultation</p> <p>No update</p> <p>Community Resilience Plans</p> <p>No update</p> <p>Action: Clerk to contact Mr Taylor</p> <p>Public and School Bus Business Case</p> <p>No update</p> <p>Core Path Plan Review</p> <p>Clerk informed Community Councillors that she would be meeting with Liam Drosso, the access officer the following day.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to give update at the next meeting</p>

	<p>Digital Switchover No update Action: Clerk to invite Craig Johnson and/or Kenneth Stuart to a future meeting</p>
13. Correspondence	<p>Clerk gave a round up of the correspondence. There had been a few consultations which had finished on the 30th of June from SEPA and SCBF Annual Review. The clerk had responded to the SCBF review. The SSEN Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Action Plan could be viewed now.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch Scotland had issued information about the upcoming RTS switchover and Cllr A Hall had provided an update of what he had been working on recently which the clerk had shared on Facebook.</p> <p>The SIC Burial Ground team had sent round a FAQ document around grass cutting in graveyards. Cllr D Brown said this can be a fairly emotive subject. He also highlighted the automatic cutting being trialled. Cllr E MacDonald said that the automatic cutting was under review after the mower had been operating during a funeral.</p> <p>There had been an update from ASCC and there are two upcoming consultations – Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in the Lerwick Town Hall on the 17th July and what should be included in the EIA for the Scoping Stoura Offshore Wind Farm consultation is open until the 7th of August. Cllr A Hall said that often you need to be an expert to understand what is being asked in these consultations. Cllr E MacDonald added that the one on the 17th of July was being held in the middle of summer with people being away on holiday unable to engage. Cllr D Brown said that it is often difficult for community council to respond to these consultations without the technical knowledge.</p>
14. AOCB	<p>With the meeting now quorate, the minutes from the June meeting were approved with the amendment that Cllr E MacDonald had put her apologies in beforehand.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr J Parry Seconded Cllr R Doull</p>
15. Date and time of next meeting	Monday 4 th August 2025 at 7.30pm in the Ollaberry Hall

The meeting ended at: 20.56