

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting of Yell Community Council

Monday 23rd June 2025, 7pm, Mid Yell School

Present: Mr L Odie (Chair), Mrs A Jamieson, Mr R Jamieson, Mrs S Williamson, Ms F Stirling, and Mr L Madden.

Apologies: Mr K Jenkins.

In Attendance: Mrs Johnina Henderson (Clerk), Cllr Robert Thomson (Elected representative), Cllr Ryan Thomson via Teams (Elected representative), Mr Michael Duncan (Community Councillor Liaison Officer), Ms Frances Browne (North Isles Community Involvement and Development Worker) and 1 Member of the Public.

Mr L Odie welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Mr Leslie Madden who had expressed an interest in joining the Yell Community Council.

06/25/01 CO-OPTION OF MEMBER

Mr L Odie proposed that Mr L Madden be co-opted onto Yell Community Council seconded by R Jamieson. Mr L Madden accepted the co-option and was elected as a member of Yell Community Council.

06/25/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr L Odie declared an interest in the Beaw Field wind farm discussions as a tenant of land.

Mr L Odie and Mrs J Henderson declared an interest in the Yell Show ferries.

Mr R Jamieson and Mrs J Henderson declared an interest in the Cullivoe Public Hall funding application.

Mr R Jamieson declared an interest in Statkraft wind farm developments.

06/25/03 MINUTES

21st May 2025 - The minutes of the May meeting were approved by Ms F Stirling and Mrs S Williamson.

06/25/04 MATTERS ARISING

SEPA CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED EPAS

Following on from an email in April, a reminder that the consultation closes on 30th June, this was noted.

06/25/05 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORTS

FEB/MARCH 2025

The report for Feb/March reported that there have been five incidents recorded which can be summarised as follows: Protecting Vulnerable People - Concern for Person, Mental Health (3), Threatening or Abusive Behaviour (Hate Crime)

APRIL/MAY 2025

The report for April/May reported that there have been six incidents recorded which can be summarised as follows: Road Safety and Road Crime - Other Road Traffic Offence
Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder - Neighbour Dispute, Possession of Offensive Weapon, Threatening or Abusive Behaviour, Protecting Vulnerable People - Sexual Offence
Other - Drone Incident

From June officers in Shetland will start to deploy Body Worn Video Cameras.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW POLICE OFFICER FOR NORTH ISLES

The meeting requested an update on the recruitment of new police officer for the North Isles, Clerk to follow up.

06/25/06 OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

7.1 TRANSPORT - FERRIES

Yell Show Day Ferries

No update has been received, Clerk to follow up again.

Update on changes to MV Geira operation

Mr A Inkster and Mr M Craigie attended the ASCC meeting, updating on the SIC Ferries proposed changes to the operation of MV Geira. These changes are being made priority as it is seen as the most straightforward way of increasing capacity on the route, it is taking time to consult with crews and unions to agree a new working schedule for other vessels.

Booked/Unbooked lanes in Toft.

Queues at Toft with traffic merging together were discussed, crews need to check booked cars and marshall the area when possible.

Disruption on Yell Sound 17th, 18th, and 19 June

There was disruption on Yell Sound last week for 3 days as there was only one boat running. There have been a lot of complaints from the public regarding the suspension of bookings, some folk will not travel if bookings are not available. It was agreed to contact Andrew Inkster regarding this. YCC have previously advised Ferry Operations that bookings should be available whenever possible.

7.2 ROADS UPDATE

New Cullivoe Road

Yell Community Council welcome that this development is due to start after 7 years.

Bus Shelters gates in Yell

Work is being carried out on bus shelters just now. Gates have been fitted to Sellafirth, Mid Yell and West Sandwick.

Road Closure of Dales Lees

YCC have been contacted by constituents regarding the 17.10 bus from Lerwick to Toft being late for the 18.05 ferry at Toft due to proposed closure of Dales Lees, if Bus No 23 does not make the 18.05 there is not another ferry until 18.55. This also affects onward transport through Yell, the 24Y service and ferry connections to Unst and Fetlar. Clerk previously contacted Ferries/Transport Planning regarding holding the 1805 ferry until the bus arrives. It will also impact all North Isles traffic with extended journey times.

The road closure will take place from 8th July until 24th October. Transport planning understands how important the connection of 1805 ferry is and to maintain the connection whilst accommodating a detour through Brae, they plan to bring the 1710 bus forward to leave the Viking at 1700. They request feedback from YCC by lunchtime tomorrow. The meeting discussed and agreed to bus leaving 1705 from Viking and 1805 delayed to 1810 from Toft, 1855 delayed to 1900 from Gutcher. Clerk to reply.

Mr M Duncan said that Delting Community Council had raised concerns regarding the length of the closure.

Burravoe Footpath

The meeting agreed to contact Mr M Craigie regarding the timescales involved with overdue footpath development in Burravoe.

Hillhead of Gutcher Junction

Mr R Jamieson raised concerns regarding the blindness when the van is parked at the Hillhead and obstructing the view for drivers coming from Cullivoe. The meeting agreed to ask for a mirror to aid drivers travelling south from Cullivoe.

7.3 STATKRAFT WIND FARM DEVELOPMENTS

CLG MEETING UPDATE

A meeting held on 9th June which Mr L Odie and Mrs A Jamieson attended, meeting notes are not yet available but would be soon and circulated to members.

Next CLG meeting will be on 2nd September.

7.4 FIXED LINKS - TUNNEL ACTION GROUP UPDATE

Yell Community Council welcomes the news that long-awaited first report on Shetland Islands Council's inter-island connectivity programme which is due to go in front of elected members this week, and it proposes – among many other ferry-related options – that tunnels to Yell, Unst, Whalsay and Bressay are taken forward for further consideration. There have been in house meetings held between the chairs/vice chairs of Yell and Unst TAG groups. A meeting of Yell TAG members will be held soon.

7.5 COMMUNITY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE IN YELL

Isleshavn Report

Following the release of the poor report for Isleshavn, it is very disappointing for staff and users, hopefully improvements are being made, the meeting agreed to ask Jo Robinson (Director of Community Health and Social Care) to attend the August meeting to give an update.

7.6 SCOTLAND'S BEACH AWARDS 2025

West Sandwick Beach and Sands of Breckon were successful in the 2025 Scotland's Beach awards. Certificates and Plaques have been received and displayed in the areas and notice boards have been updated.

BRECKON LIFEBUOY

Funding had been applied from Cooke and was successful for replacement of Lifebuoy at Breckon Beach. Clerk to confirm funding and order lifebuoy.

7.7 ASCC MEETING - 10TH JUNE 2025

Mr L Odie and Mrs A Jamieson attended the meeting remotely and a summary has been received on the discussions held. Professor Jim Wilson and Sandra Laurenson delivered presentations on the Viking Genes project. An update was provided on the Community Council Elections Publicity. Mr M Craigie and Mr A Inkster gave an update on Transport issues raised at the March meeting. Next meeting will be on 9th September. Agenda items to be submitted by 14th July.

Mr L Odie commented regarding the postal vote running over 4 weeks which was thought to be too long. Promotion of the upcoming elections were discussed.

NorthLink booking issues were raised regarding the unavailability of cabins on journeys.

The meeting questioned how many cabins were cancelled at short notice.

7.8 YCC VACANCIES

Following advertising the vacancies, one member Mr L Madden has shown interest and coopted at the beginning of meeting. There are still two vacant seats.

7.9 ASCC MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL PAYMENTS

Mr M Duncan explained different options and the budget process and application process for grant funding.

VISITORS TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Agenda item was too late for the last ASCC meeting, Clerk to compose list of groups interested in attending meetings and liaise with other community councils regarding these.

KIT FOR COMMUNITY

A standard kit for hybrid meetings was discussed and the meeting agreed to submit an ASCC agenda item regarding exploring options to make more efficient use of Community

Council meetings. Cllr Robert Thomson has previously raised this issue with Maggie Sandison along with IT support to all clerks if required and will raise this again.

06/25/07 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 DEFIBRILLATORS

An email received from NYDC regarding the maintenance and upkeep of defibrillators also advising that a percentage of registered defibs throughout Shetland are not functioning. Also funding for replacement pads and batteries, F Browne and M Duncan will investigate and promote this, and it was agreed to advertise locally to raise public awareness regarding this issue.

8.2 TINGWALL AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE

A letter of support to build a replacement shed for the late Jean Sandison's collection was requested and agreed.

8.3 DRAFT UPDATED SECTORAL MARINE PLAN FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

The 12-week consultation running just now from 30th May to 22nd August. There will be a community engagement event in Lerwick on 17th July.

8.4 2025 SURF AWARDS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are open with a deadline of 1st September, it was noted. F Browne intimated that local organisations have been successful in the past.

8.5 SHETLAND ISLANDS - ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO COMMUNICATE RTS SWITCH OFF INFORMATION WITHIN COMMUNITIES

An email from the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland team regarding the details of the deadline of 30th June has been posted on Facebook, but the deadline has now been extended.

Public to be made aware of this by the Clerk to raising awareness on Facebook.

8.6 SCOTLANDS BEACHS AWARDS FORUM DEBRIEF

An update was received and noted.

8.7 SCBF - CGS ANNUAL REVIEW SURVEY

A survey to be completed following funding applied for beach awards, clerk to complete.

8.8 YELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEDIA QUERY

A media enquiry was received from a journalist working for the Private Eye regarding Shetland Community Benefit Fund and specifically payments made from the community grant scheme approved by Community Councils. The implication was the CCs were approving grants from other groups which their members were involved with. They asked whether the Yell Community Council considered there to be any conflict of interest in awarding a grant from the fund to the Yell Show, which includes both the community council's chairman and secretary in its committee?

Vice Chair Mrs A Jamieson responded that the Chair and Clerk had declared an interest and left the meeting when the funding was discussed at the February YCC meeting. The published article was designed to reflect poorly on the Community Councils involved.

8.9 SSEN MARINE CONSULTATION EVENT

A consultation event is being held in Burravoe Hall for the marine element of their proposed Yell HVAC Connection project. This process is undertaken in advance of their marine licence application to the Marine Directorate. Members are encouraged to attend if available.

8.10 DRAFT SSEN ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION 2025/2026

This Consultation is open until 29th June and was noted and members encouraged to complete.

8.11 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2025/2026

As of 8.10.

8.12 SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE - NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The consultation is being launched soon and will run for 12 weeks, more details available on the website. This was noted.

06/25/08 PLANNING APPLICATIONS/MARINE PLANNING

No planning applications to be discussed.

06/25/10 FINANCE/GRANTS

10.1 SCBF DIRECTOR

Mr Mark MacBeath was approved by Mr R Jamieson and Mrs A Jamieson to represent Yell as SCBF director. The Chair thanked Mark for volunteering to take on this role. SCBF to be informed by the clerk.

10.2 GRANT APPLICATIONS

An application from Cullivoe Public Hall has been received for funding towards Kitchen equipment and utensils. Mr R Jamieson and clerk Mrs J Henderson declared an interest and left the room for the discussion. £1025 was approved by Ms F Stirling and seconded by Mrs S Williamson.

10.3 VAS MEMBERSHIP INVOICE

It was agreed to pay the membership invoice, YCC receives support for VAS, and they audit our accounts.

06/25/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 NEW NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN - ONLINE MEETING 24 JUNE

An online meeting tomorrow was noted but no members were available to attend.

11.2 AYWICK POST BOX

The post box has been moved but access is difficult with either jumping over a ditch or squeezing past the bus shelter, photos have been taken and to be forwarded to Cllr Ryan Thomson who will investigate it.

11.3 LINKSHOUSE POST BOX

The post box has been replaced at Linkshouse and moved to its new location. Clerk to send a letter of thanks for getting this sorted.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 21.00HRS.

The next meeting of the Yell Community Council will be held on Monday 18th August, 7pm, Mid Yell School