

<b>DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>
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**Chairperson**

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Minute of Meeting of **Dunrossness Community Council** held on Monday 30th June 2025 in Dunrossness Primary School

**PRESENT**

Aileen Brown (Chair)                      Helen Moncrieff                      Irvine Burgess                      Vicky Tylsar  
Cllr Alex Armitage (ex officio)

**APOLOGIES**

Fiona Mitchell                      Dawna Phillips                      Agnes Tallack  
Cllr Bryan Peterson (ex officio)                      Cllr Robbie McGregor (ex officio)  
Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)                      Michael Duncan (SIC)                      Ana Arnett (SIC)

**ABSENT**

Allen Sinclair

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Shirley Leslie (Clerk)                      PC Bryan Mulholland                      Station Commander Alan Street (SFRS)

**25/029 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**25/030 MINUTE**

The Minute of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 was adopted on the motion of Aileen.

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## 25/031 POLICE REPORT

PS Bryan Mulholland attended the meeting and reported as follows:

- 1) **Body-worn Cameras:** All local police officers have now been issued with body-worn cameras which is considered to be a very helpful piece of their uniform.
- 2) **Fraud:** PS Mulholland advised that, in the event of a fraud attempt, Trading Standards are the best agency to report it to. The police service can only log the event unless the attempt has been successful. Alex advised that there is a Government email address which details of phishing emails can be reported to.
- 3) **Wildlife Crime:** Helen enquired if it would be possible for the local police authority to remind the public of legislation relating to nesting birds etc. PS Mulholland will look into this.

The Police Report for the months of April 2025 and May 2025 had also been received and reported as follows:

There have been 9 incidents recorded for Dunrossness which can be summarised as follows:

### Road Safety and Road Crime

- Careless Driving

### Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

- Assault
- Neighbour Dispute (3)

### Acquisitive Crime

- Fraud

### Protecting Vulnerable People

- Concern for Person (2)

### Other

- Sudden Death

**PS Bryan Mulholland left the meeting at 7:20 pm**

## **25/032 MATTERS ARISING**

### **1) Road Matters:**

- a) **Maryland Road Issue:** Barrie Scobie, SIC Roads, had replied to the Community Council's email stating that "the pile of spoil at Maryland is mostly ditchings from the local area, and was stored there to avoid hauling it to the Scord quarry with an eye to protecting the environment. It will be recycled on the verges over time once it has been screened". This was noted.

**2) Kirk Yard Bench:** There was nothing new to report.

**3) Church of Scotland Brigades Fund:** There was nothing new to report.

**4) Dunrossness Kirk Yard Gate:** There was nothing new to report.

**5) Bus Shelter Bike Racks:** There was nothing new to report.

## **25/033 SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

The members welcomed Alan Street, SFRS Station Commander, to the meeting. Alan reported that SFRS has a Group Commander and 2 Station Commanders based in Shetland. Recruitment of Firefighters is ongoing with 7 new members of staff recently joining, one of which is at Sumburgh. The minimum age to join the fire service is 18. The recent Open Day was a big success. Vicky enquired if the Fire Service can accommodate work experience. Alan replied that, due to the nature of the work and difficulties with insurance etc, the service is not able to accommodate this. Alan reported that activity levels are low, with a downwards trend, which is very good. The role of a firefighter entails a lot of multi-agency work so not just fighting fires. Irvine enquired if the varied work was positive or negative when it came to recruitment. Alan replied that he thought it didn't have a big impact as serving the community was a draw for those who were applying. Home Fire Safety Visits is another element of the Fire Services remit. To request a home visit, go to the SFRS website and complete the online form. For those who don't use the internet, the service can still be contacted directly, or a friend/neighbour can start the ball rolling by completing the form for you.

Finally, the SFRS are in the process of carrying out a Service Delivery Review. For more information, visit their website.

**Station Commander Alan Street left the meeting at 7:50 pm**

### **25/034 FINANCE AND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

There were no finance matters for discussion.

### **25/035 DUNROSSNESS EMERGENCY FUND**

The Clerk had obtained the details of the Emergency Fund bank account and the names of 3 trustees associated with the account. It was agreed that the Clerk will enquire with Donald Robertson if he has a copy of the constitution.

### **25/036 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

**Association of Shetland Community Councils:** A meeting of the ASCC was held on 10<sup>th</sup> June and Michael Duncan, ASCC, provided the following summary of the meeting content:

- 1) Viking Genes Shetland:** Professor Jim Wilson and Sandra Laurenson delivered presentations about this project, setting out findings and achievements to date. Viking Genes Shetland are seeking to raise £1m to match fund resources of £800k from University of Edinburgh. If funding target can be met, it would enable a further 5,000 Shetlanders to be screened for a range of heritable conditions that are prevalent in Shetland. Viking Genes Shetland are keen for as many local groups and organisations as possible to get involved in the fundraising effort. They have asked that Community Councils help promote this important project.
- 2) Community Council Elections Publicity:** An update was provided on this project. A short life working group has been established and met earlier this month to review previous Election publicity and to generate ideas for publicity for this year's Elections. It was proposed that publicity approach be two-fold:
  - a) Shetland wide publicity – generated & issued by SIC
  - b) Local community publicity – led by Community Councils
- 3) Transport Updates:** Michael Craigie and Andrew Inkster attended the meeting to provide updates in relation to the transport issues raised in the March meeting. Michael Craigie provided an update regarding concerns about Northlink and the capacity on its current vessels. Two new freight vessels have been designed and could be delivered in 2029 – but this is subject to capital funding being committed and associated timescales involved with procurement and construction. It was noted that the proposed new freight boats should have significantly increased passenger capacity. It was also estimated that new passenger ferries would be considered at a later date, but unlikely to be delivered before 2032-2033.

## **25/036 FEEDBACK FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

### **3. Transport Updates (continued):**

Michael Craigie further advised that work will soon get underway with a Community Needs Assessment to identify the specification for the next ferry contract. It was important to understand key constraints and principles with Transport Scotland from the outset. A number of key issues and suggestions were flagged up during the meeting.

Andrew Inkster provided an update with regards inter island ferries. There are two pieces of work underway at present, namely:

- a) Inter-Island Transport Connectivity Study – longer term solutions
- b) Ferry Resilience Review – here & now solutions

Andrew advised that the Ferry service is working very hard and doing its best with resources available. Andrew provided an update on areas currently being worked on, which included:

- a) New booking system
- b) Recruiting trainees
- c) Looking for additional vessel
- d) Terms & conditions for crew

Progress has been made with timetables in Whalsay & Skerries, and Bressay timetable also progressing. Work is ongoing with Fetlar, Unst & Yell ferries. Andrew advised that he hoped to circulate an update to the three North Isles Community Councils soon.

Consideration is also being given to bus & ferry arrangements for the road disruptions that will take place in north mainland this year. For information, Neil Hutcheson of SIC Roads Service advised me that SIC Roads are having weekly meetings with SSE and their main contractor for the works. Whilst SSE are unable to provide “real time information” they do intend provide a weekly update on their website as to how the works are progressing and the traffic management that is required on the A968 and A970. This information will be updated more timeously for more significant changes to the traffic management. The website can be found at <https://www.ssen.co.uk/about-ssen/our-works/north-shetland/>

## 25/037 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor Alex Armitage reported as follows:

- 1) **Tunnel Links:** The Council has agreed to progress all proposed links, except Fetlar.
- 2) **Bus Service:** The Number 23 service bus passes the Northlink ferry terminal en-route to the Viking Bus Station first thing in the morning. Alex suggested that this service could be advertised by Northlink to passengers as a means of accessing other bus routes from the Viking. Irvine asked Alex if he could find out how busy the Number 23 is in a morning once it reaches the Northlink Ferry Terminal area. Helen enquired if service bus route changes had been agreed. Alex replied that this is still to be discussed.
- 3) **Dunrossness Primary School:** Irvine reported that currently, one third of the school is used by the Nursery classes and one third is closed off for use, which means the rest of the school is left with the remaining third. Users feel that the available area is getting smaller and smaller and this is causing a great deal of stress for all. Also, Special Needs requirements are growing. Alex reported that he plans to speak to the Parent Council about the situation.

## 25/038 FAIR ISLE

Alex reported as follows:

- 1) **Ferry Project:** Works are progressing.
- 2) **Bird Observatory:** The Observatory is open and receiving good reviews.
- 3) **Airtask:** Works at Tingwall Airport are complete and the inter-island service is back to normal.

Alex left the meeting at 8:10 pm

## 25/039 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANS

Irvine reported that a meeting had been held recently and that an information gathering exercise is in progress. Irvine, Aileen and Ana will then collate the data gathered to put to a larger meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in July.

#### **25/040 LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

There was nothing new to report.

#### **25/041 CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1) **Voluntary Action Shetland:** The members agreed to renew the Community Council's annual membership of Voluntary Action Shetland.
- 2) **Community Council Scheme 2025:** Following approval of the new Community Council Scheme at a meeting of the Special Shetland Islands Council on 25 March 2025, the Community Council is required to adopt and sign a new Code of Conduct and Standing Orders. The members unanimously adopted the documents and the Chair signed them.
- 3) **Boddam Playing Fields:** A member of the public had contacted the Community Council regarding the possible addition of more suitable play equipment at the Playing Fields for younger children and a safer path from the end of the Robins Brae junction to the Playing Fields entrance. The members thought that the best point of contact for additional play equipment would be Magnus Malcolmson, SIC Sports & Leisure, and with regard to the path, Irvine reported that there is currently a Shetland wide review/project taking place through Active Travel regarding paths and that he will try and find out details of the best contact.

#### **25/042 ANY OTHER CURRENT BUSINESS**

- 1) **Toab Dog Poo:** Vicky reported that there is a huge issue with dog poo in Toab. Bags of dog poo are being left along the main road through Toab and thrown into adjacent fields. The members advised anyone experiencing issues with dog poo being left in public areas that they should report it to SIC Environmental Services.
- 2) **Toab Defibrillator:** Vicky reported that there are local concerns regarding the fact the Toab defibrillator is attached to the former shop and, as the shop is closed, the defibrillator is therefore not being maintained. Vicky will make enquiries regarding what the original agreement was relating to this unit.

#### **25/043 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS**

There were no planning matters for discussion.

DRAFT MINUTE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING

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There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chair

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST  
2025 IN DUNROSSNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL.**