

# Fetlar Community Council

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT FETLAR HALL**  
(subject to the approval of the next Fetlar Community Council Meeting)  
**On Wednesday 20th August 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**

Juliet Bellis  
Frances Browne SIC

Chris Bolton Clerk Fetlar Community Council

## **Apologies**

Michael Duncan SIC  
Robert Thompson

## **1. Minutes of the previous meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> of July were circulated.  
Proposed by James S seconded by Mike and approved.

## **2. Declarations of interest**

James S Declared an Interest in the Community Development Fund  
Juliet Declared an Interest in the Community Development Fund.

## **3. Ongoing Business**

### **3.1 Fetlar Handyman post.**

Chris has received and responded to communication from Carl Symons about the handyman role specifically about the potential for residents to purchase services.

There was still no clarity on the costs to residents.

The Council felt that this was helpful and positive but still required clarification.

James S informed that there will still problems with the handyman drawing water from the mains water supply for the Hamar Ness bowser. It would be possible to use 'non potable' water from fresh water sources if the handyman had a longer hose.

It was noted that Stakkafletts Waste Bins needed to be replaced.

It was agreed that Chris should contact Carl again.

### **3.2 SIC Housing**

Chris has received acknowledgements from SIC housing department but no detailed response.

It was noted that current residents at Stakkafletts had moved from a one-bedroom house to a two bedroom.

Lucy informed that another potential member of staff had been told by a member of staff at SIC that they couldn't be told anything about potential housing vacancies.

Frances clarified that the council would be governed by confidentiality requirements. However, she thought that housing should be added to the IWSP issues log.

Mike asked if there were any private houses that could be renovated?

James R informed that all the former croft houses needed major work.

Juliet noted that the cost of construction was greater than the future value of a property.

It was agreed that Chris should communicate again with the housing department raising concerns about underpopulation which SIC have an obligation to address.

There was then discussion about using the school of nurse's house as accommodation. It was felt that nurses house was habitable with minor works and that it was in the interest of the NHS to maintain it. It was agreed that Chris should contact the NHS.

### **3.3 Ferry Timetables**

There has been no progress and no discussion on the Ferry Timetables.

Ther additional crew have been recruited based on Yell.

Apparently, Pete the ferry Captain has been asked about timetables!

It was agreed that Frances should write to Ferries Management about arranging discussions on Timetables with the Community Councils.

### **3.4 NHS**

Lucy informed that she had still not received a reply from the HNS with respect to the issues/complaint raised previously.

Frances informed that the Health Issues on the IWSL log would be discussed at a meeting of SIC managers.

It was noted that the NHS were trying to recruit a Band 7 Nurse to Fairisle.

### **3.5 Inter Island Transport Connectivity**

Members had attended a 'Tunnel Vision' event with the MP's. They were of the view that there would be a tunnel to the island eventually.

Mile reported that there was some optimism of a 2030 start and the possibility of 'defence spending' to support the rocket site.

Mike also informed that the issue of replacement ferries was high on the agenda at the meeting.

Concerns about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Geira ferry crew being based on Yell were also raised at the meeting.

### **3.6 Brough Lodge**

Chris informed that he had no reply to the 3<sup>rd</sup> email sent.

### **3.7 Roads Speeds**

No further progress.

## **4. Finance and Administration**

### **4.1 Finance Report**

Chris informed that the draft accounts had been sent to VAS for inspection. The account balance was £3,810.07 in the current account and £4,002.15 in a savings account.

### **4.2 Clerk Invoice**

The clerk's salary invoice was approved.

## **5. AOCB**

### **5.1 Community Development**

There have been three bids received.

Fetlar Kirk requested £1,000 to improve heating in the Kirk.

This was proposed by James S, seconded by Lucy and approved.

Fetlar Community Association requested £355.90 for Deep Fat Fryers and Acoustic Panels for the lounge.

This was proposed by James R, seconded by James S and approved.

Fetlar Museum Trust requested £1,000 to support the maintenance and potential replacement of their Turbine and heating system.

This was proposed by Mike, seconded by James R and approved.

It was agreed that Chris should readvertise some of the remaining funds.

### **5.2 Community Council Elections**

Chris informed that the elections would start in September. And will be promoted soon.

Chris will print nomination forms for distribution from the shop.

### **5.3 IWSP in person event**

Frances informed that there would be an in person IWSP event on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September. She will share details shortly if members or anyone on the island wish to attend.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 23rd of September time to be agreed.